

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held in the Education Centre, St Margaret of Scotland Hospice, East Barns Street, Clydebank on Wednesday, 9 February 2011 at 10.05 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, John Millar, Martin Rooney and May Smillie, and Ms Olean Allison, Miss Ellen McBride and Miss Sheila Rennie.

Attending: Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Dave Clarke, Head of Service (Resources); Lynn Townsend, Head of Service (Support); Craig Jardine, Manager, Educational Estates; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Klaus Fjeldgaard, Danish Education Authority Representative; Flemming Nielsen, Danish Education Authority Representative; Jane Forey, Head of Centre, Ferryfield Early Education and Childcare Centre; Jeanette Welsh, Young Families Support Service Co-ordinator; Margaret Thompson, Early Education and Childcare Outreach Worker; Monica Frize, Parent; and Kelly-Anne Paskin, Parent.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs Barbara Barnes and Ms Josephine McDaid.

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.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Before commencing with the business of the meeting, Councillor J. McColl, Chair, welcomed Mr Fjeldgaard and Mr Nielsen, representatives from Danish education authorities, to the meeting. It was noted that Mr Fjeldgaard and Mr Nielsen had been invited to attend the meeting as part of their fact-finding visit to Scotland.

VALEDICTORY

Councillor J. McColl, Chair, informed the Committee that this would be the last meeting of the Committee that Ms Allison would attend as she would be resigning as a Lay Member of the Committee. Councillor J. McColl thanked Ms Allison for her service to the Committee and wished her well in the future.

PRESENTATION BY THE YOUNG FAMILIES SUPPORT SERVICE

A presentation was given by Jane Forey, Head of Centre, Ferryfield Early Education and Childcare Centre, and Jeanette Welsh, Young Families Support Service Co-ordinator, on the work of the Young Families Support Service in West Dunbartonshire.

The main points covered in the presentation were:-

- Background information on the Young Families Support Service, including the aims of the service.
- An overview of the work of Early Education and Childcare Outreach Workers and Family Support Workers, and the support which they provided to parents.
- A description of the key points which had emerged from the recent ministerial visit to Ferryfield Early Education and Childcare Centre by Adam Ingram MSP.
- An overview of the feedback which had been received from parents who had used the service.

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

After discussion, and having heard relevant officers and Ms Frize and Ms Paskin in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and the accompanying presentation; and
- (2) that the Head of Service (Support) should provide Councillor Black with the information which he had requested concerning the amount of additional funding which the Young Families Support Service received, outwith the meeting.

Councillor J. McColl, Chair, thanked Ms Forey and Ms Welsh for their informative presentation.

Thereafter, Ms Forey, Ms Welsh, Ms Thompson, Ms Frize and Ms Paskin left the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held on 15 December 2010 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services in answer to a Member's question in relation to the item under the heading 'Libraries and Culture Section's Restructure - Proposal' (Pages 3298/99 refer), the Committee noted the progress which had been made to date in relation to the closure of library branches and the review of the operation of the mobile library.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 14 December 2010 were submitted for information, and where necessary ratification.

Having heard Councillor J. McColl, Chair, the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Manager of Legal Services in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the decisions contained within the Minutes; and
- (2) to note that the decisions taken by the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers in relation to the item under the heading 'Job Sizing Promoted Posts' had been implemented from December 2010 under officers' delegated authority.

DUMBARTON ACADEMY NEW BUILD: PROGRESS REPORT

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising of the progress being made in the design, procurement and construction phases of the project to rebuild Dumbarton Academy and informing of future target dates in the programme for the project.

After discussion and having heard the Manager, Educational Estates, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to note that, following the publication of the report, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) had requested that a 1 in 1,000 year flood risk assessment be prepared in addition to the 1 in 200 year assessment, and that these requirements were currently being addressed;

- (3) to note that, depending on the outcome of the flood risk assessments, there may be a requirement for the new school building to be raised by up to 150 millimetres; and
- (4) that the Manager, Educational Estates, should provide Councillor Black with the information which he had requested concerning the cost of the 1 in 1,000 year flood risk assessment, outwith the meeting.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services seeking approval of a proposal to organise a programme of visits to schools and other facilities and services which would allow Members to increase their awareness of different aspects of work carried out within Educational Services.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the proposal that a programme of 4 visits be organised in 2011 to a range of facilities and services which are operated by Educational Services; and
- (2) that the programme of visits should commence with a visit to an Early Years establishment and that subsequent visits should be arranged for services and facilities used by older children and adults.

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE: FORWARD PLAN

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services highlighting those issues which will come to the Committee for decision over the course of the next 6-12 months.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND – 1ST DECEMBER 2010

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing information on the Scottish Government's annual summary of statistics for schools.

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

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of staff, pupils and parents which have contributed to this performance;

- (3) to note that officers had declined to borrow money to assist with the cost of the early retirement of teachers under the Scottish Government's Teacher Refresh Scheme, due to a perceived lack of value for money;
- (4) to note that Table 2.1, contained within the Appendix to the report, had included the 11 Pre-school teachers in West Dunbartonshire in its total of 31 centrally employed teachers within the authority; and
- (5) that a report should be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee: (i) providing a breakdown of where centrally employed teachers were employed within West Dunbartonshire; (ii) explaining why West Dunbartonshire had a higher proportion of centrally employed teachers than comparator authorities; and (iii) outlining the costs and benefits associated with centrally employed teachers.

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.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Manager, Educational Estates, in answer to questions from a Member, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to note that the maintenance works in respect of St Kessog's Primary School had not constituted a specific refurbishment project and therefore had not been included in the Capital Building Programme for the current financial year.

2010-11 REVENUE ESTIMATES – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 9 (1 APRIL 2010 TO 31 DECEMBER 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.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services in answer to a question from a Member, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 11:35 a.m.