

## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in Committee Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 1 March 2017 at 5.00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors Gail Casey, William Hendrie, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Michelle McGinty, John Millar\*, John Mooney, Ian Murray, Tommy Rainey, Martin Rooney, Kath Ryall and Hazel Sorrell, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mr Gavin Corrigan and Miss Sheila Rennie.

\*Arrived later in the meeting.

**Attending:** Angela Wilson, Strategic Director - Transformation & Public Service Reform; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Andrew Brown, Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement; Claire Cusick, Acting Senior Education Officer - Pupil Support; Julie McGrogan, Senior Education Officer - Raising Attainment/Improving Learning; Amanda Coulthard, Corporate & Community Planning Manager; Joe Reilly, Business Unit Finance Partner (Education); Geraldine Lyden, HR Business Partner; Susan Mullin, Transport Co-ordinator, Education, Learning & Attainment; Raymond Lynch, Section Head - Licensing; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Provost Douglas McAllister, Councillor George Black, Mr Iain Ellis, Miss Ellen McBride and Ms Julia Strang.

**Councillor Michelle McGinty 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.

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of Meetings of the Educational Services Committee held on 7 December 2016 (Ordinary) and 21 December 2016 (Special) were submitted and approved as correct records.

## **LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS**

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 13 December 2016 were submitted and, following discussion, all decisions contained therein were approved.

### **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.

Having heard the Senior Education Officer - Raising Attainment/Improving Learning in explanation of the report, 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 next meeting of the Educational Services Committee or whichever Committee deals with educational matters after the Local Government Elections, from May 2017.

### **EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE INDICATIVE EARLY YEARS STRATEGY 2016-2020 PROGRESS UPDATE**

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer:-

- (a) providing an update on progress of the implementation of the Indicative Early Years Strategy 2016-2020 'A Vision for Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) in West Dunbartonshire'; and
- (b) informing on national developments in relation to ELC.

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Director - Transformation & Public Service Reform, the Chief Education Officer and the Acting Senior Education Officer - Pupil Support in explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress being made towards the implementation of the indicative Strategy for Early Learning and Childcare in West Dunbartonshire; and
- (2) to note national developments for their impact on West Dunbartonshire Council.

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

## **INCLUSIVE SUPPORT PRACTICES TO PROMOTE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE SCHOOLS**

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 21 December 2016 a report was submitted by Chief Education Officer:-

- (a) informing of the inclusive support practices in West Dunbartonshire schools; and
- (b) informing of ways positive relationships are valued and promoted in West Dunbartonshire schools.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer and the Acting Senior Education Officer - Pupil Support in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note West Dunbartonshire Council's inclusive support practices; and
- (2) to note West Dunbartonshire Council's 'Promoting Positive Relationships and Reducing Bullying Behaviour in Educational Establishments' Policy which formed Appendix 1 to the report.

## **OUR VISION FOR SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE – REGENERATING LEARNING**

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer providing an update on West Dunbartonshire Council's Plan to regenerate learning.

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Director - Transformation & Public Service Reform and the Chief Education Officer in explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the report and recognize the progress towards our vision for schools of the future.

## **WORKING WELL TOGETHER – ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT: QUARTER 3**

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer advising on attendance levels across the Council for Quarter 3 (October to December 2016) and providing a breakdown of absence performance by Strategic Lead area.

Having heard the HR Business Partner in further explanation of the report, and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report and the attendance results for Quarter 3 2016/17, namely a decrease of 337 FTE days lost (3.3%) compared to the same period last year; and
- (2) to note Appendix 1 to the report which provided a breakdown of results for the Strategic Lead area(s) covered by this Committee.

## **EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 JANUARY 2017 (PERIOD 10)**

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer providing an update on the financial performance of Educational Services to 31 January 2017 (Period 10).

After discussion and having heard the Business Unit Finance Partner (Education) in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note a projected full year favourable revenue variance of £0.554m (less than 1% of budget); and
- (2) to note a projected full year favourable capital variance of £6.832m (26% of budget) of which £7.917m related to project re-phasing and £1.086m to an in-year overspend.

## **EDUCATION, LEARNING AND ATTAINMENT STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2015/16**

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer informing of the publication of Education, Learning and Attainment's Standards and Quality Report for 2015/16, a copy of which was provided as Appendix 1 to the report and also made available online at: <https://sites.google.com/ourcloud.buzz/sqr2015-16/home>. There was also submitted (tabled) an additional section to the Standards and Quality Report 2015/16, concerning 'Improvement Framework' and 'External Inspection', which had not been available at the time that the papers for the meeting had been issued.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement and 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 approve the proposals for the distribution of the Standards and Quality Report; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

## **SCHOOL TRANSPORT TENDERING PROCEDURES SESSION 2017/18**

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer:-

- (a) informing of the proposed timetable for the processing of tenders for mainstream home-to-school contracts and for the transportation of pupils with additional support needs; and
- (b) seeking approval to proceed with the proposed timetable in order to secure contracts for school transport for session 2017/2018, and up to session 2022/2023 where contracts are for 5 years duration.

Having heard the Chief Education Officer, the Committee noted the position in respect of the introduction of four temporary school transport contracts which related to travel to Our Lady & St Patrick's High School.

Thereafter, the Chief Education Officer and the Transport Co-ordinator, Education, Learning & Attainment, were heard in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions and the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Chief Education Officer be given approval to extend the Provision of Corporate Taxi Services framework agreement for one year for the transportation of children with additional support needs which represent best value for the Authority;
- (2) that the Chief Education Officer be authorised to make the necessary arrangements in liaison with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) to renew mainstream contracts which represent best value for the Authority;
- (3) that the Chief Education Officer be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for Gaelic school transport provision due to recent additional requirements in Gaelic Education legislation; and
- (4) that following completion of the tendering process, any tenders received should be considered by the Tendering Committee.

**PROPOSAL TO PLACE THE MANAGEMENT OF GAVINBURN EARLY  
LEARNING & CHILDCARE CENTRE UNDER THE HEADTEACHER OF  
GAVINBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer:-

- (a) presenting the proposal to place the management of Gavinburn Early Learning & Childcare Centre (ELCC) under the Headteacher of Gavinburn Primary School; and
- (b) seeking approval to initiate a formal consultation process within the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on this proposal.

Having heard the Chief Education Officer and the Section Head - Licensing in explanation of the report it was noted:-

- (i) that the proposal would result in the introduction of a Lead ELC officer role and not a Senior ELC officer as had been stated in the report; and
- (ii) that at the meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 22 February 2017 it had been agreed that the next meeting of the Educational Services Committee would be held on 14 June 2017 and it was therefore anticipated that a report detailing the outcome of a consultation would be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the Committee following that meeting, or if necessary to a special meeting.

Having then heard the Chief Education Officer and the Corporate & Community Planning Manager in answer to a Member's question, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the proposal to place the management of Gavinburn Early Learning & Childcare Centre (ELCC) under the Headteacher of Gavinburn Primary School; and
- (2) to grant approval to progress this proposal to consultation under the Schools' (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and to bring a consultation report on this proposal to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Section Head - Licensing then advised the Committee that, in view of its decision to launch the statutory consultation, and because Members would in due course require to make a decision based on the evidence presented during the consultation process, Members who wished to participate in the decision-making should exercise caution when making any public comment, and in particular should avoid any comment which may lead members of the public to consider that the issue has been pre-judged.

**PROPOSAL TO PLACE THE MANAGEMENT OF MEADOWVIEW EARLY  
LEARNING & CHILDCARE CENTRE UNDER THE HEADTEACHER OF  
BRAEHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

A report was submitted by Chief Education Officer:-

- (a) presenting the proposal to place the management of Meadowview Early Learning & Childcare Centre (ELCC) under the Headteacher of Braehead Primary School; and
- (b) seeking approval to initiate a formal consultation process within the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 on this proposal.

The Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the proposal to place the management of Meadowview Early Learning & Childcare Centre (ELCC) under the Headteacher of Braehead Primary School; and
- (2) to grant approval to progress this proposal to consultation under the Schools' (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, and to bring a consultation report on this proposal to a future meeting of the Committee.

It was also noted that the advice which the Section Head – Licensing had provided to the Committee in respect of the preceding item ('Proposal to Place the Management of Gavinburn Early Learning & Childcare Centre (ELCC) under the Headteacher of Gavinburn Primary school') was also applicable to this item.

The meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.