

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in the Council Chamber, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 11 March 2020 at 2.05 p.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie and Councillors Jim Brown, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Jim Finn, Daniel Lennie, Caroline McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, John Mooney, Sally Page and Martin Rooney, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mr Gavin Corrigan 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; Julie McGrogan, Senior Education Officer – Raising Attainment/Improving Learning; Kathy Morrison, Lead Officer – Early Years; Craig Jardine, Corporate Asset Manager; Michelle Lynn, Assets Co-ordinator; Susan Mullin, Transport Coordinator; 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 John Millar, Miss Ellen McBride, Mrs Karen McKinlay, Miss Sheila Rennie 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.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor Conaghan, Chair, welcomed all those present and in particular Councillor McBride who had recently been appointed as a Member of 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.

CHAIR'S REMARKS – CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Following discussion, Councillor Conaghan, Chair, invited the Chief Education Officer to provide an update in relation to the measures being taken by Education, Learning & Attainment to address the Coronavirus outbreak.

The Chief Education Officer informed the Committee:-

- (1) that Education, Learning & Attainment, like the rest of the Council, was following Scottish Government and NHS advice;
- (2) that Education, Learning & Attainment was prepared for the different scenarios which may develop in terms of lesson planning and possible school closures, and was ready to respond to any changes in the national guidance;
- (3) that while trades unions had raised concerns about a lack of hand sanitisers, all educational establishments had sufficient supplies of soap and cleaning materials and that the national advice was that washing hands with soap and water was the most effective means of stopping the spread of the infection, it being noted that establishments had been provided with additional guidance to ensure regular hand-washing by children and pupils; and
- (4) that all establishments were compliant in terms of the numbers of toilets and sinks which they had.

Following discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the update which had been provided.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held on 4 December 2019 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 the 10 December 2019 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that no open forum question had been submitted by members of the public.

LEARNING ESTATE STRATEGY 2020-2030

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer and the Strategic Director – Regeneration, Environment and Growth setting out the Learning Estate Strategy 2020-2030.

After discussion and having heard the Assets Co-ordinator, the Chief Education Officer and other relevant officers in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress that had already been made in investing in West Dunbartonshire Schools, with investment of nearly £66.6m over the past 5 years;
- (2) to approve the Learning Estate Strategy 2020-2030 priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Strategy;
- (3) to note that the Capital Plan as reported to Council on 4 March 2020 included funding for the priority projects identified in Appendix 1 of the Strategy; and
- (4) to note that all projects outwith the recurring capital Building Upgrades budget would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration and approval.

PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON AMENDING THE SCHOOLS ADMISSION AND PLACING REQUEST POLICY

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer seeking approval to undertake a formal consultation on amending our Admission and Placing Request Policy for mainstream schools (primary and secondary).

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

- (1) to approve the proposal to undertake formal consultation on the proposed changes to our Admission and Placing Request Policy; and
- (2) to note that a report on the outcome of the consultation would be submitted to the September 2020 meeting of the Committee.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT TENDERING PROCEDURES SESSION 2020/21

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer:-

- (a) informing of the proposed timetable for the processing of tenders for mainstream home-to-school contracts; and
- (b) seeking approval to proceed with the proposed timetable in order to secure contracts for school transport for a five year duration from school session 2020/2021 to session 2024/2025.

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

- (1) to authorise the Chief Education Officer to make the necessary arrangements, in liaison with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), to renew mainstream contracts for session 2020/2021 to 2024/25; and
- (2) that on completion of the tendering process, any tenders received would be considered by the Tendering Committee.

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 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.

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.

After discussion and having heard the Lead Officer – Early Years and the Strategic Director in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

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

FUNDING FOLLOWS THE CHILD: ADMISSION TO EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE POLICY GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer detailing the guidance for admission to early learning and childcare to help parents and carers to make an informed choice about their child's entitlement.

Having heard the Lead Officer – Early Years in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed to approve the contents of Appendix 1 to the report, 'Funding Follows the Child: Admission to Early Learning and Childcare Guidance for Parents and Carers'.

EDUCATION, LEARNING AND ATTAINMENT STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2018/19

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer informing of the publication of Education, Learning and Attainment's Standards and Quality Report for 2018/19 which had been made available online at:
<https://sites.google.com/ourcloud.buzz/sqr18-19/home>.

Having heard the Senior Education Officer – Policy, Performance & Resources in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the proposals for the distribution of the Standards and Quality Report; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

EDUCATION, LEARNING AND ATTAINMENT (ELA) DELIVERY PLAN 2019/20 – MID-YEAR PROGRESS

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

Having heard the Senior Education Officer – Policy, Performance & Resources in further explanation of the report, 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 2020 (PERIOD 10)

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on the financial performance of Education, Learning & Attainment to 31 January 2020 (Period 10).

After discussion and having heard the Corporate Asset Manager, the Chief Education Officer and the Business Unit Finance Partner in answer to a Member's questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the revenue account currently showed a projected annual adverse revenue variance of £0.465m (less than 0.5%); and
- (2) to note that the capital account showed a projected annual adverse variance of £0.145m (2.8% of the budget), relating to an in-year overspend primarily at Kilpatrick School.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

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