

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Educational Services Committee held by video conference on Wednesday, 10 March 2021 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jim Brown, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Jim Finn, Daniel Lennie, Caroline McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, John Mooney, Sally Page and Martin Rooney, and Mrs Barbara Barnes, Mr Gavin Corrigan, Miss Ellen McBride, Miss Sheila Rennie and Ms Julia Strang.

Attending: Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Angela Wilson, Chief Officer – Supply, Distribution & Property; Andrew Brown, Senior Education Officer – Policy, Performance & Resources; Claire Cusick, Senior Education Officer – Pupil Support; Julie McGrogan, Senior Education Officer – Raising Attainment/Improving Learning; Kathy Morrison, Senior Education Officer – Education, Learning & Attainment; Michelle Lynn, Assets Co-ordinator; Joe Reilly, Business Unit Finance Partner (Education); Susan Mullin, Transport Co-ordinator – Education, Learning & Attainment; Alan Douglas, Legal Manager; and Lynn Straker, Committee Officer.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Provost William Hendrie.

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 2 December 2020 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS

The the Minutes of Meetings of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers held on 5 December 2020 (Ordinary) and 25 January 2021 (Special) were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

OPEN FORUM

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

SCHOOL TRANSPORT TENDERING PROCEDURES SESSION 2021/22

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer:-

- (a) detailing 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 a four year duration for the ASN Framework Agreement and five year duration for mainstream contracts with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport from school session 2021/2022 to session 2025/2026.

After discussion and having heard the Transport Co-ordinator – Education, Learning & Attainment in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Chief Education Officer be given approval to proceed, in consultation with the Corporate Procurement Unit, with the necessary arrangements to secure tenders for the transport of children with additional support needs for session 2021/2022 and beyond for contracts of up to 3 years duration with the option to extend for a further 12 months;
- (2) that the Chief Education Officer be authorised to make the necessary arrangements in liaison with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) to renew any mainstream contracts for session 2021/2022 to 2025/26; and
- (3) that following completion of the tendering process, the proposed preferred tenderers would be submitted to the Tendering Committee for approval to award the Contract, Framework Agreement or Dynamic Purchasing System.

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 Chief Education Officer, the Senior Education Officer – Raising Attainment/Improving Learning and the Senior Education Officer – Policy, Performance & Resources, in further explanation 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.

EARLY YEARS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

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

Following a short video presentation showing progress within Carleith ELCC, and having heard the Chief Education Officer and the Senior Education Officer – Education, Learning & Attainment in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress that had been made in delivering the statutory entitlement of 1140 hours early learning and childcare; and
- (2) to note the contents of Appendix 1 to the report, 'The Early Learning and Childcare Financial Phasing Plan 2018 – 2022'.

EDUCATION, LEARNING AND ATTAINMENT STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2019/20

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer informing of the publication of Education, Learning and Attainment's Standards and Quality Report for 2019/20.

After discussion and having heard the Senior Education Officer – Policy, Performance & Resources in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 31 JANUARY 2021 (PERIOD 10)

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Resources providing an update on the financial performance of Educational Services to 31 January 2021 (Period 10).

After discussion and having heard the Business Unit Finance Partner (Education) and the Legal Manager in further explanation 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 £0.629m (less than 1%) of which £0.533m (85%) was Covid-related; and
- (2) to note that the capital account showed a projected in-year variance of £4.907m made up of £0.129m overspend (less than 1% of the current year budget), and slippage to 2021/22 of £5.037m (32.6% of the current year budget), and also that the slippage of £5.037m included Covid-related delays to three projects of £3.841m (24.8% of the current year budget) and that the remaining £1.196m of slippage was related to non-Covid-related delays as detailed in Appendix 6 to the report.

The meeting closed at 3:12 p.m.