

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, 14 September 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Jim Brown, William Hendrie, Douglas McAllister, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Jim McElhill, Patrick McGlinchey, Marie McNair, John Millar, Lawrence O'Neill, Martin Rooney and May Smillie, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, 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 (Quality); Mary Berrill, Quality Improvement Manager; Shona Crawford, Principal Educational Psychologist; Gill Graham, Section Head, Cultural Services; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Ms Geraldine Currie, Headteacher, Clydemuir Primary School; and Ms Claire Bee, Team Leader, Brucehill Early Education and Childcare Centre.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Jim Finn.

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.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held on 15 June 2011 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the undernoted corrections to the item under the heading 'Appointment of Chair' (Pages XXX refer):-

- (a) amend Councillor Rooney's motion to read, 'That Councillor McAllister should chair the meeting.'; and
- (b) amend Councillor Finn's amendment to read, 'That Councillor Smillie should chair the meeting.'

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services in answer to a Member's questions in relation to the item under the heading 'Service Plan/Statement of Improvement Objectives 2011/15' (Pages XXX refer), the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that a briefing note had been issued to Members of the Committee providing further information on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) element of the Educational Services budget for 2011/12;
- (2) to note that the Executive Director of Educational Services would issue a briefing note to all Members of the Committee providing information on the effects of recent library closures on (i) the number of visits to libraries; and (ii) the relationships between libraries and schools; and
- (3) to note that Members had been invited to raise any questions which they had in relation to the briefing note referred to in (2) above at the next meeting of the Committee.

STRATEGY TO RAISE ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held on 15 June 2011 (Pages XXX refer), a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services outlining the need to raise attainment and achievement across West Dunbartonshire's schools and requesting approval of Educational Services' draft strategy to take this forward. A copy of the draft strategy was provided as Appendix 1.

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

- (1) that there was a necessity to raise attainment and achievement;
- (2) to approve the draft strategy to raise attainment and achievement and to note that this would be subject to wider consultation; and
- (3) that the progress of the implementation of the strategy to raise attainment should be a standing item of business for future meetings of the Committee.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR SCOTLAND'S LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC), 2009-2010

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing information on the Scottish Government's first annual summary of data on the educational outcomes of looked after children.

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

- (1) to acknowledge the achievements of the looked after learners themselves and the hard work and commitment of staff from Education, Social Work and Health who had contributed to this performance;
- (2) to note that the Quality Improvement Manager would send a briefing note to all Members of the Committee providing further information on the destination of looked after children who had left schools in West Dunbartonshire, outwith the meeting;
- (3) to note that the Quality Improvement Manager would provide Councillor Black with information comparing the percentage of school leavers in positive destination in West Dunbartonshire with comparator local authorities;
- (4) to note the assurances provided by the Executive Director of Educational Services that schools were able to exclude looked after children when this was necessary, and that the needs of looked after children should not supercede the needs of other children or staff; and
- (5) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

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

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services containing information on the inspection of Clydemuir Primary School by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 23 August 2011.

Having heard Ms Geraldine Currie, Headteacher of Clydemuir Primary School (present for this item only), in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to congratulate the Headteacher, staff, parents and children of Clydemuir Primary School, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 23 August 2011; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Note: Ms Currie left the meeting at this point.

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION: REPORT ON BRUCEHILL EARLY EDUCATION & CHILDCARE CENTRE (EE&CC)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the inspection of Brucehill Early Education & Childcare Centre by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 24 August 2011.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and Ms Claire Bee, Team Leader, Brucehill Early Education and Childcare Centre (present for this item only), in further explanation and in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to congratulate the staff, parents and children of Brucehill Early Education & Childcare Centre, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 24 August 2011;
- (2) to note that the Head of Centre had been unable to attend the meeting and to invite her to make a presentation on the work of the Centre to the next meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee in November 2011; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of this report.

Note: Ms Bee left the meeting at this point.

PROPOSAL TO CEASE PROVIDING OUT OF SCHOOL CARE PROVISION WITHIN AUCHNACRAIG EARLY EDUCATION & CHILDCARE CENTRE (EE&CC)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on the provision of early education and childcare, and support to children and families within the Faifley area and seeking approval to cease the provision of the out of school care service currently based within Auchnacraig Early Education & Childcare Centre (EE&CC).

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

- (1) to approve the closure of the out of school care provision located within Auchnacraig EE&CC from 1 October 2011; and
- (2) that service users should be supported to access alternative out of school care provision within the area.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL PARENTING STRATEGY

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising of the West Dunbartonshire Council Parenting Strategy and its place within the wider national and local policy context.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Principal Educational Psychologist in further explanation and in answer to a Member's questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to endorse the West Dunbartonshire Parenting Strategy; and
- (2) to the launch and subsequent review of the strategy in line with the national parenting strategy.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL – RELATIONSHIPS, SEXUAL HEALTH AND PARENTHOOD EDUCATION POLICY (MAY 2011)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Director of West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership outlining the purpose of the Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education (RSHPE) policy for West Dunbartonshire, a copy of which was enclosed as the Appendix to the report, and requesting the endorsement of the implementation of the policy.

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

- (1) to endorse the policy and to approve its implementation planned for the new school year, autumn 2011;
- (2) to commend the Community Health and Care Partnership, West Dunbartonshire Council, and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde staff who had both devised this policy and continued to progress this important agenda;
- (3) to note that training would be provided in the current school year for teachers who would deliver RSHPE to children and young people;
- (4) that any concerns which the Trades Unions had in respect of the delivery of RSHPE should be discussed at the Educational Services Joint Consultative Committee; and
- (5) otherwise to note the contents of the report and its Appendix.

GLOW IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising of the increasing importance of Glow (the national intranet for education) to Curriculum for Excellence, its progress in West Dunbartonshire, and requesting endorsement of plans to improve its use across the Council.

Having heard Councillor J. McColl, Chair, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the increasing importance of Glow as part of Curriculum for Excellence;
- (2) to endorse plans to refresh and improve the use of Glow in West Dunbartonshire; and
- (3) to receive further reports on progress.

TEACHER STAFFING AND RECRUITMENT

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

- (a) advising on the staffing and recruitment position for session 2011/12 in light of the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) agreement;
- (b) advising on 2011/12 probationer allocations; and
- (c) recommending that further reports on this matter be submitted to the Committee.

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

- (1) to note the current staffing position and acknowledge the commitment to the SNCT agreement;
- (2) to acknowledge the impact of the continued drive to maintain a secure workforce in West Dunbartonshire's education establishments; and
- (3) to receive a further report at the appropriate time regarding staffing issues as they impact on West Dunbartonshire.

FORMER GAVINBURN LIBRARY, DUMBARTON ROAD, OLD KILPATRICK G60 5NE AND FORMER LADYTON LIBRARY, BONHILL, ALEXANDRIA G83 9DZ

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services seeking approval to declare the former library buildings; Gavinburn at Dumbarton Road, Old Kilpatrick, and Ladyton at Bonhill, Alexandria, surplus to requirements, and to authorise the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development to sell the properties on the open market.

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

- (1) to declare these properties surplus to its operational requirements;
- (2) that the appropriate officer in Housing, Environment and Economic Development should write to local community groups and invite them to submit expressions of interests in making use of either of the properties;
- (3) that should any expressions of interest be received, a report should be submitted to the next meeting of the relevant service Committee outlining options for the possible future uses of the properties;
- (4) that should no expressions of interest be received:-
 - (a) the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development be authorised to market these vacant and surplus properties on the open market:-
 - (i) former Gavinburn Library, at Dumbarton Road, Old Kilpatrick, G60 5NE for residential use; and
 - (ii) former Ladyton Library at Bonhill, Alexandria G83 9DZ for residential or commercial use; and
 - (b) the Head of Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services be authorised to conclude the transaction subject to such legal conditions that are considered appropriate; and
- (5) that the Executive Director of Educational Services should provide a briefing note to all Members of the Committee providing an update on the disposal of the properties.

UPDATE OF CAPITAL BUILDING PROGRAMME 2011/2012

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 in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Executive Director of Educational Services should investigate the costs associated with the upgrade of drinking water machines in all schools and advise all Members of the Committee accordingly;
- (2) that the Executive Director of Educational Services should send a briefing note to all Members of the Committee providing further information on the progress of the extension of Our Holy Redeemer Primary School; and
- (3) that the Executive Director of Educational Services should send a briefing note to all Members of the Committee providing further information on the variance in respect of the new build Dumbarton Academy project;
- (4) to note the updated position in respect of the re-tendering of the new build Dumbarton Academy project; and
- (5) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

2011-12 REVENUE ESTIMATES – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 4 (1 APRIL 2011 TO 31 JULY 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.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 11.50 a.m.