

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, 15 December 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Jim Brown, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, Douglas McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Jim McElhill, Patrick McGlinchey, Marie McNair, Martin Rooney and May Smillie, and George Hill, Ellen McBride and Josephine McDaid.

Attending: Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Dave Clarke, Head of Service (Resources); Sandra Love, Head of Service (Quality); Lynn Townsend, Head of Service (Support); Craig Jardine, Manager, Educational Estates; Ken Graham, Manager of Lifelong Learning; Gill Graham, Section Head – Culture; David Byars, Quality Improvement Officer; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Charlie Rooney, Head Teacher, Our Lady and St Patrick's High School.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor John Millar, Olean Allison, Barbara Barnes and Sheila Rennie.

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.

PRESENTATION – GLOW DEVELOPMENTS IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held on 20 October 2010 (Page 3168 refers), a presentation was given on the current and future development of GLOW in West Dunbartonshire.

It was noted that GLOW was the national educational intranet to support developments within education including Curriculum for Excellence and that communication, national resource access and content sharing were the strongest feature of GLOW for educational establishments.

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

After discussion and having heard the Quality Improvement Officer in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and the accompanying presentation, with satisfaction.

VALEDICTORY – SANDRA LOVE

Councillor J. McColl, Chair, informed the Committee that this would be the last meeting which Sandra Love, Head of Service (Quality), would attend as she was retiring from Council service.

Councillor McColl, on behalf of the Committee, expressed his appreciation for the help and advice that Ms. Love had given throughout her time with West Dunbartonshire Council and wished her a long and happy retirement.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held on 20 October 2010 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY – PUBLIC INFORMATION

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing information on the revised Public Information Strategy which forms part of the Child Protection Committee Communication Strategy.

The Committee agreed to endorse the Public Information Strategy as part of the wider Child Protection Committee Communication Strategy.

LIBRARIES AND CULTURE SECTION'S RESTRUCTURE – PROPOSAL

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising of the ongoing restructuring process within the Libraries and Culture Section and seeking approval to implement the recommended option outlined at Appendix 1 to the report in order to deliver effective best value services within the restructured Libraries and Culture Section.

With regard to Appendix 1 of the report, the Committee noted that two erratum sheets (numbered 33A and 33B) had already been circulated to Members and replaced page 33 in the report.

After discussion and having heard the Manager – Lifelong Learning and relevant officers in elaboration and in answer to Members' questions, Councillor J. McColl, seconded by Councillor R. McColl, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to instruct the Manager – Lifelong Learning to implement the proposal outlined as option 1 in Appendix 1 with immediate effect, to facilitate full savings of £300,021 in financial year 2011/12. Option 1 being summarised as follows:-
 - (a) a reduction in the number of library branches to seven achieved through the closure of Gavinburn, Ladyton and Faifley branches;
 - (b) a review of the operation of the mobile library to ensure a minimum level of service is maintained to those areas losing a branch;
 - (c) a reduction in staffing complement within the Libraries and Culture Section through early retirement or voluntary severance in line with the recommended option; and
 - (d) the relocation of those staff displaced from branches closing, who have not sought voluntary severance, to appropriate posts within the new structure in accordance with the Council's organisational change policy.
- (2) that a report be presented to a future meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee by the Executive Director, Educational Services around 12 months after the implementation of the restructure to advise Members on the progress achieved and with particular emphasis on feedback from service users.

As an amendment, Councillor McAllister, seconded by Councillor McGlinchey, moved:-

That the Committee agrees to take no action on these proposals at this time and that the report be submitted to full Council instead.

On a vote being taken, 6 Members voted for the amendment and 10 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA) EXAMINATION RESULTS 2010

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services updating the Committee on the performance of West Dunbartonshire schools in the national SQA examinations of 2010.

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

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to congratulate the pupils, parents and carers, staff and centrally deployed staff for achievements in this year's examinations;
- (3) to note the strategies being employed by individual schools and by the authority to raise attainment levels in S4-S6;
- (4) to request a report to the meeting of the Committee in December 2011 concerning performance in the 2011 diet of SQA examinations; and
- (5) 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.

DESTINATION OF LEAVERS FROM SCOTTISH SCHOOLS: 2009/2010

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing information on the destinations of leavers from West Dunbartonshire schools in 2009/10, and setting this information within the context of the More Choices, More Chances Strategy in West Dunbartonshire.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Service (Support) in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report with satisfaction; and
- (2) to congratulate everyone involved for their efforts within schools and across the partnership of agencies to ensure that young people in West Dunbartonshire have more choices and more chances at whichever stage they leave school to move on to a post-school destination.

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION: REPORT ON KILBOWIE EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE CENTRE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the inspection of Kilbowie Early Education and Childcare Centre by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 24 November 2010.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Service (Support) in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to congratulate the staff, parents and children of Kilbowie Early Education and Chilcare Centre, for their achievements as recognised by HMle in the report published on 24 November 2010.

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

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services containing information on the follow-through inspection of St Michael's Primary School by the Quality Improvement Unit of Educational Services and the subsequent report, published by West Dunbartonshire Council in October 2010.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Service (Quality), the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to congratulate the headteacher, staff and pupils of St Michael's Primary School, for their achievements as recognised by the Quality Improvement Unit in the report published in October 2010.

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

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services containing information on the follow-through inspection of St Stephen's Primary School by the Quality Improvement Unit of Educational Services and the subsequent report, published by West Dunbartonshire Council in October 2010.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Service (Quality), the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to congratulate the headteacher, staff and pupils of St Stephen's Primary School, for their achievements as recognized by the Quality Improvement Unit in the report published in October 2010.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR THE HMIE SCHOOL INSPECTION FRAMEWORK STARTING IN AUTUMN 2011

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising on the Educational Services response to the public consultation on proposals for the HMIE school inspection framework starting in Autumn 2011.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the consultation response reflecting a collation of views from officers and staff; and
- (2) that a further report be sought on the planned inspection framework for Autumn 2011 following the publication of the new procedures.

UPDATE OF CAPITAL BUILDING PROGRAMME 2010/2011

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.

After discussion and having heard the relevant officers in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

2010-11 REVENUE ESTIMATES – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 7 (1 APRIL 2010 TO 31 OCTOBER 2010)

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 2010-11.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Resources and relevant officers in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Councillor J. McColl, Chair, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The meeting closed at 11.50 a.m.