

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in Committee Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 5 March 2014 at 2.05 p.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Jim Finn, David McBride, Michelle McGinty, John Millar, John Mooney, Ian Murray, Tommy Rainey, Gail Robertson, Martin Rooney and Kath Ryall, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Miss Ellen McBride, Ms Josephine McDaid and Miss Sheila Rennie.

Attending: Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Laura Mason, Head of Service, Educational Services; Gill Graham, Section Head, Libraries & Cultural Services; Craig Jardine, Corporate Asset Manager; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Ms Catriona Robertson, Headteacher, Vale of Leven Academy.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost Douglas McAllister; Councillors Gail Casey and Hazel Sorrell; Mrs Gemma Doyle; and Ms Janice McIntyre, Head of Centre, Auchnacraig Early Education and Childcare Centre.

Councillor Michelle McGinty 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 PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of Meetings of the Educational Services Committee held on 4 December 2013 (Ordinary) and 8 January 2014 (Special) were submitted and approved as correct records.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 17 December 2013 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

PROPOSAL PAPER AND LAUNCH OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE LOCATION OF THE NEW OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK'S HIGH SCHOOL

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services seeking approval for the launch of the statutory consultation process, as required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, on the location of a new Our Lady and St Patrick's High School (OLSP).

The Executive Director was heard in explanation of the report.

Thereafter, the Committee agreed to receive a document from Ms McDaid which compared the sports facilities of the proposed new Our Lady and St Patrick's High School with those of the existing secondary schools in West Dunbartonshire.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director, the Corporate Asset Manager and the Manager of Legal Services in answer to Members' questions, Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor Mooney, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to approve the launch of statutory consultation by the Executive Director of Educational Services under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 recommending that the new Our Lady and St Patrick's High School be constructed on the site currently occupied by the high flats in Bellsmyre;
- (2) to approve a recommendation that the consultation period should run from Friday, 7 March to Tuesday, 6 May 2014, a total of 31 days when the schools are open for pupils; and
- (3) that a report outlining the results of the consultation and making appropriate recommendations be presented to a future meeting of the Educational Services Committee.

As an amendment, Councillor Black, seconded by Ms McDaid, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to approve the launch of statutory consultation by the Executive Director of Educational Services under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 recommending that the new Our Lady and St Patrick's High School be constructed either on the site currently occupied by the high flats in Bellsmyre or on an alternative site;
- (2) to approve a recommendation that the consultation period should run from Friday, 7 March to Tuesday, 6 May 2014, a total of 31 days when the schools are open for pupils; and
- (3) that a report outlining the results of the consultation and making appropriate recommendations be presented to a future meeting of the Educational Services Committee.

Having heard the Manager of Legal Services, the Committee noted that in order to comply with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, Councillor Black's amendment would require to specify the alternative site which should be included in the recommendations of the statutory consultation.

Councillor Black and Ms McDaid then agreed that the amendment be restated as follows:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to approve the launch of statutory consultation by the Executive Director of Educational Services under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 recommending that the new Our Lady and St Patrick's High School be constructed either on the site currently occupied by the high flats in Bellsmyre or the former Notre Dame Convent site;
- (2) to approve a recommendation that the consultation period should run from Friday, 7 March to Tuesday, 6 May 2014, a total of 31 days when the schools are open for pupils; and
- (3) that a report outlining the results of the consultation and making appropriate recommendations be presented to a future meeting of the Educational Services Committee.

On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

Thereafter, the Manager of Legal Services advised all Members of the Committee that, in view of the Committee's decision to launch the statutory consultation and because the Members would in due course require to make a decision based on the evidence presented during the consultation process, Members who wished to participate in the decision making should exercise caution when making any public comment, and in particular should avoid any comment which may lead members of the public to consider that the issue has been pre-judged.

ADJOURNMENT

Having heard Councillor McGinty, Chair, the Committee agreed to adjourn for a period of five minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 2.35 p.m. with all those Members shown on the sederunt in attendance.

TENDER AND AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF CATERING SERVICE AT LOCH LOMOND OUTDOOR CENTRE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services seeking authority to tender and award for the provision of a catering service for pupils attending courses at the Council's Loch Lomond Outdoor Centre (LLOC) based at Ardlui.

Having heard the Head of Service, Educational Services, in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, it was noted that the Head of Service would provide Councillor Rooney with details of the increase in usage of the LLOC, outwith the meeting.

Thereafter, Councillor Black, seconded by Councillor Murray, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to approve the tendering exercise; and
- (2) that following the conclusion of the tendering exercise a report seeking approval for the award of the contract should be submitted to a future meeting of the Tendering Committee.

As an amendment, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor McBride, moved:-

That the Committee agrees to approve the tendering exercise and delegate the approval of the contract to the Executive Director of Educational Services for the provision of a catering service in line with the requirements of best value and efficient governance and to award the contract on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender.

On a vote being taken, 8 Members voted for the amendment, 6 for the motion, and 1 Member abstained. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME – FINE ART AND MUSEUM STORAGE

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

- (a) providing an update on the progress made in enhancing the existing storage and accessibility of the Council's fine art and museum collections;

- (b) seeking approval to progress with the planned programme of capital improvements; and
- (c) requesting that authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Educational Services to award contracts following a tender process.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director and the Section Head, Libraries & Cultural Services, in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Black, seconded by Councillor Murray, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and the positive progress made in securing £94,157 external funding to support the planned improvements to the storage, conservation and accessibility of the Council's fine art and heritage assets;
- (2) to approve the tendering exercise; and
- (3) that following the conclusion of the tendering exercise a report seeking approval for the award of the contracts should be submitted to a future meeting of the Tendering Committee.

As an amendment, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor McBride, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and the positive progress made in securing £94,157 external funding to support the planned improvements to the storage, conservation and accessibility of the Council's fine art and heritage assets; and
- (2) to grant approval to proceed with the proposed capital improvements 2013-16 amounting to £240,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director of Educational Services to award contracts following a tender process.

On a vote being taken, 8 Members voted for the amendment, 5 for the motion, and 2 Members abstained. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2012/13

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the publication of Educational Services' Standards and Quality Report for 2012/13, a copy of which was provided as Appendix 1 to the report.

Having heard the Executive Director, the Head of Service, Educational Services, and the Section Head, Libraries & Cultural Services, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed-

- (1) to approve the proposals for the distribution of the Standards and Quality Report; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

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.

Having heard the Executive Director, the Head of Service, Educational Services, and the Headteacher, Vale of Leven Academy, in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made in the past three months with the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire;
- (2) to note that a further update will be submitted to the Committee at its June 2014 meeting;
- (3) that in the future the 'Actions to Date' and 'Impact' sections in Appendices 1 to 5 to this report should be presented on the same page; and
- (4) to note the terms of the discussion which had taken place in relation to the possibility of extending Masterclasses to S4 pupils.

Note: Councillor Millar, Miss McBride and Ms McDaid left the meeting during consideration of this item.

VALIDATED SELF-EVALUATION – UPDATE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held on 4 December 2013 (Page XXX refers), a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services on the work of the themed groups contributing to the Validated Self-Evaluation (VSE) of Educational Services.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director and the Head of Service, Educational Services, in further explanation of the report and in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to receive a further update as to progress of VSE at the June 2014 meeting of the Committee; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA) POST-APPEAL EXAMINATION RESULTS 2013

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held on 4 December 2013 (Page XXXX refers), a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on the post-appeal performance of West Dunbartonshire schools in the national Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations of 2013.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to congratulate the pupils, parents and carers, staff and centrally deployed staff for achievements in this year's examinations; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report and the attached appendices.

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – 2013/14

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on the progress of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) implementation plan for 2013/14 within the context of national issues.

The Committee agreed to note the progress to date and the indications that implementation remained on track.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY POSITION 2013/14 AS AT PERIOD 10, YEAR TO 31 JANUARY 2014

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising on the progress of both the Educational Services revenue budget and the approved capital programme.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT TENDERING PROCEDURES SESSION 2014/2015

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

- (a) informing of the proposed timetable for the processing of tenders for mainstream home-to-school contracts and for the transportation of pupils with additional support needs; and
- (b) seeking approval to proceed with the proposed timetable in order to secure contracts for school transport for session 2014/2015, and up to session 2018/2019 where contracts are for 5 years duration.

Having heard the Executive Director in explanation of the report, Councillor Black, seconded by Councillor Finn, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to approve the tendering exercise; and
- (2) that following the conclusion of the tendering exercise a report seeking approval for the award of the contracts should be submitted to a future meeting of the Tendering Committee.

As an amendment, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor McBride, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) that the Executive Director of Educational Services be given approval to proceed and award tenders for the transport of children with additional support needs which represent best value for the Authority; and
- (2) that the Executive Director of Educational Services be authorised to make the necessary arrangements in liaison with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) to renew and award mainstream contracts which represent best value for the Authority.

On a vote being taken, 6 Members voted for the amendment and 6 for the motion. There being an equality of votes, Councillor McGinty, Chair, cast her vote in favour of the amendment which was accordingly declared carried.

It was also agreed that the Executive Director should issue a briefing note to all Members of the Committee explaining the rationale for his seeking delegated authority from the Educational Services Committee to award contracts following tendering exercises, rather than for these matters to be remitted to the Tendering Committee for decision.

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.