

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in the Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 4 December 2019 at 2.05 p.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie and Councillors Jim Brown, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Daniel Lennie, Caroline McAllister, Jonathan McColl, John Mooney, Sally Page and Martin Rooney, and Mr Gavin Corrigan, Miss Ellen McBride, Mrs Karen McKinlay, Miss Sheila Rennie and Ms Julia Strang.

Attending: Angela Wilson, Strategic Director – Transformation & Public Service Reform; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Andrew Brown, Senior Education Officer – Policy, Performance & Resources; Claire Cusick, Senior Education Officer – Pupil Support; Julie McGrogan, Senior Education Officer – Raising Attainment/Improving Learning; Kathy Morrison, Lead Officer – Early Years; Mhairi McCarte, Gaelic Development Officer; Michelle Lynn, Assets Co-ordinator; Louise Hastings, HR Business Partner; Joe Reilly, Business Unit Finance Partner (Education); Nigel Ettles, Principal Solicitor; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Finn and John Millar, and Mrs Barbara Barnes and Ms Michelle Stuart.

Councillor Karen Conaghan in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

Councillor Conaghan, Chair, advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

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 4 September 2019 were submitted for approval as a correct record. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to approve the Minutes as a correct record.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 17 September 2019 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.

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 Senior Education Officer – Raising Attainment/Improving Learning in further explanation 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.

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA) EXAMINATION RESULTS 2019

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 2019.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer – Policy, Performance & Resources in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to congratulate the pupils, parents and carers, and staff in our establishments and our partner providers for achievements in this year's examinations; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report and its appendices.

EARLY YEARS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update of the plan for the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in West Dunbartonshire Council.

Having heard the Lead Officer – Early Years in further explanation of the report and in answer to a Member's questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of Appendix 1, 'Early Learning and Childcare Phasing Plan 2018-2020'; and
- (2) to note the contents of Appendix 2, 'The Early Learning and Childcare Financial Phasing Plan 2018-2022'.

2019 CENSUS – PUPIL AND TEACHER NUMBERS

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer:-

- (a) providing an update on the data reported to the Scottish Government in relation to the annual census of pupil and teacher numbers; and
- (b) outlining the pupil teacher ratio (PTR) for 2019/2020 which will be published in December 2019.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer – Policy, Performance & Resources in further explanation of the report and in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the authority had met the objective to maintain a PTR of 13.5 (or lower); and
- (2) to note that the figures submitted to Scottish Government and validated on 14 November 2019 would be published in December 2019.

WEST PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer presenting and seeking endorsement of the West Partnership Improvement Plan.

Having heard the Chief Education Officer in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the evaluation of the 2018/19 Regional Improvement Plan, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report; and
- (2) to note the 2019/22 Regional Improvement Plan for the West Partnership, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

GAELIC DEVELOPMENT IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE – 2019 PROGRESS UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on progress with Gaelic Development in West Dunbartonshire.

After discussion and having heard the Gaelic Development Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the funding aligned to Gaelic education in West Dunbartonshire Council in 2019/20;
- (2) to note the series of Gaelic development activities which the funding would enable;
- (3) to note that the draft WDC Gaelic Plan had been approved by Council at its meeting in June 2019; and
- (4) to note that the Plan was currently awaiting approval from Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

CHILDREN'S NEIGHBOURHOODS SCOTLAND: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on West Dunbartonshire Council's involvement in Children's Neighbourhoods Scotland (CNS). It was noted that an additional appendix to the report, containing an Equality Impact Screening and Assessment Form, had been issued in advance of the meeting.

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

- (1) to note the CNS approach; and
- (2) to note the funding model.

EMPLOYEE WELLBEING: ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION BI-ANNUAL UPDATE (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2019)

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – People and Technology providing detailed analysis on employee wellbeing and attendance from April to September 2019 for Education, Learning and Attainment and a bi-annual update on Council-wide attendance for the same period.

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

- (1) to note the increase of 185.47 full time equivalent (FTE) days lost in Education, Learning and Attainment compared to the same period last year, as outlined in Appendices 3 and 4 to the report;
- (2) to note the increase in Council-wide sickness absence of 3,471.84 FTE days lost (approximately 13.6%) compared to the same period last year, as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report; and
- (3) to note that a number of services across the Council had been restructured in Quarter 1 of 2019 but that Education, Learning and Attainment had not been impacted by this change; and
- (4) to note that any historical comparisons for other Strategic Lead areas should be considered as indicative and not an absolute figure and that further information regarding the services impacted had been outlined in section 4.1 of the report.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 OCTOBER 2019 (PERIOD 7)

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on the financial performance of Educational Services to 31 October 2019 (Period 7).

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

- (1) to note that the revenue account currently showed a projected annual adverse revenue variance of £0.073m (less than 0.1%); and
- (2) to note that the capital account showed a projected annual adverse variance of £0.293m (5.8% of the budget), which related to an in-year overspend primarily at Kilpatrick School.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Councillor Conaghan, Chair, wished everyone present a Merry Christmas.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.