

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services

COUNCIL MEETING: 24 June 2009

Subject: HMIE Report on the Educational Functions of West Dunbartonshire Council

1. Purpose

1.1 To inform Council of the inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) of educational functions of West Dunbartonshire Council.

2. Background

2.1 HMIE first reported on its Inspection of Education Authorities (INEA) in June 2003. A follow-up to this inspection was published in September 2005 which found there had been very good progress made with three of the main points for action and good progress with the remaining two.

2.2 A further inspection as part of the second round of inspections (INEA 2) was announced at the end of October 2008. HMIE surveyed parents, heads of establishment and centrally deployed staff in November 2008 and visited the council for three days in January 2009 to examine evidence provided by the department and plan for the main inspection visit. HMIE spent one week in the council in February 2009 to interview a range of people including Elected Members, the Chief Executive, senior officers in other departments, parents, partner organisations and centrally deployed staff. HMIE spent one day visiting Dumbarton Academy and St Andrew's High School to meet with staff, parents and young people from the schools in those neighbourhoods.

3. Main Issues

3.1 The report will be published on 23 June 2009 and is embargoed until that date.

3.2 INEA 2 will use a six point scale to evaluate performance as follows:

- Unsatisfactory (1)
- Weak (2)
- Satisfactory (3)
- Good (4)
- Very good (5)
- Excellent (6)

3.3 Although the details of the report are embargoed until 23 June, Council should be aware that senior officers have seen the final draft of the report which was sent for printing and we are in a position to say that the inspection report will be positive and that officers believe it to be a fair reflection of the work of the Department of Educational Services.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no known Personnel issues associated with this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The departmental budget will finance the required action plan.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 Risk analysis will be determined on receipt of the published report.

7. Conclusions and Officers' Recommendations

7.1 Members are asked to note that the INEA Report, together with a briefing note summarising its findings, will be made available to them during week beginning 22 June 2009.

7.2 Members are asked to familiarise themselves with the content of the inspection report in advance of the meeting of Council on 24 June in order that they can raise any issues arising from the report and put questions to officers on any matters requiring clarification.

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Terry Lanagan
Executive Director of Educational Services

Person to Contact: Sandra Love, Head of Service, (Quality), Educational Services Department, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU (01389-737304)
sandra.love@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: None (copy of Inspection Report and briefing note to follow)

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All wards