

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held in the Education Centre, St. Margaret of Scotland Hospice, East Barns Street, Clydebank on Wednesday, 9 November 2011 at 10.05 a.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Jim Brown, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Patrick McGlinchey*, Marie McNair, Lawrence O'Neill and May Smillie, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mrs Gemma Doyle, Mr George Hill*, Miss Ellen McBride, Ms Josephine McDaid and Miss Sheila Rennie.

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Laura Mason, Head of Service (Quality); Mary Berrill, Quality Improvement Manager; David Fulton, Quality Improvement Officer; Gillian McNeilly, Manager of Accounting; Jackie Allison, Business Unit Finance Partner; Gill Graham, Section Head, Cultural Services; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Mr Charlie Rooney, Headteacher, Our Lady and St Patrick's High School; Ms Lynn McCafferty, Head of Centre, Brucehill Early Education and Childcare Centre; Ms Helena Murray, Head of Centre, Jamestown Early Education and Childcare Centre; Ms Maria Seery, Headteacher, Bonhill Primary School; and Ms Debbie Queen, Headteacher, Kilpatrick School.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Douglas McAllister, John Millar and Martin Rooney.

Councillor Jonathan McColl in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Before commencing with the business of the meeting, Councillor J. McColl, Chair, requested that the Committee observe a minute of silence in remembrance of servicemen and women who had died in all wars.

Note: Mr Hill entered the meeting following the observation of the silence.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Note: Councillor McGlinchey entered the meeting at this point.

PRESENTATION – BRUCEHILL EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE CENTRE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 14 September 2011 (Page XXX refers), Ms Lynn McCafferty, Head of Centre, Brucehill Early Education and Childcare Centre (EE&CC), gave a presentation on the excellent provision of education at the Centre.

In this respect, a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing background information relating to the presentation.

After discussion and having heard Ms McCafferty in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and the presentation.

Thereafter, Councillor J. McColl, Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Ms McCafferty for her presentation.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held on 14 September 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 'Former Gavinburn Library, Dumbarton Road, Old Kilpatrick G60 5NE and Former Ladyton Library, Bonhill, Alexandria G83 9DZ' (Page XXX refers), the Committee agreed to note: (i) that the disposal of the former library buildings had not yet been determined by the relevant service Committee; and (ii) that the Executive Director would provide a briefing note to all Members of the Committee, explaining the decision in respect of the disposal of the properties, when this was determined.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 20 September 2011 were submitted for information, and where necessary ratification.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the decisions contained within the Minutes; and

- (2) to note that the accuracy of the Minutes would be determined at the next meeting of the LNCT.

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

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

Having heard Ms Helena Murray, Head of Centre, Jamestown Early Education and Childcare Centre, in answer to a question from a Member, the Committee agreed:-

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

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

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the follow-through inspection of Bonhill Primary School by the Quality Improvement Team of Educational Services and the subsequent report, published by West Dunbartonshire Council in September 2011.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Service (Quality) and Ms Maria Seery, Headteacher, Bonhill Primary School, in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

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

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION: REPORT ON FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION OF KILPATRICK SPECIAL SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS SERVICE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the follow-through inspection of Kilpatrick Special School and Early Years Service.

After discussion and having heard the Quality Improvement Manager and Ms Debbie Queen, Headteacher, Kilpatrick School, in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to congratulate the headteacher, staff and pupils of Kilpatrick School and Early Years Centre for their achievements as noted in the follow-through report.

Note: Ms McCafferty, Ms Murray, Ms Seery and Ms Queen left the meeting at this point.

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 of Educational Services and the Head of Service (Quality) in further explanation of the report and 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 that as this matter was now a standing item of business for future meetings of the Committee, a further report providing an update on the progress of the implementation would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (3) to note that that it was the intention of the Executive Director that each secondary school's action plan to raise attainment and achievement would form part of the report referred to in (2) above.

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA) EXAMINATION RESULTS 2011

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on the performance of West Dunbartonshire schools in the national Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations of 2011.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Quality Improvement Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to congratulate the pupils, parents and carers, staff and centrally deployed staff for achievements in this year's examinations;
- (2) to note the strategies being employed by individual schools and by the authority to raise attainment levels in S4-S6;
- (3) to request a report to the meeting of the Committee in December 2012 concerning performance in the 2012 diet of SQA examinations;
- (4) that it was satisfied with the way in which information was presented in the report and its appendices, given the number of different formats used over recent years;
- (5) that the Executive Director of Educational Services should send a briefing note to all Members of the Committee explaining with which specific schools the examination results of each of the West Dunbartonshire schools are compared; and
- (6) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

POORLY PERFORMING PERFORMANCE INDICATOR – CC3B: NUMBER OF VISITS TO/USAGES OF COUNCIL FUNDED OR PART-FUNDED MUSEUMS THAT WERE IN PERSON PER 1000 POPULATION

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

- (a) advising of the poorly performing Performance Indicator CC3b, 'Number of visits to/usages of Council funded or part-funded museums that were in person per 1000 population';
- (b) explaining the results for 2010/11; and
- (c) informing of current work relating to this indicator, the impact of this, and plans for the future of Clydebank Museum.

Having heard the Section Head, Cultural Services, in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report in relation to the poorly performing Performance Indicator for 'Number of visits to/usages of Council funded or part funded museums that were in person per 1000 population' in 2010/11, and the reasons given for this; and
- (2) to note the significant efforts, and impact made, to increase visitor figures through the establishment of two new heritage centres in Clydebank and Dumbarton; and

- (3) to note the plans to enhance Clydebank Museum, and partnerships with national agencies in order to attract exhibitions of international quality, to improve tourism and increase Statutory Performance Indicator results.

FORWARD PLAN FOR EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of reports which are planned to be presented to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee over the next twelve months.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and to approve the forward plan for the tabling of reports as outlined in section 3 of the report.

2011-12 REVENUE ESTIMATES – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 6 (1 APRIL 2011 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 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 budget for 2011-12.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services, the Manager of Accounting, and the Business Unit Finance Partner in answer a Member's questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the Business Unit Finance Partner would provide Councillor Black with information concerning: (i) the adverse variance of £880 relating to 'other costs' in the 'Schools – Special' budget; (ii) the adverse variance of £4,359 relating to 'Transport & Plant' in the 'Miscellaneous' budget; and (iii) the favourable variance of £1,279 relating to 'Supplies and Services/Admin Costs' in the 'CPP Investment' budget, outwith the meeting;
- (2) to note that the adverse variance of £85,047 in the 'PPP' budget was attributable to: (i) the increase in the rate of the Retail Price Index (RPI) since 2007; (ii) additional janitorial costs; (iii) additional TUPE costs; and (iv) costs associated with the discharge of water at St. Peter the Apostle High School, in relation to which officers were presently in discussion with SEPA; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

UPDATE OF CAPITAL BUILDING PROGRAMME 2011/12

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 Manager of Legal Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that officers were presently pursuing an insurance claim in relation to the former St. Eunan's Primary School building which may reduce the expenditure in respect of 'PPP Demolition Costs';
- (2) to note that a feasibility study was presently being conducted into the relocation of The Stand Dance Studio to Our Holy Redeemer Primary School and that the Executive Director of Educational Services would issue a briefing note to all members of the Committee on the progress of the school's extension in due course; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 11:30 a.m.