

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 11 January 2012 at 10.05 a.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Jim Brown, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, Douglas McAllister, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Jim McElhill, Patrick McGlinchey, Martin Rooney and May Smillie, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mrs Gemma Doyle, Mr George Hill, Miss Ellen McBride and Miss Sheila Rennie.

Attending: Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Laura Mason, Head of Service, Educational Services; Mary Berrill, Quality Improvement Manager; David Byars, Quality Improvement Officer; Hugh Neill, More Choices, More Chances Officer; David Allan, Estates Surveyor; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Avril Davie, Headteacher, Knoxland Primary School.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Marie McNair, John Millar and Lawrence O'Neill; Ms Josephine McDaid; and Mr Charlie Rooney, Headteacher, Our Lady and St. Patrick's High School.

Councillor Jonathan McColl in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held on 9 November 2011 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services in answer to a Member's question concerning the item under the heading 'Update of Capital Building Programme 2011/12' (Page XXX refers), the Committee noted that the Executive Director would investigate whether any progress had been made in respect of the insurance claim relating to the former St. Eunan's Primary School building, and issue a briefing note to all Members of the Committee if there was any progress to report.

INTEGRATED INSPECTION BY THE CARE COMMISSION AND HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION: REPORT ON FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION OF KILBOWIE EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE CENTRE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the follow-through inspection of Kilbowie Early Education and Childcare Centre carried out by the West Dunbartonshire Council Quality Improvement Service and the subsequent report, published in November 2011, a copy of which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Service, Educational Services, in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to congratulate the Head of Centre, Team Leader, staff and children of Kilbowie Early Education and Childcare Centre, for their achievements as recognised by West Dunbartonshire Council Quality Improvement Service in the report published in November 2011.

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION: REPORT ON FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION OF KNOXLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the follow-through inspection of Knoxland Primary School by the Quality Improvement Team of Educational Services and the subsequent report, published by West Dunbartonshire Council in November 2011, a copy of which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services, the Head of Service, Educational Services, and Ms Avril Davie, Headteacher, Knoxland Primary School (present for this item only), in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to congratulate the Headteacher, staff and pupils of Knoxland Primary School, for their achievements as recognised by the Quality Improvement Unit in the report published in November 2011.

Note: Ms Davie left the meeting at this point.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR INSPECTING SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services:-

- (a) providing information on the new arrangements for inspecting Scotland's schools and nurseries;
- (b) advising how the new arrangements will impact on West Dunbartonshire Council; and
- (c) requesting approval of revised reporting arrangements to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee on the subject of school inspections.

Having heard the Head of Service, Educational Services, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the new arrangements in place for inspecting schools in Scotland; and
- (2) the revised reporting arrangements on inspection activity to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee.

LAND AT KILBOWIE PRIMARY SCHOOL, WEST THOMSON STREET, CLYDEBANK

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development seeking approval to vary the area declared surplus at Kilbowie Primary School in Clydebank to assist the new Council house building programme.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services, the Manager of Legal Services, and the Estates Surveyor in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to declare surplus to the requirements of the Department of Educational Services the land extending 1,166 sqm or thereby shown hatched on Appendix 2 to the report;
- (2) to note that this land was included within the overall development site for the new build Council Housing scheme and that part of the site may be sold for private development with any receipt from this allocated to the General Services Account (GSA); and
- (3) to note that on conclusion of the development any of the ground previously declared surplus which was not required for the housing scheme would be returned to the Department of Educational Services for operational use as part of Kilbowie Primary School.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION SERVICE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of plans to support the Outdoor Education Service going forward.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Head of Service, Educational Services, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a more detailed report in relation to this matter should be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (2) to instruct officers to arrange for a site visit for all Members of the Committee to the Outdoor Education Centre at Ardlui.

STRATEGY TO RAISE ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE – UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on activity and progress with regard to implementing West Dunbartonshire's Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Head of Service, Educational Services, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made in the past two months with the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire;
- (2) to note the terms of the discussion in relation to the format and content of the secondary schools' action plans to raise attainment and achievement;
- (3) to note that Educational Services was assisting each school in managing its action plan; and
- (4) to seek a further update for the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee at its March 2012 meeting.

ANALYSIS OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS 2010/11

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing information on the figures for school leaver destinations for West Dunbartonshire Council for 2010/11 and explaining how these figures compare to the national figures for school leavers for the same period.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services, the Quality Improvement Manager, and the More Choices, More Chances Officer in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the appendix to the report outlining the statistics for school leaver destinations for West Dunbartonshire for 2010/11;
- (2) to congratulate the staff for their efforts in achieving these results; and
- (3) to note that a further report on the statistics for schools in Scotland 2010/11 would be presented to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee in March 2012.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL AND SAVE THE CHILDREN – FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS TOGETHER PROGRAMME (FAST)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services presenting information on the development and impact of the FAST programme which has been delivered in three of the Council's educational establishments in partnership with Save the Children.

Having heard the Quality Improvement Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to acknowledge the success of the FAST programme;
- (2) to acknowledge the support of Save the Children;
- (3) to note that the Quality Improvement Manager would forward to all Members of the Committee the evaluation reports of the schools which had participated in the FAST Programme; and
- (4) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

2011-12 REVENUE ESTIMATES – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 8 (1 APRIL 2011 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2011)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing the latest information on expenditure and income to date within the Educational Services approved probable for 2011-12. There were also submitted revised versions of the appendices to the report as, it was noted, there had been some errors in the original appendices.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services in answer to questions from a Member, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

Note: Councillor R. McColl left the meeting during consideration of this item.

UPDATE OF CAPITAL BUILDING PROGRAMME 2011/2012

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing up-to-date information on the status of Education Building Projects within the Educational Services Department and drawing attention to significant issues or problems with the progress of any particular project.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Quality Improvement Officer in answer to questions from a Member, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Executive Director would discuss with the Interim Corporate Asset Manager the reporting of the completion of large Education Building Projects to the Committee in the future; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 11.50 a.m.