

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held in the Education Centre, St. Margaret of Scotland Hospice, East Barns Street, Clydebank on Wednesday, 14 March 2012 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Finn, William Hendrie, Douglas McAllister, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Jim McElhill, Patrick McGlinchey, Marie McNair*, John Millar, Lawrence O'Neill, Martin Rooney and May Smillie*, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mrs Gemma Doyle, Mr George Hill, Miss Ellen McBride, Ms Josephine McDaid and Miss Sheila Rennie.

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Laura Mason, Head of Service, Educational Services; Mary Berrill, Quality Improvement Manager; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Ms Lynne Crossan, Manager, and Ms Anne Sinclair, Accounts Manager, Crosslet Nursery; Ms Andrea Forbes, Depute Head of Centre, Auchnacraig Early Education and Childcare Centre; Ms Ann McIntosh, Head of Centre, Clydebank Early Education and Childcare Centre; Ms Joanne Paton, Headteacher, Braehead Primary School; and Mr Charlie Rooney, Headteacher, Our Lady and St. Patrick's High School.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors George Black and Jim Brown.

Councillor Jonathan McColl in the Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

Note: Councillor Smillie entered the meeting at this point.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held on 11 January 2012 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services in answer to a Member's question concerning the item under the heading 'Minutes of the Previous Meeting' (Page XXX refers), the Committee noted: (i) that the insurance claim in respect of the old St. Eunan's Primary School building had not yet been finalised; and (ii) that the Executive Director would issue a briefing note to all Members of the Committee when the outcome was known.

Thereafter, in answer to a Member's question concerning the item under the heading 'Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire – Update' (Page XXX refers), the Head of Service, Educational Services, confirmed that Educational Services continued to work with each secondary school to develop the action plans to raise attainment and achievement.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers (LNCT) held on 20 December 2011 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved, subject to it being noted that when the LNCT had itself considered these minutes in terms of their accuracy at a meeting held on 13 March 2012, it had agreed, in respect of the item under the heading 'Minutes of Previous Meeting', concerning the consultation in respect of the McCormac Review of Teacher Employment in Scotland, that the LNCT should respond directly to this consultation and that its response would consist of submissions from the Teachers' Side and the Management Side. It was also noted that it was intended that the Teachers' Side's submission would address the possibility of industrial action resulting from the McCormac Review.

Thereafter, in answer to a Member's question in relation to the item under the heading 'Minutes of Previous Meeting', concerning the payment of Protecting Vulnerable Group Scheme fees, the Executive Director of Educational Services confirmed that teaching supply staff were included in the staff groups for whom the Council would pay these fees.

INTEGRATED INSPECTION BY THE CARE COMMISSION AND HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION: FOLLOW-THROUGH REPORT ON CROSSLET NURSERY

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the follow-through inspection of Crosslet Nursery carried out by West Dunbartonshire Council Quality Improvement Service, and of the report published in November 2011.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Service, Educational Services, and the Manager, Crosslet Nursery, in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to congratulate the Head of Centre, Team Leader, staff and children of Crosslet Nursery, for their achievements as recognised by West Dunbartonshire Council Quality Improvement Service in the report published in November 2011; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION: REPORT ON AUCHNACRAIG EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE CENTRE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the inspection of Auchnacraig Early Education and Childcare Centre by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 7 December 2011.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Head of Service, Educational Services, in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to congratulate the staff, parents and children of Auchnacraig Early Education and Childcare Centre, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 7 December 2011;
- (2) that the Executive Director of Educational Services should consult with Corporate Communications on the issuing of a press release to publicise the achievements of the Centre; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION: REPORT ON CLYDEBANK EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE CENTRE (EE&CC)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the inspection of Clydebank Early Education and Childcare Centre by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE in February 2012.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services, the Head of Service, Educational Services, and Ms Ann McIntosh, Head of Centre, Clydebank Early Education and Childcare Centre, in further explanation of the report and in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to congratulate the Head of Centre, staff, parents and children of Clydebank Early Education and Childcare Centre, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 22 February 2012; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Note: Ms Crossan, Ms Sinclair, Ms Forbes and Ms McIntosh left the meeting at this point.

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION: REPORT ON BRAEHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the inspection of Braehead Primary School by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 24 January 2012.

After discussion and having heard the Head of Service, Educational Services, and Ms Joanne Paton, Headteacher, Braehead Primary School, in further explanation of the report and in answer to a Member's questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to congratulate the Headteacher, staff, parents and children of Braehead Primary School, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in the report published on 24 January 2012; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION: REPORT ON OUR LADY & ST. PATRICK'S HIGH SCHOOL

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the inspection of Our Lady & St. Patrick's High School by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the subsequent report published by HMIE on 28 February 2012.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services, the Head of Service, Educational Services, and Mr Charlie Rooney, Headteacher, Our Lady and St. Patrick's High School, in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to congratulate the Headteacher, staff, parents and young people of Our Lady & St Patrick's High School, for their achievements as recognised by HMIE in this outstanding report published on 28 February 2012; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Note: Ms Paton left the meeting at this point.

Note: Councillor McNair entered the meeting during consideration of this item.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION SERVICE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 11 January 2012 (Page XXX refers), a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing further information relating to plans to support the Outdoor Education Service going forward.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services, the Head of Service, Educational Services, and the Manager of Legal Services in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) the plan to support the Outdoor Education Service going forward;
- (2) that a further progress report should be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee;
- (3) that the Executive Director of Educational Services should issue a briefing note to all Members of the Committee providing details of: (i) the budget, income and expenditure of the Outdoor Education Service; (ii) the number of pupils of West Dunbartonshire schools who have used the service; (iii) the cost per pupil; and (iv) the projected future usage of the service; and
- (4) that Members of the Committee should participate in the consultation on the development of the Outdoor Education Service.

STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2010/2011

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services informing of the publication of Educational Services' Standards and Quality Report for 2010/2011, a copy of which was provided as Appendix 1.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Head of Service, Educational Services, in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the proposals for the distribution of the Standards and Quality Report;
- (2) to note the position of the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) in respect of the implementation of Curriculum of Excellence, as reported by Ms McDaid; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

PARENT MEMBERSHIP OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE FROM MAY 2012

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services seeking approval of the arrangements for the means by which parent members will be selected for the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee to serve from May 2012.

Having heard Councillor J. McColl in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that there should be 2 parent members on the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee, or whatever Committee deals with educational matters after the Local Government Elections, from May 2012;
- (2) that 1 parent member of the Committee should be chosen from the Parental Involvement Strategy Group and the other should be chosen by election from the chairs of parent councils; and
- (3) that a nomination should be sought for 1 parent member from the Parental Involvement Strategy Group and an election should be organised for 1 parent member to be chosen from the chairs of the parent councils, with both parent members serving on the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee or its successor committee from May 2012 until the next Local Government Election, subject to annual confirmation of these nominations by the Parental Involvement Strategy Group and the chairs of the parent councils.

STRATEGY TO RAISE ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE – UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services 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 Executive Director of Educational Services and the Head of Service, Educational Services, in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made in the past two months with the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire;
- (2) to seek a further update for the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee at its June 2012 meeting; and

- (3) to note: (i) that, while some teachers volunteer to provide study support to pupils on an unpaid basis at lunchtimes, all teachers who participate are remunerated for the additional support which they provide at timetabled formal supported study sessions after school and at “Easter Schools” and in some schools on Saturday mornings; and (ii) that participation in these paid activities is also voluntary.

Note: Councillor O’Neill left the meeting during consideration of this item.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL’S (WDC) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD (GIRFEC) FRAMEWORK

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services presenting information on the progress of implementing the Scottish Government’s GIRFEC framework.

Having heard the Quality Improvement Manager in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to acknowledge the Council’s progress in implementing the GIRFEC framework; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND – 7TH DECEMBER 2011

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing information on the Scottish Government’s annual summary of statistics for schools.

After discussion and having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services in answer to Members’ questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of staff, pupils and parents which have contributed to the performance of West Dunbartonshire Council in a range of educational matters; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Note: Mrs Doyle left the meeting during consideration of this item.

2011-12 REVENUE ESTIMATES – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 10 (1 APRIL 2011 TO 31 JANUARY 2012)

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing the latest information on expenditure and income to date within the Educational Services approved probable for 2011-12.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

UPDATE OF CAPITAL BUILDING PROGRAMME 2011/2012

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing up-to-date information on the status of Education Building Projects within the Educational Services Department and drawing attention to significant issues or problems with the progress of any particular project.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor J. McColl, Chair, informed the Committee that this would be the last meeting of the Committee under the present Council and thanked all elected and lay members of the Committee, and in particular Councillor Smillie who had chaired the Committee until June 2010.

The meeting closed at 12:05 p.m.