

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in Committee Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday, 20 February 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Provost Douglas McAllister and Councillors George Black, Gail Casey, William Hendrie, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, John Millar, John Mooney, Ian Murray, Tommy Rainey, Martin Rooney, Kath Ryall, Hazel Sorrell and Michelle Stewart, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mrs Lorraine Bonnar, Mrs Gemma Doyle, Mr George Hill, 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; David Fulton, Quality Improvement Officer; Hugh Neill, More Choices, More Chances Officer; Patricia Montgomery, Inclusion Officer; Beverly Clarkson, Education Support Officer; Susan Mullin, Transport Co-ordinator, Educational Services; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Ms Janice McIntyre, Head of Centre, Auchnacraig Early Education and Childcare Centre; and Ms Catriona Robertson, Headteacher, Vale of Leven Academy.

Councillor Michelle Stewart 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 MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held on 7 November 2012 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services in response to a Member's questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note, in relation to the item under the heading 'Literacy in West Dunbartonshire Council', that there had not been any significant developments in respect of the Scottish Government's 'One Plus Two' languages plan since the last meeting of the Committee but that any such developments in the future would be reported to the Committee; and
- (2) to note, in relation to the item under the heading 'West Dunbartonshire Numeracy Strategy', that a report providing details of the final Numeracy Strategy would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 18 December 2012 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the minutes, that concerns had been reported in relation to the availability of supply teachers and that this had been identified as a problem nationally; and
- (2) to note that there had been a reduction in the budget allocated to the payment of supply teachers, in view of the historical underspend in this budget, and that Educational Services may require to give consideration to its budget expenditure should the availability of supply teachers improve.

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.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services, the Head of Service, Educational Services, and the Headteacher, Vale of Leven Academy, in 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 would be submitted to the Committee at its May 2013 meeting;

- (3) (i) to note the concerns which had been reported on the effect on teachers' workloads of visits to primary schools within the local authority area for the purposes of sharing information and expertise in relation to Curriculum for Excellence; (ii) that the Executive Director had invited specific examples of such concerns to be reported to him through Mr Stewart Paterson, West Dunbartonshire EIS representative; and (iii) that the Executive Director would update the Committee on any discussions which took place with the trades unions in relation to this matter; and
- (4) that the Executive Director would provide Councillor Black with further information on the leadership weekend which had recently taken place for S6 pupils at Dumbarton Academy, outwith the meeting.

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – 2012/13 – UPDATE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held on 22 August 2012 (Pages XXX refer), a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on the progress made in respect of the actions contained within the 2012/13 Implementation Plan for Curriculum for Excellence. A copy of the updated plan was provided as Appendix 1 to the report.

Following 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 that a further progress report would be submitted to the Committee in August 2013; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS REVIEW

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing information on the continued development of the Employability Skills element of Curriculum for Excellence, detailing how this important aspect of pupil education is being progressed in West Dunbartonshire, and seeking Members' endorsement.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services, the Head of Service, Educational Services, and the Education Support Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report and to acknowledge the changes which had been made to the process as part of planned development;
- (2) to note that the Action Plan referred to in paragraph 4.7 of the report would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee; and

- (3) to note that the Education Support Officer would provide Councillor Black with details of any negative pupil evaluations of employability skills placements which had been received, outwith the meeting.

ANALYSIS OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS (SLDR) FOR 2011/12

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the figures for school leaver destinations for West Dunbartonshire Council for 2011/12 and explaining how these figures compared to the national figures for school leavers for the same period.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the More Choices, More Chances Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the Appendix to the report which outlined the statistics for school leaver destinations for West Dunbartonshire for 2011/12;
- (2) to congratulate the staff and young people for their efforts in achieving these results;
- (3) to note that a further report on the statistics for school leavers in West Dunbartonshire in 2011/12 would be presented to the Educational Services Committee in May 2013; and
- (4) that Councillor Stewart, Chair, would make representations to the Elected Members of the Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board stressing the importance of the funding which the Community Planning Partnership provided to support positive school leaver destinations.

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA) POST-APPEAL EXAMINATION RESULTS 2012

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held on 7 November 2012 (Pages XXX refer), 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 2012.

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

- (1) to congratulate the pupils, parents and carers, staff and centrally deployed staff for their achievements in this year's examinations;

- (2) that a report should be submitted to the meeting of the Committee in February 2014 concerning post-appeal performance in the 2013 diet of SQA examinations; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report and its appendices.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE "LOOKED AFTER"

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing information on levels of educational attainment for Looked After Children (LAC) at Primary 3 and 7, second year of secondary schooling (S2), and 4th, 5th, and 6th year of school.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services it was noted that in advance of the meeting Members of the Committee had been provided with an erratum which corrected some of the information contained in paragraphs 4.6 and 4.11 of the report.

Thereafter, the Executive Director was heard in explanation of the report and the Inclusion Officer was heard in answer to a Member's question. The Committee then agreed:-

- (1) to note that a follow up report would be provided to the Committee next year;
- (2) to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of staff from Education, Social Work and Health and the pupils who had contributed to this performance; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2011/2012

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the publication of Educational Services' Standards and Quality Report for 2011/12, a copy of which was provided as Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- (1) to approve the proposals for the distribution of the Standard and Quality Report;
- (2) to note that a report concerning the revised Schools Estate Management Plan would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Note: Ms McDaid left the meeting during consideration of this item.

2012-17 EDUCATION SERVICE PLAN Q3 PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the third quarter 2012/13 Performance Report on the 2012/17 Education Service Plan prepared by the Department of Educational Services which highlighted the performance across all of the services delivered by the Department for the period April to December 2012. A copy of the Service Plan Progress Report was provided as Appendix 1 to the report.

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

- (1) to note that the Head of Service, Educational Services, would provide Councillor Black with details of how the target-setting of the Performance Report had been influenced by the statistics of comparator local authorities, outwith the meeting; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

BOOKBUG PROGRAMME UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising of the changes resulting from the recent review of Early Years provision in libraries and in particular the changes to the Libraries & Cultural Services Bookbug Programme.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Section Head, Libraries & Cultural Services, in explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and the efforts being made by staff to ensure enhanced Early Years provision within Libraries & Cultural Services;
- (2) to note the implementation and content of a rolling programme of consultation with parents, staff and volunteers;
- (3) to note the update which had been provided in relation to responses to the consultation;
- (4) to note that while it had been necessary to limit to 15 the spaces available on Bookbug sessions, for health and safety reasons and to ensure the quality of the sessions, it had been possible to increase to 20 the capacity of the sessions in the Alexandria, Dumbarton and Clydebank libraries;

- (5) to note that Libraries & Cultural Services would seek where possible to be flexible with the timing of Bookbug and Storytime sessions to suit the wishes of parents; and
- (6) to receive further feedback on the outcomes of this consultation at the next Educational Services Committee meeting on 15 May 2013.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT TENDERING PROCEDURES SESSION 2013/2014

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 2013/2014, and up to session 2017/2018 where contracts are for 5 years duration.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Manager of Legal Services in explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, Councillor McColl moved:-

- (1) that approval be given to the Executive Director of Educational Services to proceed with a tendering exercise for the transport of children with additional support needs;
- (2) that approval be given to the Executive Director of Educational Services, in liaison with the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), to proceed with a tendering exercise to renew mainstream contracts;
- (3) that approval be given to the Executive Director of Educational Services, in liaison with SPT, to proceed with a tendering exercise for any contracts which would require to be re-tendered as a result of changes to the Secondary School Timetable; and
- (4) that the outcomes of the tendering exercises described in (1) to (3) above be remitted to the Tendering Committee for decision.

Thereafter, as an amendment, Councillor Rooney moved:-

- (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;

- (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; and
- (3) that the Executive Director of Educational Services be given approval to proceed and award contracts in liaison with SPT regarding the required changes to the revised Secondary School Timetable.

Having then heard the Manager of Legal Services and the Transport Co-ordinator, Educational Services, in clarification of certain matters, Councillor Black seconded Councillor McColl's motion and Councillor McBride seconded Councillor Rooney's amendment.

On a vote being taken 11 Members voted for the amendment and 6 Members for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

Note: Councillor Mooney left the meeting at this point.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY POSITION 2012/13 AS AT PERIOD 9 – YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2012

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising of the financial performance of the departmental revenue and capital budgets for the period to 30 June 2012.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that there was an overall favourable variance within revenue shown at period 9 of £156,825;
- (2) to note that there was an overall adverse variance within capital shown at period 9 of £40,257; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 12.00 noon.