

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in Meeting Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday, 7 November 2012 at 11.00 a.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, Hazel Sorrell and Michelle Stewart, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mrs Lorraine Bonnar, Mrs Gemma Doyle, Miss Ellen McBride, Ms Josephine McDaid and Miss Sheila Rennie.

Attending: Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Laura Mason, Head of Service, Educational Services; Mary Berrill, Quality Improvement Manager; Mary Devine, Quality Improvement Manager; Shona Crawford, Principal Educational Psychologist; Jackie Allison, Business Unit Finance Partner; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Ms Janice McIntyre, Head of Centre, Auchnacraig Early Education and Childcare Centre; Ms Catriona Robertson, Headteacher, Vale of Leven Academy; and Mr Lawrence Slavin, Audit Scotland.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr George Hill.

Councillor Michelle Stewart in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor Stewart began the meeting by welcoming those present to this, her first, meeting as Chair and expressed her thanks to Councillor Patrick McGlinchey, her predecessor as Chair, and also to Councillor Marie McNair and Mr Brian Kirk who had recently resigned as Members of the Committee. Councillor Stewart welcomed in particular those Members who were attending the Committee for the first time.

The Committee then noted that Mr Lawrence Slavin, Audit Scotland, was in attendance as an observer.

Thereafter, having heard Councillor McColl, the Committee noted that Councillor Stewart would write to Councillor McGlinchey, on behalf of the Committee, to express its best wishes to him.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

Before commencing with the next item of business, Councillor Black requested that the Executive Director of Educational Services provide the Committee with an update in respect of the appointment of a new Headteacher at Knoxland Primary School.

After discussion and having heard the Manager of Legal Services, Councillor Stewart, Chair, informed the Committee that this item would be considered following the conclusion of all items of business on the agenda.

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 PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held on 22 August 2012 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 18 September 2012 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

STRATEGY TO RAISE ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE – UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on activity and progress with regard to implementing West Dunbartonshire's Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement and there was submitted (tabled) a copy of the Action Plan for Dumbarton Academy.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services, the Head of Service, Educational Services, and the Headteacher, Vale of Leven Academy, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made in the past two months with the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire;

- (2) to seek a further update for the Educational Services Committee at its February 2013 meeting; and
- (3) to note that the Executive Director of Educational Service had invited Members of the Committee to contact him with any questions which they may have in respect of the Action Plan for Dumbarton Academy which had been circulated at the meeting.

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA) EXAMINATION RESULTS 2012

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on the performance of West Dunbartonshire schools in the national Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations of 2012.

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

- (1) to note the contents of the report and its appendices;
- (2) to congratulate the pupils, parents and carers, staff and centrally deployed staff for the 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) that a report should be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee providing an update on the SQA examination results once the appeals process was concluded and that this report should include separate statistics for Maths and English results; and
- (5) to request a report to the meeting of the Committee in November 2013 concerning performance in the 2013 diet of SQA examinations and that this report should provide: (i) separate statistics for Maths and English results; and (ii) information on the comparative results in each subject with similar education authorities.

LITERACY IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing information on the actions being undertaken in the authority to improve levels of literacy.

Following discussion and having heard officers in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;

- (2) to receive further information regarding progress in literacy developments in West Dunbartonshire in due course; and
- (3) to note that if there were any significant developments in respect of the Scottish Government's 'One Plus Two' languages plan, a report detailing these would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE NUMERACY STRATEGY

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing information on the activity and progress with regard to establishing a Numeracy Strategy for children and young people in West Dunbartonshire.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services, the Head of Service, Educational Services, and the Manager of Legal Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made with the work to produce our Numeracy Strategy; and
- (2) to seek a further report in February 2013 with details of the final Numeracy Strategy.

CONSULTATION ON SECONDARY SCHOOL TIMETABLE AND SCHOOL DAY PATTERN

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing information on the consultation exercise on the Secondary School Timetable and School Day Pattern which had taken place between 30 August 2012 and 26 September 2012.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Head of Service, Educational Services, in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Provost McAllister, moved:-

That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to agree to the implementation of the 32 period week; and
- (3) to request a further report on issues regarding planning for implementation of the revised week pattern.

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

That the Committee agrees to continue consideration of this matter to a Special Meeting of the Committee to take place early in January 2013, to which a further report should be submitted providing more information on the concerns which were expressed in response to the consultation exercise.

Having heard the Manager of Legal Services during the course of the debate, a vote was taken; 9 Members voted for the amendment and 11 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

MORE CHOICES, MORE CHANCES ACTIVITY: APPROVAL FOR SINGLE TENDER PROCESS

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing information on the West Dunbartonshire More Choices, More Chances activity and seeking approval for Training Initiatives Generating Effective Results Scotland (TIGERS) and Action for Children to be nominated as providers for a single tender process.

Having heard Ms Berrill, Quality Improvement Manager, and the Manager of Legal Services, in further explanation of the report, the Committee noted that in addition to the recommendations contained within the report, the Committee was being requested to delegate authority to officers to conclude the tendering process.

Following discussion and having heard the Quality Improvement Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that both TIGERS and Action for Children be nominated as providers meeting the requirement for the single tender process, and that both intended allocated funds would fall below £50,000 per annum with TIGERS' provision costing £40,000 (with £20,000 going direct to beneficiaries for allowances and travel costs) and Action for Children costing £30,000, with the total going direct to beneficiaries in wages, allowances and travel;
- (2) that authority be delegated to officers to conclude the tendering process; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY POSITION 2012/13 AS AT PERIOD 6 – YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2012

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising of the financial performance of the departmental revenue and capital budgets for the period to 30 September 2012.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Business Unit Finance Partner in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that there was an overall adverse variance within revenue shown at period 6 of £55,244;
- (2) to note that there was an overall adverse variance within capital shown at period 6 of £940;
- (3) that the Executive Director of Educational Services should provide the Members of the Committee with details of the original budget for PPP prior to the transfer of funds to the Contingency Fund, outwith the meeting; and
- (4) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

At this point in the meeting Ms McDaid requested permission to raise an item of business which had not been included on the agenda for the meeting.

Note: Councillor Mooney left the meeting at this point.

Having heard the Manager of Legal Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee noted that accepting the item at this stage would be contrary to Standing Orders and may be contrary to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, and accordingly the request was declined.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

In response to a question from Councillor Black, the Executive Director of Educational Services provided an update in relation to the appointment of a new Headteacher at Knoxland Primary School.

In so doing, he informed the Committee:

- (a) that interviews had recently taken place for the position of Headteacher of Knoxland Primary School;
- (b) that, contrary to reports which had been made in certain local media, none of the candidates who had been interviewed had been appointed to the position;
- (c) that in view of (b) above, arrangements had been made for the position of Headteacher of Knoxland Primary School to be filled on a temporary basis, until the spring of 2013, by a Headteacher from another West Dunbartonshire school.

Note: Councillor Rooney left the meeting at this point.

The Executive Director of Educational Services was then heard in answer to Members' questions and the Committee agreed to note:-

- (1) the position in respect of the appointment of a temporary Headteacher at Knoxland Primary School;

- (2) that the Executive Director had written to the parents of pupils at the school to explain the circumstances in respect of (1) above; and
- (3) that the Executive Director had expressed a willingness to meet with the Knoxland Primary School Parent Council in the near future to discuss the matter.

The meeting closed at 1.45 p.m.