

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held in the Council Chamber, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 6 March 2019 at 2.05 p.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie and Councillors Jim Brown, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Caroline McAllister, Jonathan McColl, John Millar, 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; Susan Mullin, Transport Coordinator; 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 Diane Docherty, Jim Finn, Daniel Lennie and John Mooney.

Councillor Karen Conaghan in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

Councillor Conaghan, Chair, advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

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 5 December 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

EARLY YEARS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

(a) Deputation

Having heard Councillor Conaghan, Chair, the Committee noted that a request had been received from West Dunbartonshire Independent Nurseries to address the Committee in relation to the implementation of the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) to 1,140 hours.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 18 (a), the Committee agreed to hear the deputation. Councillor Conaghan then invited Mr Kevin Johnson and Mr Jim Wright, West Dunbartonshire Independent Nurseries, to come forward and address the Committee.

Mr Johnson and Mr Wright were heard in relation to the challenges faced by 11 Independent Nurseries in implementing the increase in the entitlement to 1,140 hours of ELC for all three and four year olds and eligible two year olds, particularly in terms of funding.

The Chief Education Officer and Mr Johnson were then heard in answer to Members' questions.

Following discussion, Councillor Congahan thanked Mr Johnson and Mr Wright for their contribution and both then returned to the public gallery.

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

(b) Report by the Chief Education Officer

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on 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) that the Convener and Vice-Convener be involved in a discussion forum with representatives from the Independent Nurseries in order to consider the concerns raised by them earlier in the meeting; and
- (2) that a further update be provided to the Committee at its next meeting in June 2019.

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.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT TENDERING PROCEDURES SESSION 2019/20

A report was submitted by the 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 2019/2020, and up to session 2023/2024 where contracts are for five years in duration.

After discussion and having heard the Transport Coordinator in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to authorise the Chief Education Officer to make the necessary arrangements in liaison with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) to renew mainstream contracts for session 2019/2020, and beyond for contracts of up to five years in duration;
- (2) that following completion of the tendering process, any tenders received would be considered by the Tendering Committee; and
- (3) to note that some transport of children with Additional Support Needs for session 2019/2020 and the transporting of young people to undertake courses with partner providers as part of their Senior Phase would be accommodated within the framework agreement for the Provision of Corporate Taxi Services and associated call-off contracts.

ONLINE PAYMENTS SYSTEM FOR SCHOOLS

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on the progress of the pilot and the roll-out of the 'ParentPay' online payments system to schools in the first phase of the project.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress of the pilot;
- (2) to note the implementation of phase one of the main roll-out in the Dumbarton and Vale of Leven areas; and
- (3) to note the future dates for roll-out of the online payments system to schools in the Clydebank area.

NURTURED DELIVERY AND IMPROVEMENT GROUP ACTION PLAN 2019-2022

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer informing of the revised and updated Nurtured Delivery and Improvement Group (DIG) Action Plan.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Pupil Support in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note Community Planning West Dunbartonshire's Nurtured DIG Action Plan for 2019-2022.

EDUCATION, LEARNING AND ATTAINMENT STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2017/18

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer informing of the publication of Education, Learning and Attainment's Standards and Quality Report for 2017/18 which had been made available online at:
<https://sites.google.com/ourcloud.buzz/sqr17-18/home>.

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 a Member's question, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

EDUCATION, LEARNING AND ATTAINMENT (ELA) DELIVERY PLAN 2018/19 – MID-YEAR PROGRESS

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer setting out the mid-year progress of the Education, Learning and Attainment Delivery Plan.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer - Performance and Improvement in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and the progress achieved at mid-year.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 JANUARY 2019 (PERIOD 10)

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer providing an update on the financial performance of Educational Services to 31 January 2019 (Period 10).

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 adverse revenue variance of £0.719m (less than 1%); and
- (2) to note that the capital account showed a projected annual favourable variance of £2.131m (33.8% of the budget), made up of £2.560m relating to project slippage, partially offset by £0.429m relating to an in-year overspend.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Having heard Councillor Conaghan, Chair, the Committee noted that two new Parent Representatives would be appointed as Members of the Committee and invited to attend its next meeting.

The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.