

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held by video conference on Wednesday, 2 December 2020 at 2.00 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, Miss Ellen McBride, Ms Hannah Redford, Miss Sheila Rennie, Ms Julia Strang and Ms Kat Wilson.

*Attended later in the meeting.

Attending: Angela Wilson, Strategic Director – Transformation and Public Service Reform; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Andrew Brown, Senior Education Officer – Policy, Performance & Resources; Claire Cusick, Senior Education Officer – Pupil Support; Julie McGrogan, Senior Education Officer – Raising Attainment/Improving Learning; Kathy Morrison, Senior Education Officer – Education, Learning & Attainment; Michelle Lynn, Assets Co-ordinator; Joe Reilly, Business Unit Finance Partner (Education); Alan Douglas, Legal Manager; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor John Millar.

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 Ms Hannah Redford and Ms Kat Wilson who were attending their first meeting of the Committee, having been appointed as parent representative members.

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 23 September 2020 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 22 September 2020 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.

VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Having heard Councillor Conaghan, Chair, the Committee agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

Note: Councillor Page entered the meeting at this point.

2019/20 EDUCATION, LEARNING & ATTAINMENT (ELA) DELIVERY PLAN YEAR-END PROGRESS AND 2020/21 DELIVERY PLAN

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing the final position against the 2019/20 Delivery Plan and presenting the 2020/21 Delivery Plan.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer – Policy, Performance & Resources and relevant officers in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note both the year-end position for 2019/20 and the plan for 2020/21.

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's Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer – Raising Attainment/Improving Learning and the Chief Education Officer 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 Council.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer – Education, Learning & Attainment, the Assets Co-ordinator and the Chief Education Officer 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 and Childcare Remaining Expansion Projects 2020 to 2021’; and
- (2) to note the contents of Appendix 2 to the report, ‘The Early Learning & Childcare Financial Phasing Plan 2018-2022’.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 OCTOBER 2020 (PERIOD 7)

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources providing an update on the financial performance of Educational Services to 31 October 2020 (Period 7).

After discussion and having heard the Business Unit Finance Partner (Education) and the Chief Education Officer in answer to Members’ questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the revenue account currently showed a projected annual adverse revenue variance of £0.899m (less than 1%) of which £0.242m (27%) was Covid-related; and
- (2) to note that the capital account showed a projected in-year variance of £4.632m made up of £0.127m overspend (less than 1% of the current year budget), and slippage to 2021/22 of £4.759m (30.78% of the current year budget), it also being noted that the slippage of £4.759m included Covid-related delays to three projects of £3.533m (22.85% of the current year budget) and that the remaining £1.226m of slippage related to non-Covid-related delays as detailed in Appendix 6 to the report.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor Conaghan, Chair, invited Mr Corrigan to address the Committee and Mr Corrigan made reference to statistical information relating to Covid infection rates among teaching staff, in comparison to other Council staff, and to the self-isolating of pupils and teaching staff and the effects of this on the delivery of education.

Following discussion, and having heard the Chief Education Officer in response, the Committee agreed to note the position in relation to this matter, that discussions continued to take place between Management and the Trades Unions and that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of Council.

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.