

ITEM 4

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in the Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 5 December 2018 at 2.05 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Brown, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Daniel Lennie, Caroline McAllister, Jonathan McColl, Sally Page and Martin Rooney, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mr Gavin Corrigan, Mr Iain Ellis, Miss Ellen McBride, 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 - Performance and Improvement; Claire Cusick, Senior Education Officer - Pupil Support; Kathy Morrison, Education Officer; Linda McAlister, Education Support Officer (Staffing); Mhairi McCarte, Depute Head Teacher, St Peter the Apostle High School; Geraldine Lyden, HR Business Partner; Joe Reilly, Business Unit Finance Partner (Education); Michelle Lynn, Client Business Partner; Alan Douglas, Legal Manager; Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost William Hendrie and Councillors Jim Finn, John Millar and John Mooney.

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 5 September 2018 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 2018 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 Chief Education Officer and the Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement 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.

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA) EXAMINATION RESULTS 2018

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 2018.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement 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 achievements in this year's examinations.

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.

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

- (1) to note the contents of the current phasing of the Early Learning and Childcare Expansion, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report – 'Early Learning and Childcare Phasing Plan 2018-2020'; and
- (2) that a further update be provided to the next meeting of the Committee in March 2019.

2018 CENSUS – PUPIL AND TEACHER NUMBERS

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on:-

- (a) the September 2018 pupil and staff census and the Council's progress in maintaining teacher numbers and pupil-teacher ratio (PTR); and
- (b) actions to address the difficulties being experienced by the Council in the recruitment of teachers.

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

- (1) to note that the authority had met its objective to maintain a PTR of 13.6 (or lower); and
- (2) to note the progress in measures that aim to address difficulties in teacher recruitment.

WEST PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on the progress with the initial West Partnership improvement plan and its preparation of Phase 2.

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

- (1) to note the progress made with the initial improvement plan; and

- (2) to note the West Partnership's Phase 2 Plan.

GAELOC DEVELOPMENT IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE – 2018 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 Chief Education Officer and the Depute Head Teacher, St Peter the Apostle High School in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed to note the bid to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for GLAIF (Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund) had been granted to a sum of £26,205, which was a significant increase from 2017-18, and that the Gaelic Specific Grant to West Dunbartonshire Council had been granted at £15,000.

CPR (CARDIO PULMANORY RESUSCITATION) TRAINING IN EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer informing of the Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) programme and its intended roll out across West Dunbartonshire's secondary schools.

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

- (1) that all pupils in our secondary schools be trained in CPR before they leave school; and
- (2) that following the roll-out to secondary schools, consideration should be given to what training could be given to primary school pupils, in consultation with the British Heart Foundation.

WORKING WELL TOGETHER – ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT: BI-ANNUAL RESULTS (APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2018)

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead - People and Technology providing a detailed analysis of the attendance performance for the period April to September 2018.

After discussion and having heard the HR Business Partner in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the decrease in Council-wide sickness absence of 1,171.04 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) days lost (approximately 5%) compared to the same period last year as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report;

- (2) to note the decrease in sickness absence of 20.31 FTE days lost (12.39%) for support staff as outlined in Appendices 3 and 4 to the report and that while the days lost appeared minimal, this represented a significant percentage decrease due to the corresponding growth of the support staff workforce (77.56 FTE); and
- (3) to note an increase of 97.19 FTE days lost (5.41%) for teachers compared to the same period last year as outlined in Appendices 3 and 4 to the report.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 OCTOBER 2018 (PERIOD 7)

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on the financial performance of Educational Services to 31 October 2018 (Period 7).

After discussion and having heard the Business Unit Finance Partner (Education) and relevant officers in further explanation of the report and in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the revenue account currently showed a projected annual adverse revenue variance of £0.399m (less than 0.5%); and
- (2) to note that the capital account showed a projected annual favourable variance of £1.812m (28.7% of the budget), made up of £2.240m relating to project slippage, partially offset by £0.429m relating to an in-year overspend.

VALEDICTORY

Councillor Conaghan, Chair, informed those present that this would be the last meeting of the Committee that Mr Ellis would be attending and, on behalf of the Committee, thanked him for his contribution as a Parent Representative.

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.

