

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Special Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in the Council Chamber, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 21 December 2016 at 2.00 p.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 and Hazel Sorrell, and Mr Gavin Corrigan, Mr Iain Ellis, Miss Ellen McBride, Miss Sheila Rennie and Ms Julia Strang.

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Claire Cusick, Senior Education Officer; Alan Douglas, Legal Manager; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Michelle McGinty and Mrs Barbara Barnes.

Councillor John Mooney 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 at this point in the meeting.

RESULTS OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO PLACE GARTOCHARN EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE CENTRE UNDER THE MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP OF THE HEADTEACHER OF GARTOCHARN PRIMARY SCHOOL

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer informing of the outcome of the statutory consultation process on a proposal to place Gartocharn Early Learning and Childcare Centre (ELCC) under the management and leadership of the Headteacher of Gartocharn Primary School.

The Chief Education Officer and the Senior Education Officer were heard in explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions.

Note: Councillor Millar entered the meeting during the questions from Members.

The Legal Manager then advised the Committee that, in terms of the Statutory Guidance on the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010, any decision to place the ELCC under the management and leadership of the Headteacher of the primary school would be considered as the closure of the former establishment and the creation of a new stage of education in the latter.

It was noted that, were the Committee to make such a decision:-

- (a) the Council would be obliged to follow the appropriate procedures relating to the closure of an establishment and notify Scottish Ministers accordingly;
- (b) there would then be a three-week period during which consultees on the proposal could make representations to Scottish Ministers to request that the decision be 'called-in';
- (c) the Council could only implement the Committee's decision after a period of eight weeks but would be able to do so earlier if Scottish Ministers so advised; and
- (d) the timescale for the implementation of the proposal, as detailed in the report, may not be achieved if Scottish Ministers were to call-in the decision, or if no indication was to be received from them within eight weeks that they did not intend to do so.

The Legal Manager was thereafter heard in answer to Members' questions.

Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Mooney, then moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to note the outcome of the consultation process; and
- (2) to approve the proposal to place Gartocharn ELCC under the management and leadership of the Headteacher of Gartocharn Primary School.

As an amendment, Councillor Murray, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved:-

Committee thanks officers for the report but notes that there are still a large number of unanswered questions and as yet, there is no evidence that the proposed model of management of ELCCs will be beneficial to the pupils' education.

Therefore, further to our agreement to note the rollout plans to 2020 and consult on Gartocharn, Committee agrees to defer this decision, and the further rollout of this management model to a meeting in June 2017 or thereafter to allow officers to evaluate the success or otherwise of the model as it operates in existing establishments.

Furthermore, the future report will include full details of the job specifications for Principal ELC Officers and Lead ELC Officers.

Following discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer and the Legal Manager in answer to further questions from Members, a vote was taken. Four Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

RESULTS OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO PLACE ST EUNAN'S EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE CENTRE UNDER THE MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP OF THE HEADTEACHER OF ST EUNAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer informing of the outcome of the statutory consultation process on a proposal to place St Eunan's Early Learning and Childcare Centre (ELCC) under the management and leadership of the Headteacher of St Eunan's Primary School.

Following discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer and the Legal Manager in explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Mooney, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to note the outcome of the consultation process; and
- (2) to approve the proposal to place St Eunan's ELCC under the management and leadership of the Headteacher of St Eunan's Primary School.

As an amendment, Councillor Murray, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved:-

Committee thanks officers for the report but notes that there are still a large number of unanswered questions and as yet, there is no evidence that the proposed model of management of ELCCs will be beneficial to the pupils' education.

Therefore, further to our agreement to note the rollout plans to 2020 and consult on St Eunan's, Committee agrees to defer this decision, and the further rollout of this management model to a meeting in June 2017 or thereafter to allow officers to evaluate the success or otherwise of the model as it operates in existing establishments.

Furthermore, the future report will include full details of the job specifications for Principal ELC Officers and Lead ELC Officers.

On a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

**PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE THE CHOICES PROGRAMME, WITHIN A WIDER
SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICE, TO NEW PREMISES IN THE VACANT
JAMESTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING**

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer:-

- (a) presenting the proposal to relocate the Choices Programme and associated central support services to Jamestown Primary School Building in 2017; and
- (b) seeking approval to initiate a formal consultation process within the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 to relocate the Choices Programme which is a designated school.

The Chief Education Officer was heard in explanation of the report and it was noted that paragraph 4.1 contained a typographical error and that it was being proposed that the relocation of the Choices Programme to the vacant Jamestown Primary School Building would take place by the end of 2018.

At this point, having sought advice from the Legal Manager, Councillor McBride and Councillor Ryall both declared a non-financial interest, being Directors of West Dunbartonshire Leisure, and stated that they would remain in the meeting during consideration of this item.

Following discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Mooney moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to note the option to relocate The Choices Programme and wider central support services;
- (2) to give approval to adopt for consultation purposes the proposal to relocate the Choices Programme to new premises in Jamestown, to undertake a formal consultation under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and to bring a report back to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (3) to give approval for authority to be delegated to the Strategic Lead, Regeneration to award the contracts for the renovation of the building to be occupied by the Choices Programme to the contractors submitting the most economically advantageous tenders following evaluation of the tenders submitted.

Councillor McColl asked Councillor Mooney if he would accept the following addendum to his motion:-

Add new paragraph (4) as follows:-

- (4) that both the West Dunbartonshire Leisure Trust and Haldane Youth Services will specifically be notified of the consultation.

Amend paragraph (3) to read as follows:-

- (3) to give approval for tendering exercises to be carried out for contracts for the renovation of the building to be occupied by the Choices Programme, with the final awarding of the tenders being referred to the Tendering Committee for decision.

Councillor Mooney agreed to accept the addendum to his motion.

Councillor Black then asked Councillor Mooney if he would accept a further addendum to his motion:-

Add new paragraph (5) as follows:-

- (5) Council will bear the burden for the rental income lost to Skypoint resulting from the relocation of the Choices Programme.

Councillor Mooney agreed to accept this further addendum to his motion and the motion, as amended, was then agreed unanimously by the Committee.

The Legal Manager then advised the Committee that, in view of its decision to launch the statutory consultation, and because 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 issues have been pre-judged.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor Mooney, Chair, informed the Committee that he would pass on its best wishes to Councillor McGinty, Convener of Educational Services, and expressed his own best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year.

The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.