

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 16 November 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Provost Alistair Macdonald, Councillors George Black, Dennis Brogan, Geoff Calvert, James Flynn, James McCallum, *Jackie Maceira, Connie O'Sullivan, Joe Pilkington, Martin Rooney and Andy White and Ms Olean Allison, Mrs Barbara Barnes, Miss Jan Cleife, Miss Ellen McBride and Miss Sheila Rennie

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: Bob Cook, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Lynn Townsend, Head of Service; Liz McGinlay, Head of Service; Terry Lanagan, Head of Service for the Schools' Estate; Ronald Dinnie, Head of Land Services, Housing and Technical Services; Winnie McHugh, Strategy Officer - Better Integration of Children's Services, Social Work Services; Alan Douglas, Manager of Best Value and Special Projects and Lorraine Beveridge, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

Apology: An apology was intimated on behalf of Councillor Gail Casey.

Councillor Martin Rooney in the Chair

PRESENTATION BY STRATHCLYDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

7496 Chief Inspector George Nedley, Strathclyde Joint Police Board, Strathclyde Community Safety Department (present for this item only), gave a presentation on the Force's Engagement with Young People.

7497 In so doing, he outlined the work being carried by Strathclyde Police in schools, challenging offending behaviour at an early stage while improving relationships between the police and young people.

7498 After discussion and having heard Chief Inspector Nedley in answer to Members' questions, the Committee thanked the Chief Inspector for his very informative presentation and agreed that details of the preliminary evaluation on the Pilot Campus Offices commissioned by Glasgow City Council would be provided to Members of the Committee for information.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 7499 The Minutes of Meetings of the Children's Services Committee held on 21 September 2005 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

- 7500 The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 28 September 2005 were submitted for approval.
- 7501 After hearing Councillor McCallum, the Committee agreed to approve the aforementioned Minutes as a correct record subject to item (1) under the heading 'Programme of Meetings' being amended to read as follows:-
- (1) that (a) procedures for school closures and amalgamations; and
(b) transfer of surplus staff should be discussed at a future meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee.

OPTIONS FOR THE LOCATION OF THE NEW ST. EUNAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ST.EUNAN'S EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE CENTRE

- 7502 Prior to commencing discussion on this item, the Manager of Best Value and Special Projects reminded members of the Committee that if they had expressed an opinion after the commencement of the formal consultation such as could reasonably lead members of the public to consider that they had pre-judged the issues to be determined, then in terms of the guidance issued by the Standards Commission, they should consider carefully whether they should take any part in the debate and determination of the reports before the Committee. It was noted that this advice also applied to the next item of business on the Agenda.
- 7503 The Committee noted the position.
- (a) Deputation**
- 7504 In terms of Standing Order No. 14, the Committee agreed to receive a presentation from Mr Stephen Bradley of St. Eunan's Primary School Board.
- 7505 In so doing, Mr Bradley informed the Committee that 2 ballots had been held to seek the views of School Board members, parents and staff of St. Eunan's Primary School on the Options proposed by West Dunbartonshire Council in relation to the future location of the Primary School. He confirmed that the result of the ballots had indicated that the preferred Option was Option 1, that St. Eunan's Primary School should be constructed on the land available at the St. Columba's High School campus.

- 7506 Thereafter, Mr Bradley listed the benefits which would result if Option 1 was approved by the Committee, such as additional resources being available, access to teachers' expertise, personal development of pupils, the close proximity of the church, travel time being reduced and the benefit to the community through interaction between young and older pupils. In conclusion Mr Bradley stated that he felt that there would be a huge economical benefit in moving to the St. Columba's site.
- 7507 After discussion and having heard Mr Bradley in answer to Members' questions, the Convener, on behalf of the Committee thanked Mr Bradley for his presentation.

(b) Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services

- 7508 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 15 June 2005 (Pages 1718/1720, paragraphs 6248/6251 refer), a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services setting out the views expressed and issues raised resulting from the public consultation exercise on the location of the new St. Eunan's Primary School and making recommendations thereon.
- 7509 Councillor McCallum, seconded by Councillor White, moved:-
- 7510 That the Children's Services Committee, following consultation with all stakeholders and interested parties, agrees that a new St. Eunan's Primary School be built on the land available at the current campus at St. Columba's High School as stated in the Director of Education's recommendation at paragraph 7.1 of the report.
- 7511 The Committee believes this to be in the best interests of future pupils of the school and a positive development for denominational primary education in Clydebank. The Committee acknowledges with thanks the commitment of the School Board in the consultation process and the effective way in which they have represented the views of the majority of parents of St. Eunan's pupils.
- 7512 The Committee also acknowledges the importance of access to the new school and associated road safety issues. The Director of Education is therefore instructed to ensure that a traffic management plan is produced as a matter of urgency which ensures the maximum safety for school pupils and all others who have access to the new schools.
- 7513 After discussion, Councillor Brogan, seconded by Councillor Black, moved the following amendment:-
- 7514 Call for a continuation of the debate on St. Eunan's to enable a ballot to take place which would reflect greater transparency and detail regarding the three options available.

- 7515 After discussion, on a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 14 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

**THE RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE
EDUCATION PROVISION FOR NON-DENOMINATIONAL PUPILS OF
PRIMARY AGE RESIDING WITHIN THE DELINEATED AREAS OF
CHRISTIE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL AND RENTON PRIMARY SCHOOL,
PUPILS ATTENDING THE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT UNIT
PRESENTLY BASED IN RENTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PRE-FIVE
PROVISION FOR CHILDREN IN THE DELINEATED AREAS OF RENTON
EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE CENTRE AND VALE OF LEVEN
COMMUNITY EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE CENTRE**

(a) Deputation

- 7516 In terms of Standing Order No. 14, the Committee agreed to receive a presentation from Mr Fyffe, Chairperson of Christie Park Primary School Board.
- 7517 At this point in the meeting Councillor Bollan requested permission to give a presentation to the Committee in connection with Renton Primary School. In response to this request the Convener informed Councillor Bollan that he would not give him permission to give a presentation to the Committee.
- 7518 In response to a request for legal guidance, the Manager of Best Value and Special Projects informed the Committee that although Councillor Bollan had not been permitted to make a presentation to the Committee, as an elected member for a ward effected by the decision to be taken, he would be entitled to put questions.
- 7519 After further discussion and in answer to Members' questions, Mr Douglas further advised that if the Committee did not agree with the Convener's decision it would have to agree to suspend Standing Orders before an alternative decision could be made.
- 7520 Thereafter, Councillor Black, seconded by Councillor Brogan moved for suspension of Standing Orders.
- 7521 On a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the suspension of Standing Orders and 8 against.
- 7522 Thereafter Mr Fyffe proceeded to give his presentation to the Committee. In so doing, Mr Fyffe informed the Committee that he was present today to convey to those Members who had been unable to attend the public meeting, a sense of the depth of feeling and high regard that everyone held for Christie Park Primary School. He confirmed that over the past 5 years the school had used its own funds to effect some modernisation and that a report published by Her Majesty's Inspector of Education had highlighted the high standard of the building and accommodation.

7523 Mr Fyffe then listed various serious concerns which parents had raised about the safety of child pedestrians when going to and from school if they were moved to a new build on a Vale of Leven Campus.

7524 In conclusion Mr Fyffe, on behalf of Christie Park Primary School Board Board, parents and staff proposed that the provision of non-denominational education for pupils of a primary age residing within the delineated area of Christie Park Primary School be provided in the present Christie Park Primary School building which, if necessary, be appropriately upgraded.

7525 After discussion and having heard Mr Fyffe in answer to Members' questions the Convener, on behalf of the Committee thanked Mr Fyffe for his presentation.

(b) Report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services

7526 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 15 June 2005 (Pages 1712/1713, paragraphs 6215/6219 refer), a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services setting out the views expressed and issues raised resulting from the public consultation exercise on the future education provision for non-denominational pupils of primary age residing within the delineated areas of Christie Park Primary School and Renton Primary School, pupils attending the Language Development Unit presently based in Renton Primary School and pre-five provision for children in the delineated areas of Renton Early Education and Childcare Centre (EECC) and Vale of Leven Community Early Education and Childcare Centre, responding to these views and presenting recommendations for Members' consideration.

7527 On the motion of Councillor McCallum, seconded by Councillor Flynn, the Committee agreed:-

7528 That the Children's Services Committee, following consultation with all stakeholders and interested parties, agrees that none of the options in the Director of Education's report should be chosen.

7529 The Committee has conducted an inclusive and fair consultation and is satisfied that there is neutral benefit in the options proposed.

7530 The Committee acknowledges with thanks the work of both school communities and both Christie Park and Renton School Boards in contribution to the consultation process and in assisting the Committee to arrive at this decision.

ADJOURNMENT

7531 The Convener adjourned the meeting at this point and resumed a short time thereafter, with all Members on the Sederunt present with the exception of Provost Macdonald.

KILPATRICK SPECIALISED EXERCISE AREA

- 7532 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 21 September 2005 (Page 1918, paragraph 7082(1) refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing an update on the construction of a new outdoor exercise facility at Kilpatrick School and making recommendations thereon.
- 7533 After hearing the Convener, Councillor Maceira and Mr Lanagan in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note that a further progress report would be made to a future meeting of the Children's Services Committee when the facility was handed over and was being used; and
 - (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION (HMIE) FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON THE EDUCATION FUNCTIONS OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

- 7534 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 21 September 2005 (Page 1924, paragraph 7114 (1) refers), a report was re-submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services drawing attention to the Follow-up Report on the Education Functions of West Dunbartonshire Council published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) on 20 September 2005.
- 7535 After hearing Councillor McCallum in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) that the report at paragraph 2.2 be amended to include the following main point for action:-

'Further steps should be taken to realise the potential impact of ICT provision across the authority on pupils' learning and achievement.';
 - (2) to commend the Director and all relevant staff within the Education and Cultural Services Department and schools on their response to the issues raised in the HMIE report; and
 - (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION: REPORT ON EDINBARNET PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 7536 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the inspection of Edinbarnet Primary School by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 11 October 2005 and making recommendations thereon.
- 7537 In this respect, the Director of Education and Cultural Services and Mrs McGinlay were heard in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions.
- 7538 Thereafter, Councillor Rooney, Convener introduced Mr Alistair Nicolson, Head Teacher of Edinbarnet Primary School (present for this item only) to the Committee and invited him to comment on HMIE's report of Edinbarnet Primary School.
- 7539 In response, Mr Nicolson confirmed that the aforementioned report was a true reflection of the school and on the hard work and commitment of the teaching staff. He further confirmed that the points for action highlighted in the report would be addressed.
- 7540 After discussion, and having heard the Director of Education and Cultural Services in response to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to congratulate the staff, parents and children of Edinbarnet Primary School, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 11 October 2005; and
 - (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

SQA EXAMINATION RESULTS 2005

- 7541 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing up to date information on the performance of West Dunbartonshire schools in the national SQA examinations of 2005 and making recommendations thereon.
- 7542 Councillor McCallum, introduced Mr Stewart Jardine, External Consultant (present for this item only) and invited him to give a presentation to the Committee on the SQA examination analysis for 2005.
- 7543 In so doing, Mr Jardine advised that following the Scottish Executive Education Department's annual publication on Standard Tables and Charts which had analysed the national SQA Examination results over the past 5 years, West Dunbartonshire Council had carried out a further analysis of these Tables and Charts making comparisons with other similar education authorities, national performance and past performance in West

Dunbartonshire. Mr Jardine was also heard in further explanation in relation to the data contained in the tables detailed in the appendices to the report.

7544 Thereafter, Mr Jardine was heard in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions and confirmed that he would be able to provide basic factual tables on the outcomes of subjects for each secondary school in West Dunbartonshire.

7545 After discussion and having heard the Director of Education and Cultural Services in answer to Members' questions, on the motion of Councillor McCallum, the Committee agreed:-

7546 That the Children's Services Committee is encouraged by the improvements in Secondary attainment in 2005 as indicated in the Director of Education's report.

7547 Improvement in Secondary attainment is a key priority for West Dunbartonshire Council and the Committee wishes to see continuing improvement from the current position.

7548 The Director of Education is therefore instructed to provide the Committee with an Action Plan indicating the steps to be taken to achieve this improvement. The plan should include intended outcomes, measures of achievement, deadlines for completion and state the person responsible for each of the intended outcomes.

7549 After discussion and having heard Councillor White, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to congratulate the pupils, parents, staff and centrally deployed staff for achievements in this year's SQA examinations;
- (2) that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee concerning performance in the 2005 diet of SQA examinations;
- (3) that following the publication of HMle's reports on schools, Head Teachers should be invited to the Committee to give a presentation on their response to the report; and
- (4) otherwise to note the contents of this report.

Councillor Flynn and Miss Rennie left the meeting at this point.

**2005-06 REVENUE ESTIMATES – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 15 OCTOBER 2005**

- 7550 There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on expenditure and income to date within the Education and Cultural Services approved budget for 2005-2006.

**UPDATE OF CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUILDING
PROGRAMME 2005/2006**

- 7551 There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing up-to-date information on the status of Education and Revenue Building Projects within the department of Education and Cultural Services and drawing attention to significant issues or problems with the progress of any particular project.

EDUCATION GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

- 7552 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services on the level of grants payable to voluntary organisations and making recommendations thereon.
- 7553 After discussion and having heard Mrs McGinlay, Head of Service, Education and Cultural Services, in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to approve the recommendations detailed in the Appendix to these Minutes; and
 - (2) that the Officer Recommendation detailed in the Appendix to the report be amended to read 'The Department of Social Work Services will consider the remainder.'

**EDUCATION (ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING) (SCOTLAND)
ACT 2004 - IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE**

- 7554 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on progress towards the implementation of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, within West Dunbartonshire.
- 7555 After discussion and having heard Ms Townsend in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

**GETTING OUR PRIORITIES RIGHT: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE
PROTOCOLS AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR
INTER AGENCY WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
AFFECTED BY SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

- 7556 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Social Work Services advising of West Dunbartonshire Council's 'Getting Our Priorities Right: Protocols and Operational Procedures for Interagency Working with Children and Families Affected by Substance Misuse and Problem Alcohol and/or Drug Use in Pregnancy'.
- 7557 After hearing Councillor Rooney, Convener and Ms McHugh, Strategy Officer - Better Integration of Children's Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the content of the Protocol; and
 - (2) to endorse the action taken to meet the requirements of the Scottish Executive Guidance.

The meeting closed at 1.20 p.m.