

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 11 October 2006 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Denis Agnew, George Black, Dennis Brogan, Geoff Calvert, Jim Flynn, Jackie Maceira, Connie O'Sullivan, Martin Rooney, Andy White and Ms Olean Allison, Mrs Jan Cleife, Ms Ellen McBride and Miss Sheila Rennie.

Attending: Liz McGinlay, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Lynn Townsend, Head of Service; Terry Lanagan, Head of Service for the Schools' Estate; Anne Ritchie, Head of Social Work (Operations); Dave Clarke, Manager, Schools' Estate; Alan Douglas, Manager of Best Value and Special Projects and Craig Stewart, Administrative Officer, Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies: Apologies were intimated on behalf of Provost Alistair Macdonald, Councillors Gail Casey and James McCallum and Mrs Barbara Barnes.

APPOINTMENT OF CONVENER

10266 Councillor Rooney advised that due to a rotation of the Conveners of Council Committees, that the Committee would be required to appoint a new Convener. At this point in the proceedings, Councillor Rooney thanked the Committee for its support and gave particular thanks to Liz McGinlay and her predecessor Bob Cook.

10267 Thereafter, the Committee unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Denis Agnew as Convener of the Committee. Accordingly, Councillor Agnew took the Chair and he paid tribute to Councillor Rooney for the excellent job he had done as Convener in terms of steering the Committee through a difficult period.

PRESENTATION BY THE HEADTEACHER OF DUMBARTON ACADEMY ON MEASURES TAKEN TO PROMOTE AND RAISE ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR PUPILS

10268 Ms Angela Finn, Head Teacher of Dumbarton Academy gave a presentation on the work of Dumbarton Academy in taking forward attainment and achievement for all pupils. In this respect, a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services together with a copy of a document, circulated at the meeting, on Strategies used to Raise Attainment and Encourage Achievements for all pupils which formed the basis of the presentation.

- 10269 The Convener, Councillor Agnew, thanked Ms Finn for her most interesting and informative presentation and also took the opportunity to wish Ms Finn a long and happy retirement. Thereafter, the Committee agreed to note the terms of the report.

PRESENTATION BY CAROLINE SZELONG, TEAM LEADER, ST. PETER'S EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE CENTRE (EE&CC) - CAREER BOX – EARLY YEARS CAREERS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

- 10270 Ms Caroline Szelong, Team Leader, St. Peter's EE&CC gave a presentation on the Career Box initiative within early years education led by Careers Scotland.
- 10271 In this respect, a report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services was submitted and noted.
- 10272 The Convener, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Ms Szelong for her most interesting and informative presentation.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 10273 The Minutes of the Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 16 August 2006 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

PROGRESS REPORT ON WORK RELATING TO THE CLOSURE OF BRAIDFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AND THE TRANSFER OF PUPILS, STAFF AND RESOURCES TO CLYDEBANK HIGH SCHOOL

- 10274 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 17 May 2006, a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing a final progress report on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School in June 2006 and the transfer of pupils, staff and resources to Clydebank High School in August 2006.
- 10275 After discussion and having heard the Head of Service for the Schools' Estate and Mr Stewart Young, Head Teacher of Clydebank High School (present for this item only) in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and to request a further report on two of the outstanding issues, namely concern about the requirement for teachers to move from room to room in order to operate the timetable and concern that some parents are not using the new dropping off zones would be the subject of a further report to a future meeting of the Committee.

NOTE: Councillor Calvert left at this point in the meeting.

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING PERFORMANCE IN MEETING TARGET TIMES FOR SUBMISSION OF REPORTS TO THE CHILDREN'S HEARING

- 10276 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 16 August 2006 (Page 2602, paragraph 9734 (1) refers), a report was submitted by the Acting Director of Social Work Services outlining progress on the production of procedures and standards for the submission of Reports to the Children's Hearing.
- 10277 The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

RESULTS OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF BONHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 10278 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 16 August 2006 (Page 2605, paragraph 9748 refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing the results of the statutory consultation on a proposal for the construction of a new Bonhill Primary School on a Council-owned, green field site on Main Street, Bonhill, opposite the school's present site.
- 10279 At this point, the Manager of Best Value and Special Projects advised the Committee that if any Member 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 they should consider carefully whether they should take any part in the debate and determination of the report before the Committee.
- 10280 The Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the positive response to the proposal to relocate Bonhill Primary School;
 - (2) that Bonhill Primary School be relocated in a new, purpose built building on a Council-owned, green field site on Main Street, Bonhill, opposite the school's present site; and
 - (3) that Council Officers be instructed to set in motion the processes required to achieve the goal described in (2) above, including all tasks relating to planning, tendering, design and construction.

SQA EXAMINATION RESULTS 2006

- 10281 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 2006 and making recommendations thereon.
- 10282 At this point, Councillor Agnew 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 2006.

- 10283 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.
- 10284 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.
- 10285 In relation to a point raised by Ms Cliefe, it was noted that the Director of Education and Cultural Services would investigate the position with regard to the performance of the former Braidfield High School in its last year.
- 10286 After hearing the Convener, it was noted that a copy of the two appendices that had been omitted from the report would be sent to all Members of the Committee for their information.
- 10287 After discussion, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the contents of the report;
 - (2) to congratulate the pupils, parents and carers, staff and centrally deployed staff for achievements in this year's SQA examinations; and
 - (3) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee concerning performance in the 2007 diet of SQA examinations.

NOTE: Councillor White left at this point in the meeting.

RAISING THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

- 10288 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Social Work Services containing information on the success of a recent bid for Scottish Executive funding for a pilot proposal to raise the educational attainment of Looked After Children.
- 10289 The Committee agreed to approve the contents of the report and the creation of the posts outlined in the report.

**RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION: STAFFING POSITION FOR
QUALIFIED SOCIAL WORKERS**

- 10290 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Social Work Services providing an update on the staffing position for Qualified Social Workers and informing the Committee of the successful return from training of 14 Social Workers.
- 10291 After hearing Councillor Rooney, Spokesperson for Social Work Services, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the success of the Council's initiative to support staff through their professional social work training;
 - (2) to endorse the continuation of the strategy to address future needs; and
 - (3) to congratulate the Acting Director and the Head of Social Work (Operations) for their work in ensuring a satisfactory outcome.

**2006-07 REVENUE ESTIMATES – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR
THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 15 AUGUST 2006**

- 10292 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing up to date information on expenditure and income to date within the Education and Cultural Services approved budget for 2006-2007.
- 10293 The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

COSLA AWARDS

- 10294 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services informing of the projects, within the Department of Education and Cultural Services and in association with the other Council departments, put forward for COSLA Excellence Awards in 2006.
- 10295 After hearing the Convener and the Director of Education and Cultural Services, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
 - (2) to congratulate the officers involved for the quality of the award submissions.

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 10296 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services highlighting the Department of Education and Cultural Services performance for the period April to June 2006 across all relevant areas.

10297 After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) that a report on the completed Best Value reviews would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

MOBILE LIBRARY – SUCCESS STORY

10298 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services advising of the success of the Mobile Library in winning the trophy for Best Livery at the Mobile Library Meet held in Stirling on Saturday 9 September 2006.

10299 After discussion and having heard the Convener, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to congratulate the staff involved for their success in winning this award.

LAND AT KILBOWIE PRIMARY SCHOOL, WEST THOMSON STREET, CLYDEBANK

10300 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services seeking approval to declare surplus to the operational requirements of Education and Cultural Services, land extending to 2,500 square metres or thereby at Kilbowie Primary School, Clydebank and proposing that capital receipts accruing from the subsequent sale of this land be set aside for the continuing regeneration of the schools' estate.

10301 After discussion and having heard the Convener and the Manager of Best Value and Special Projects in clarification of certain matters, Councillor Agnew, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved:-

10302 That the Committee agrees:-

- (1) to the land extending to 2,500 sq.m. or thereby on the western boundary of Kilbowie Primary School be declared surplus to the requirements of the Department of Education and Cultural Services;
- (2) to the land being included within the adjoining site which will be advertised for sale on the open market for residential development subject to a closing date; and
- (3) that the receipt realised through the sale of the surplus land currently within the Kilbowie Primary School boundary site be applied to the General Services Capital Programme.

- 10303 As an amendment, Councillor Black, seconded by Councillor Brogan, moved:-
- 10304 That a further decision be taken by Members whether to proceed with the sale of the land in question once offers were received.
- 10305 On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 6 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

**UPDATE OF CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUILDING PROGRAMME
2006/2007**

- 10306 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing up-to-date information on the status of Education and Revenue Building Projects within the Education and Cultural Services Department and drawing the Committee's attention to significant issues of problems with the progress of any particular project.
- 10307 After discussion, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

GAMBLING ACT 2005 – PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

- 10308 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking approval for the Children's Services Committee to be designated as the responsible body to advise West Dunbartonshire Licensing Board on the protection of children from harm in terms of the Gambling Act 2005.
- 10309 The Committee agreed that it be designated as the responsible body to advise West Dunbartonshire Licensing Board on the protection of children from harm in terms of the Gambling Act 2005.

The meeting closed at 12.15 p.m.