

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Hybrid Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in the Civic Space, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 16 March 2022 at 10.05 a.m.

Present: Councillors Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Jim Finn*, Daniel Lennie, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, Sally Page and Martin Rooney, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mr Gavin Corrigan, Miss Ellen McBride, Ms Hannah Redford, Ms Julia Strang and Miss Tian Qi Yu MSYP.

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Claire Cusick, Senior Education Officer – Services for Children & Young People; Julie McGrogan, Senior Education Officer – Raising Attainment/Improving Learning; Kathy Morrison, Senior Education Officer – Early Learning & Childcare; Linda McAlister, Education Support Officer; Joe Reilly, Business Unit Finance Partner (Education); Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost William Hendrie, Councillors John Millar and John Mooney, and Miss Jessica Boyle MSYP.

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.

RECORDING OF VOTES

The Committee agreed that all votes taken during the meeting would be carried out by roll call vote to ensure an accurate record.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held on 1 December 2021 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee agreed to adjourn for a short period in order that an attempt could be made to rectify audio difficulties which were being experienced. The meeting reconvened at 10.08 a.m. with all those Members listed in the sederunt in attendance and also Councillor Finn.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 14 December 2021 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.

RESPONSE ON STATUTORY CONSULTATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW COMMUNITY CAMPUS IN FAIFLEY

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer informing of the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the formal consultation on the construction of a new community campus in Faifley on the site of the current St Joseph's Primary School.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer and relevant officers in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed the findings from the statutory consultation exercise and the content of the associated Education Scotland report.

STRATEGY TO RAISE ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on activity and progress with regard to implementing West Dunbartonshire Council's Scottish Attainment Challenge programme, and implementing Educational Services' improvement priorities for attainment and equity.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer – Raising Attainment/Improving Learning in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members’ questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made in the past three months with two key priorities, namely, the Scottish Attainment Challenge and West Dunbartonshire Council’s Education Improvement Framework; and
- (2) to note that the Committee would be provided with regular update reports advising of progress.

EARLY YEARS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on progress made and the framework developed to provide high quality Early Learning and Childcare in West Dunbartonshire Council.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer – Early Learning & Childcare and the Chief Education Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members’ questions, the Committee agreed to note the framework that had been developed to ensure delivery of the statutory entitlement of 1140 hours of high quality early learning and childcare.

EXPANSION OF THE SCHOOL LEARNING ESTATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer:-

- (a) providing an update on the outcomes of the learning estate workstream of the ASN (Additional Support Needs) Strategy; and
- (b) informing of projected needs, plans and associated costs of the proposed expansion.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer – Services for Children & Young People and the Chief Education Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members’ questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress of work and identified growth projections;
- (2) to the suggested phases of development and associated capital works;
- (3) to instruct officers to prepare to undertake statutory consultation on Phase two of the proposal for expansion; and
- (4) to allocate funding as detailed in paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7 of the report from the unallocated School Improvement capital plan.

EDUCATION DELIVERY PLAN 2021/22 – MID-YEAR PROGRESS

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer setting out the mid-year progress of the 2021/22 Delivery Plan.

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 contents of the report and the progress achieved at mid-year.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 JANUARY 2022 (PERIOD 10)

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Resources providing an update on the financial performance of Educational Services to 31 January 2022 (Period 10).

After discussion and having heard the Business Unit Finance Partner (Education) 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 £1.373m (1% of the total budget) of which £1.212m (88%) was Covid-related and therefore resulting in an underlying adverse variance of £0.160m (0.15% of the total budget); and
- (2) to note that the capital account showed a projected in-year favourable variance of £2.710m made up of £0.157m overspend (2% of the current year budget), and slippage to 2022/23 of £2.867m (28% of the current year budget).

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor Conaghan, Chair, stated that it had been an honour for her to have been the Chair of the Educational Services Committee for the past five years and thanked all Members of the Committee and wished them well.

The meeting closed at 11.40 a.m.