

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in Council Chamber, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 5 September 2018 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, Jonathan McColl, Sally Page and Martin Rooney, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mr Gavin Corrigan*, Miss Ellen McBride, Miss Sheila Rennie and Ms Julia Strang.

*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, Senior Education Officer - Pupil Support; Julie McGrogan, Senior Education Officer - Raising Attainment/Improving Learning; Kathy Morrison, Education Officer; 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 Councillors John Millar and John Mooney.

Councillor Karen Conaghan in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor Conaghan, Chair, welcomed all those present and in particular Councillor Page who was attending her first meeting 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.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held on 6 June 2018 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 5 June 2018 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.

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 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.

Note: Mr Corrigan entered the meeting during consideration of this item.

SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SQA) EXAMINATION RESULTS 2018

The Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement provided a verbal update in relation to the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Examination Results 2018. In so doing, he informed the Committee:-

- (a) that good progress continued to be made in closing the poverty-related attainment gap;
- (b) that 2,109 candidates had been presented for 9,603 qualifications from National 2 to Advanced Higher levels and that 83% of these presentations had resulted in a passing grade;
- (c) that compared to last year's results, performance at Higher level had improved, a slight decrease had been seen at National 4 and National 5, and there had been a decrease of three percentage points at Advanced Higher;
- (d) that West Dunbartonshire was above the national average for all levels with the exception of Advanced Higher, and that two schools, Our Lady and St Patrick's and Vale of Leven Academy, outperformed the national average at all levels; and

- (e) to note that Skills Development Scotland's 'Annual Participation Measure' report for 2018 showed that 90.1% of 16-19 years olds in West Dunbartonshire were participating in education, training or employment, this being a 1.8 % rise compared to 2017 and the largest percentage rise of any local authority area in the country.

In support of the update, there was submitted (tabled) a sheet which summarised the performance of local schools at each level since 2014, and in comparison with the national average in 2018.

Following discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee providing a detailed analysis of the performance of each establishment in terms of the four key national measures, namely: (i) performance in literacy and numeracy; (ii) average total tariff; (iii) performance versus deprivation; and (iv) positive destinations;
- (2) to note that the report would also show performance across curricular areas and how qualifications gained by school leavers prepares them for future destinations beyond school; and
- (3) to express its thanks to the all of the teaching and non-teaching staff, and to congratulate the young people, for the achievements in this year's examinations.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY – BENCHMARKING

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer advising on the performance of literacy and numeracy in West Dunbartonshire at Early Years, P1, P4, P7 and S3.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Raising Attainment/Improving Learning and the Education Officer in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the improvements planned would be implemented as part of the Authority's strategy to raise attainment, improve learning and narrow the poverty-related attainment gap; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

EARLY YEARS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing details of an update of the plan for the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in West Dunbartonshire Council.

After discussion and having heard the Education Officer 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 the current updated version of the Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Plan 2018 – 2020 which formed Appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) to note that a further update would be provided to the next meeting of the Committee in December 2018.

PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING IN WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE SCHOOLS

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer:-

- (a) informing of practices to narrow the poverty-related attainment gap resourced from the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF); and
- (b) informing of the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in ensuring adherence to policy and guidance.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Pupil Support, the Chief Education Officer and the Business Unit Finance Partner (Education) in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note West Dunbartonshire Council's practices in relation to PEF; and
- (2) to note West Dunbartonshire Council's governance of PEF.

EDUCATION, LEARNING & ATTAINMENT DELIVERY PLAN 2017/18 – YEAR-END PROGRESS

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing information on the year-end progress of the 2017/18 Delivery Plan.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement in further explanation of the report and in answer to a Member's questions, the Committee agreed to note the progress on delivering the 2017/18 Plan.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 JULY 2018 (PERIOD 4)

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on the financial performance of Educational Services to 31 July 2018 (Period 4).

After discussion and having heard the Business Unit Finance Partner (Education) and relevant officers in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that the revenue account currently showed a projected annual favourable revenue variance of £0.013m (less than 0.1%); and
- (2) to note that the capital account showed a projected annual favourable variance of £0.846m (13.4% of the budget), made up of £1.184m relating to project re-phasing, partially offset by £0.338m relating to an in-year overspend.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor Conaghan, Chair, advised the Committee that she had recently attended a meeting of the Glasgow City Region Education Improvement Collaborative at which West Dunbartonshire had been singled out for praise and passed on her thanks to staff in Education, Learning and Attainment.

The meeting closed at 3.35 p.m.