

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in Committee Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 14 June 2017 at 5.00 p.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie and Councillors Jim Brown, Karen Conaghan, Diane Docherty, Jim Finn, Caroline McAllister, Jonathan McColl, John Millar, John Mooney and Martin Rooney, and Mrs Barbara Barnes*, Mr Gavin Corrigan and Ms Julia Strang.

*Entered the meeting following consideration of the item under the heading 'Appointment of Third Religious Representative to the Educational Services Committee'.

Attending: Angela Wilson, Strategic Director - Transformation & Public Service Reform; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Matthew Boyle, Senior Education Officer - Workforce/CPD; Andrew Brown, Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement; Julie McGrogan, Senior Education Officer - Raising Attainment/Improving Learning; Geraldine Lyden, HR Business Partner; Michelle Lynn, Client Business Partner; Alan Douglas, Legal Manager; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Ian Dickson and Daniel Lennie, and Miss Ellen McBride.

Councillor Karen Conaghan 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.

APPOINTMENT OF THIRD RELIGIOUS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer requesting confirmation of the reappointment of the third religious representative to the Educational Services Committee.

Having heard the Committee Officer in explanation of the report, the Committee agreed to confirm the reappointment of Mrs Barbara Barnes as the third religious representative on the Educational Services Committee until the next local government elections.

It was noted that Mrs Barnes was in attendance in the public gallery. In view of her reappointment as a Member of the Committee having been confirmed, Councillor Conaghan, Chair, invited Mrs Barnes to be seated at the meeting table.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 7 March 2017 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

RESULTS OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE THE CHOICES PROGRAMME, WITHIN A WIDER SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICE, TO NEW PREMISES IN THE VACANT JAMESTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING, JAMESTOWN

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer informing of the outcome of the statutory consultation process on a proposal to relocate the Choices Programme, within a wider school support service, to new premises in the vacant Jamestown Primary School building, Jamestown.

Following discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the outcome of the consultation process; and
- (2) to approve the proposal to relocate the Choices Programme, within a wider school support service, to new premises in the vacant Jamestown Primary School building, Jamestown.

RESULTS OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO PLACE THE MANAGEMENT OF GAVINBURN EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE CENTRE UNDER THE MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP OF THE HEADTEACHER OF GAVINBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer informing of the outcome of the statutory consultation process on a proposal to place the management of the Gavinburn Early Learning and Childcare Centre (ELCC) under the management and leadership of the Headteacher of Gavinburn Primary School.

Following discussion and having heard the Chief Education Officer in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the outcome of the consultation process; and

- (2) to approve the proposal to place Gavinburn ELCC under the management and leadership of the Headteacher of Gavinburn Primary school.

ONLINE PAYMENTS SYSTEM FOR SCHOOLS

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer seeking approval to vire funds from the cash uplift budget across the schools estate and the payments to other bodies budget within Performance and Improvement in order to procure an online school payment system as an option for parents and carers to make online payments for their children's school meals, trips, and other costs.

After discussion and having heard officers in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the plan for implementation of the online payments system for schools;
- (2) to note that the first two years of costs will be funded from the earmarked funds held for cashless catering as this project supersedes that project;
- (3) to note that the costs of the project after the first two years will be embedded within the mainstream revenue budget with the aim of being cash neutral;
- (4) to approve the proposal to tender for the provision of an online payments system and that the award recommendation would be reported to a future meeting of the Tendering Committee; and
- (5) that, following the pilot, a report should be submitted to a future meeting of the Educational Services Committee setting out how the online payments system would be fully implemented.

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:-

- (1) to note the progress made in the past three months with the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement in West Dunbartonshire; and
- (2) that this matter should remain a standing item of business for future meetings of the Committee.

PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING, 2017-18

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer informing of the plans to spend the Pupil Equity Funding received by West Dunbartonshire schools, and proposing how progress with the delivery of Pupil Equity Funding projects should be reported to the Educational Services Committee.

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

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to approve the proposals for reporting on the progress of Pupil Equity Funding projects in West Dunbartonshire.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE IMPLEMENTATION 1,140 HOURS PROGRESS: A VISION FOR EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer advising of the progress with West Dunbartonshire Council's expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision and providing an update in relation to local and national developments.

Having heard the Chief Education Officer and the Client Business Partner in further explanation of the report and in answer to a Member's questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the content of the report in relation to the significant investment of capital and revenue funding to support the delivery of the expansion to 1,140 hours early learning and childcare provision; and
- (2) to note the progress made in realising the ambition and vision of the Indicative Early Years Strategy 2016-2020, 'A Vision for Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) in West Dunbartonshire'.

EDUCATION, LEARNING & ATTAINMENT DELIVERY PLAN 2017/18

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer presenting the 2017/18 Delivery Plan and the year-end progress report on the actions in the 2016/17 Delivery Plan.

Following discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to approve the 2017/18 Delivery Plan and to note the progress made on delivering the 2016/17 actions.

2017-2018 – TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on the recruitment and retention procedures used to ensure that the projected workforce requirement across education sectors will be met for 2017-2018.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Workforce/CPD in explanation of the report, the Committee agreed to note that the annual staffing and recruitment exercise for teachers commenced earlier this year to ensure teacher staffing requirements were met, and that the Council can maintain its commitment to teacher numbers and pupil/teacher ratios (PTR).

WORKING WELL TOGETHER – ATTENDANCE MANAGEMENT: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE 2016/17

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead - People and Technology advising on attendance levels across the Council for 2016/17 and providing a breakdown of absence performance by Strategic Lead area.

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

- (1) to note the content of the report and the attendance results for 2016/17, namely a decrease of 5111 FTE days lost (11.3%) compared to the same period last year; and
- (2) to note the appendices to the report which provided a breakdown of results for the Strategic Lead area(s) covered by the Committee.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.