

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in Committee Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 7 December 2016 at 5.05 p.m.

Present: Provost Douglas McAllister and Councillors George Black, Gail Casey, William Hendrie, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Michelle McGinty, John Millar, John Mooney, Ian Murray, Martin Rooney, Kath Ryall and Hazel Sorrell, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mr Iain Ellis and Miss Sheila Rennie.

Attending: Angela Wilson, Strategic Director - Transformation & Public Service Reform; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Andrew Brown, Senior Education Officer - Performance & Improvement; Matthew Boyle, Senior Education Officer - Workforce/CPD; John Sanders, Energy Officer; Joe Reilly, Business Unit Finance Partner (Education); Alan Douglas, Legal Manager; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Rainey, and Mr Gavin Corrigan, Miss Ellen McBride and Ms Julia Strang.

Councillor Michelle McGinty in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor McGinty, Chair, welcomed Mr Iain Ellis who was attending his first meeting of the Committee having recently been appointed as a Parents' Representative on the Committee.

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 24 August 2016 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 13 September 2016 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

TENDER AND AWARD FOR FUEL SUPPLY AND ASSOCIATED OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF BIOMASS BOILER AT GARTOCHARN PRIMARY SCHOOL

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer seeking approval to execute a tender process and subsequent award for the provision of fuel supply material and associated operation and maintenance of the biomass boiler at Gartocharn Primary School.

Following discussion and having heard the Energy Officer and the Legal Manager in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to instruct officers to carry out the appropriate tendering exercise for the provision of fuel supply and associated operation and maintenance of the biomass boiler at Gartocharn Primary School; and
- (2) that in line with the unanimous recommendation of the Audit & Performance Review Committee, the final awarding of the tender is delegated to the Tendering Committee who will act in accordance with the requirements of best value and efficient governance.

STRATEGY TO RAISE ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE – UPDATE

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

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made in the past three months with the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire; and
- (2) to note that a further update would be submitted to the Committee at its March 2017 meeting.

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA) EXAMINATION RESULTS 2016

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer providing an update on the performance of West Dunbartonshire schools in the national Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations of 2016.

Following discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer and the Senior Education Officer - Performance & Improvement in 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 2016/17: MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer setting out the mid-year progress of the actions in the Education, Learning & Attainment Delivery Plan and associated Workforce Plan.

Having heard the Senior Education Officer - Performance & Improvement in 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.

DELIVERING EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY IN SCOTTISH EDUCATION – A DELIVERY PLAN FOR SCOTLAND

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer providing an update on the Scottish Government's Delivery Plan for Scotland.

Following discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer in answer to a Member's question, the Committee noted the publication of the plan.

2016 CENSUS – PUPIL AND TEACHER NUMBERS

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer providing an update on the data reported to Scottish Government in relation to the annual census of pupil and teacher numbers, and outlining the pupil teacher ratio (PTR) for 2016/2017 which will be published in December 2016.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Workforce/CPD in explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that that the authority had met its objective to maintain a PTR of 13.6 (or lower), and that this was below the national value; and
- (2) to note that the figures submitted to Scottish Government had still to be validated.

GAELIC DEVELOPMENT IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE – PROGRESS UPDATE

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

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

- (1) to note the bid to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for a funding award of £17,500; and
- (2) to note the series of Gaelic development activities which the funding would enable.

WORKING WELL TOGETHER – ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT: QUARTER 2

A report was submitted by Strategic Lead - People and Technology:-

- (a) advising on attendance levels across the Council for Quarter 2 (July to September 2016) and providing a breakdown of absence performance by Strategic Lead area; and
- (b) providing, in the Appendix to the report, a breakdown of performance for the Strategic Lead area(s) covered by this Committee.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report and the attendance results for Quarter 2 2016/17, namely a significant decrease of 2106 FTE days lost (19.3%) compared to the same period last year; and
- (2) to note the breakdown of results for the Strategic Lead area(s) covered by this Committee as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 OCTOBER 2016 (PERIOD 7)

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer providing an update on the financial performance of Educational Services to 31 October 2016 (Period 7).

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Director, the Chief Education Officer and the Business Unit Finance Partner (Education) in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report which showed:-

- (1) a projected full year favourable revenue variance of £0.205m (less than 1% of budget); and

- (2) a projected full year favourable capital variance of £4.112m (15.8% of budget) of which £4.651m related to project re-phasing and £0.539m to an in-year overspend.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor McGinty, Chair, informed the Committee that she would require to take a short period of absence from meetings of the Committee and that Councillor Mooney, Vice Chair, would assume her duties during the absence.

The meeting closed at 6.25 p.m.