

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in Committee Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 6 December 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie and Councillors Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Caroline McAllister, Jonathan McColl, John Millar*, John Mooney and Martin Rooney, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mr Gavin Corrigan*, Miss Ellen McBride, Miss Sheila Rennie and Ms Julia Strang.

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: Angela Wilson, Strategic Director - Transformation & Public Service Reform; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Lisa Clayton, Acting Senior Education Officer, Early Years; Julie McGrogan, Senior Education Officer - Raising Attainment/ Improving Learning; Geraldine Lyden, HR Business Partner; Michelle Lynn, Client Business Partner, Regeneration; Joe Reilly, Business Unit Finance Partner (Education); Alan Douglas, Legal Manager; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer.

Also Attending: Sarah Pollock and Kirsty Whyte, Audit Managers, Audit Scotland.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Brown, Jim Finn and Daniel Lennie.

Councillor Karen Conaghan in the Chair

WELCOME

Councillor Conaghan, Chair, welcomed all those present and in particular Sarah Pollock and Kirsty Whyte, Audit Managers, Audit Scotland, who were in attendance as observers.

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 6 September 2017 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 12 September 2017 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

EARLY YEARS DELIVERY PLAN

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing details of the draft planning for the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) in the Council.

After discussion and having heard officers in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the Delivery Plan for Early Learning and Childcare in West Dunbartonshire Council.

Note: Mr Corrigan and Councillor Millar entered the meeting during consideration of this item.

STRATEGY TO RAISE ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE – UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on activity and progress with regard to implementing West Dunbartonshire's Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer and the Senior Education Officer - Raising Attainment/ Improving Learning in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the progress made in the past three months with the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire.

INSPECTION OF THE PROGRESS MADE BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN IMPROVING LEARNING, RAISING ATTAINMENT AND CLOSING THE POVERTY RELATED ATTAINMENT GAP: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL (INPLA)

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer informing of the forthcoming inspection of the local authority in December 2017.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed to note the information regarding INPLA.

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA) EXAMINATION RESULTS 2017

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on the performance of West Dunbartonshire schools in the national Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations of 2017.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and its appendices; and
- (2) to congratulate the pupils, parents and carers, staff and centrally deployed staff for their achievements in this year's examinations.

EDUCATION, LEARNING & ATTAINMENT DELIVERY PLAN 2017/18: MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer setting out the progress of the Education, Learning & Attainment Delivery Plan at mid-year.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed to note the content of the report and the progress achieved at mid-year.

WORKING WELL TOGETHER – ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT: QUARTER 2 (1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2017)

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead - People and Technology providing an update for Quarter 2, 2017/18 in respect of sickness absence and a detailed analysis on the attendance performance for Education, Learning and Attainment.

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Director and the HR Business Partner in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report and the attendance performance for Quarter 2, namely an increase of 0.13 FTE days lost (23.3%) compared to the same period last year for teachers and an increase of 0.15 FTE days lost (9.9%) for support staff, as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) to note the Council's attendance results for Quarter 2, namely an increase of 0.37 FTE days lost (17%) compared to the same period last year, as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 OCTOBER 2017 (PERIOD 7)

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on the financial performance of Educational Services to 31 October 2017 (Period 7).

After discussion and having heard the Business Unit Finance Partner (Education) in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note a projected full year favourable revenue variance of £0.228m (less than 0.3%); and
- (2) to note a projected full year favourable capital variance of £6.940m (33% of budget) of which £7.387m related to project re-phasing and £0.447m to an in-year overspend.

The meeting closed at 3.05 p.m.