

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in Committee Room 3, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday, 4 December 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors George Black, Gail Casey, 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, Mrs Lorraine Bonnar, Mrs Gemma Doyle, Mr George Hill, Miss Ellen McBride, Ms Josephine McDaid and Miss Sheila Rennie.

Attending: Terry Lanagan, Executive Director of Educational Services; Laura Mason, Head of Service, Educational Services; Jackie Allison, Business Unit Finance Partner, Educational Services; Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; and Scott Kelly, Committee Officer, Legal, Democratic and Regulatory Services.

Also Attending: Ms Janice McIntyre, Head of Centre, Auchnacraig Early Education and Childcare Centre; and Ms Catriona Robertson, Headteacher, Vale of Leven Academy.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Provost Douglas McAllister.

Councillor Michelle McGinty in the Chair

MINUTE OF SILENCE

Having heard Councillor McGinty, Chair, the Committee observed a minute of silence as a mark of respect for those who had been killed in the helicopter crash at The Clutha bar in Glasgow on 29 November 2013.

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 11 September 2013 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the undernoted correction:-

With regard to the item under the heading 'Proposal Paper and Launch of Statutory Consultation on the Location of the New Our Lady and St Patrick's High School' (Page XXX refers), record the vote as 1 Member for the amendment, 18 for the motion and 1 abstention.

Having heard the Executive Director of Educational Services and the Head of Service, Educational Services, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee noted:-

- (1) that it was anticipated that the papers for the special meeting of the Committee to be held on 8 January 2014 would be issued on 18 December 2013; and
- (2) that the briefing note relating to the implementation of the new Secondary School Timetable, referred to in the item under the heading 'Curriculum for Excellence Implementation Plan – 2013/14' (Page XXX refers), would be issued in the near future.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 10 September 2013 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

FORMER GAVINBURN LIBRARY, DUMBARTON ROAD, OLD KILPATRICK G60 5NE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee held on 14 September 2011 (Pages 3862-63 refer), a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services seeking approval:-

- (a) to reverse the previous decision of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee which declared the premises of the former Gavinburn Library to be surplus; and
- (b) to return the premises to the education account.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Black, seconded by Councillor McColl moved:-

That the Committee agrees to continue consideration of this matter to the next meeting of the Committee in order to allow further consultation to take place in relation to the possible use of the premises by local community groups.

As an amendment, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Casey, moved:-

That the Committee support the wishes of Gavinburn Primary School's Parent Council and agrees the recommendations contained in the report, namely:-

- (1) to approve the reversal of the previous decision of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee (Pages 3862-63 refer) and declare the property returned educational estate; and
- (2) that the existing library building should be demolished, road access and car parking improved and an all-weather sports pitch provided, with all works, estimated at £140,000, being funded through the existing Capital Programme Building Upgrades budget which had been approved by Council on 6 February 2013 (Page XXX refers).

On a vote being taken, 17 Members voted for the amendment, 1 for the motion, and 1 Member abstained. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

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.

Having heard the Executive Director and the Head of Service, Educational Services, 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;
- (2) to note that West Dunbartonshire Council had received approximately £70,000 through Education Scotland's 'School Improvement Partnership Programme' to work with Renfrewshire Council to improve attainment;
- (3) to note: (i) that difficulties had been reported locally and nationally in relation to the recruitment of primary school headteachers; and (ii) that the Executive Director would keep Members of the Committee apprised of any developments in this regard; and

- (4) to note that a further update in relation to the Strategy to Raise Attainment and Achievement would be submitted to the Committee at its March 2014 meeting.

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA) EXAMINATION RESULTS 2013

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on the performance of West Dunbartonshire schools in the national Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations of 2013.

Having heard the Executive Director and the Headteacher, Vale of Leven Academy, in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of this report;
- (2) to congratulate the pupils, parents and carers, staff and centrally deployed staff for achievements in this year's examinations;
- (3) to note the strategies being employed by individual schools and by the authority to raise attainment levels in S4-S6;
- (4) to note that a report will be submitted to the meeting of the Committee in November 2014 concerning performance in the 2014 diet of SQA examinations;
- (5) to note that performance data would be presented in a different format from August 2014, and that this would be linked to the new Senior Phase Benchmarking Tool currently being developed by the Scottish Government;
- (6) that the Executive Director would issue a briefing note to all Members of the Committee providing an update on the SQA examination results following the receipt of appeal statistics in January 2014; and
- (7) to note that the Executive Director would meet in the near future with the Teachers' Convener, EIS, to discuss the implementation of the new Higher courses in 2014/15.

VALIDATED SELF-EVALUATION – UPDATE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held on 15 May 2013 (Page **XXX** refers), a report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing an update on the work of the themed groups contributing to the Validated Self-Evaluation (VSE) of Educational Services.

Having heard the Executive Director and the Head of Service, Educational Services, 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 receive a further update as to progress at the March 2014 meeting of the Committee at which a presentation would be given.

2012-17 EDUCATION SERVICE PLAN Q2 PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services providing information on the second quarter 2013/14 Performance Report on the 2012/17 Education Service Plan prepared by the Department of Educational Services which highlighted performance across all of the services delivered by the Department for the period April 2013 to October 2013. A copy of the Service Plan Progress Report was provided as Appendix 1 to the report.

Having heard the Executive Director and the Head of Service, Educational Services, in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Section Head, Libraries & Cultural Services, should provide Councillor McColl, outwith the meeting, with details of: (i) how the statistics for performance indicator CC6b might change once the new computer booking system for Balloch Library was introduced; and (ii) the support which the Council's ICT section would provide to the library;
- (2) to note that Educational Services would give consideration to the appropriateness of setting performance indicators where their achievement is dependent upon the voluntary contributions of staff;
- (3) that the appendix to future reports in relation to this matter should state when performance indicator targets will be measured if they are not measured quarterly; and
- (4) otherwise to note the contents of the report and its appendix.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY POSITION 2013/14 AS AT PERIOD 7, YEAR TO 31 OCTOBER 2013

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Educational Services advising on the progress of both the Educational Services revenue budget and the approved capital programme.

Following discussion and having heard the Executive Director in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

Note: Mrs Bonnar and Ms McDaid left the meeting during consideration of this item.

The meeting closed at 12.05 p.m.