

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**

At a Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 14 February 2007 at 10.00 a.m.

**Present:** Provost Alistair Macdonald\*, Councillors Denis Agnew, George Black, Dennis Brogan, Gail Casey, Jim Flynn, Jackie Maceira, Martin Rooney, Andy White and Ms Olean Allison, Ms Jan Cleife, Ms Ellen McBride and Miss Sheila Rennie.

\*Arrived later in the meeting

**Attending:** Liz McGinlay, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Irving Hodgson, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services); Terry Lanagan, Head of Service for the Schools' Estate; Sandra Love, Head of Service, Lynn Townsend, Head of Service; Alan Douglas, Manager of Best Value and Special Projects and Lorraine Beveridge, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

**Also Attending:** Lesley Robinson, Head Teacher, Aitkenbar Primary School and Charlie Rooney, Our Lady & St. Patrick's High School.

**Apologies:** Apologies were intimated on behalf Councillors Geoff Calvert, James McCallum, Connie O'Sullivan and Mrs Barbara Barnes.

### **Councillor Jackie Maceira in the Chair**

#### **CHANGE OF CONVENER**

11505 Before commencing with the business of the Meeting, Councillor Maceira informed the Committee that the Council, at its meeting held on 8 February 2007, had appointed him as Convener of the Children's Services Committee and Spokesperson for Education and Cultural Services.

11506 The Committee noted the position.

11507 Thereafter, Councillor Maceira, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Councillor Agnew for his sterling work during his time as Convener of the Committee.

**PRESENTATION BY THE HEAD TEACHER OF THE VALE OF LEVEN  
ACADEMY ON MEASURES TAKEN TO PROMOTE AND RAISE  
ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR PUPILS**

- 11508 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 16 November 2005 (Page 2048, paragraph 7549 (3) refers), Councillor Maceira invited Mr Gus Macdonald, Head Teacher of the Vale of Leven Academy (present for this item only) to give a presentation on taking forward attainment and achievement for all pupils of the Vale of Leven Academy.
- 11509 In so doing, Mr Macdonald informed the Committee of the work that had taken place in the school year on year in order to ensure that pupils attained the necessary qualifications required for their next steps in either the workplace or further/higher education.
- 11510 In this respect, a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the work of the Vale of Leven Academy in taking forward attainment and achievement for all pupils.
- 11511 After discussion and having heard Mr Macdonald in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the wide range of pupils' achievements which extended beyond academic achievement; and
  - (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.
- 11512 The Convener, on behalf of the Committee congratulated Mr Macdonald on the excellent work being carried out in the school and for his very informative presentation.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 11513 The Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 14 February 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

**THE LOCAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR TEACHERS**

- 11514 The Minutes of Meeting of the Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers (LNCT) held on 12 December 2006 were submitted and approved as a correct record.
- 11515 Ms Cleife informed the Committee that the next meeting of the LNCT would be held on Tuesday, 13 March 2007.

**THE RENTON COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE,  
30 MAIN STREET, RENTON**

- 11516 A joint report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services and the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) seeking approval to declare the Renton Community Education Centre (C.E.C.) surplus to the operational requirements of Education and Cultural Services and making recommendations thereon.
- 11517 Having heard the Convener it was noted that Councillor Bollan wished to address the Committee in relation to the future of Renton Community Education Centre. The Committee agreed to hear Councillor Bollan.
- 11518 Councillor Bollan thanked the Committee for this opportunity and was heard in support of a proposal that the authority transfer the property at nil cost to the Renton Community following obtaining the necessary approval of the Scottish Executive.
- 11519 The Convener thanked Councillor Bollan for his presentation and informed the Committee that a letter had been received from Jackie Baillie MSP in support of a continuation to allow consideration of the options in the report and the further option of the transfer at nil value.
- 11520 After discussion and having heard the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services (Land & Environmental Services) in answer to Members' questions, Councillor Black, seconded by Councillor Brogan, moved:-
- 11521 That the Committee should not approve the recommendations but approve Option 2, that is to instruct that negotiations be opened with the Carman Social Inclusion Centre to establish whether this company would be in the position to purchase the property at market value.
- 11522 Following extensive discussion and having heard the Manager of Best Value and Special Projects in response to Members' questions, as an amendment Councillor Maceira, seconded by Councillor Rooney, moved:-
- 11523 That the following recommendations contained within the aforementioned report be approved:-
- (1) To declare the Community Education Centre at 30 Main Street, Renton, surplus to the operational requirements of Education and Cultural Services.
  - (2) If not required by any other department, the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services (Housing & Regeneration Services) be authorised to advertise the Community Education Centre on the open market for disposal for private residential development.

- (3) The Head of Legal and Administrative Services be authorised to conclude this transaction subject to such legal conditions as would be considered appropriate.

- 11524 As a further amendment, Councillor Agnew, seconded by Ms Cleife, moved that:-
- 11525 The Committee agrees to declare the Community Education Centre at 30 Main Street, Renton surplus to the operational requirements of Education and Cultural Services.
- 11526 If not required by any other department, the Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration Services) be authorised to advertise the Community Education Centre on the open market for disposal for private residential development and that negotiations be opened with the Carman Social Inclusion Centre to establish whether this company would be in a position to purchase the property at market value.
- 11527 The Head of Legal and Administrative Services be authorised to conclude this transaction subject to such legal conditions as would be considered appropriate.
- 11528 After hearing the Manager of Best Value and Special Projects, the Committee agreed to proceed by way of a Roll Call Vote.
- 11529 On a vote being taken between the first and second amendments, 5 Members voted for the second amendment (namely Councillor Agnew, Miss Rennie, Miss McBride, Ms Cleife and Ms Allison) and 6 voted for the first amendment (namely Provost Macdonald and Councillors Rooney, Flynn, White, Maceira and Casey). It was noted that Councillor Black and Councillor Brogan abstained.
- 11530 On a further vote being taken between the first amendment and the motion, 5 Members voted for the motion (namely Councillors Black and Brogan and Miss Rennie, Miss McBride and Ms Allison) and 8 voted for the first amendment (namely Provost Macdonald, Councillors Rooney, Agnew, Flynn, White, Maceira, Casey and Ms Cleife). Accordingly, the first amendment was declared carried.

## ADJOURNMENT

- 11531 The meeting was adjourned at 11.10 a.m. and reconvened at 11.20 a.m. with the same Members present as listed on the sederunt with the exception of Provost Macdonald and Councillor Flynn.

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK RELATING TO THE CLOSURE OF  
BRAIDFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AND THE TRANSFER OF PUPILS, STAFF  
AND RESOURCES TO CLYDEBANK HIGH SCHOOL**

- 11532 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 13 December 2006 (Page 2888, paragraph 10899 (4) refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing a further progress report on work relating to the closure of Braidfield High School in June 2006 and the transfer of pupils, staff and resources to Clydebank High School in August 2006.
- 11533 After discussion and having hear the Director of Education and Cultural Services and the Head of Service for the Schools' Estate in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to note the contents of this report, the fourth progress report on Clydebank High School since the closure of Braidfield High School;
  - (2) to note that, with the support of the Council, Clydebank High School has continued to make good progress during the current session; and
  - (3) that a final progress report providing a summary of the progress made and issues addressed in the course of the school session 2006/07, would be submitted to a meeting of the Committee to be held in August 2007.

**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

- 11534 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Children's Services Committee held on 13 December 2006 (Page 2889, paragraph 10901 (1) refers), a report was submitted by the Director of Social Work Services containing details of progress on Social Work Performance within Children's Services.
- 11535 Having heard Councillor Casey and the Section Head, Strategy in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to request the Director of Social Work Services to raise the issues concerning the e-mailing of reports with the Authority Reporter;
  - (2) that the Director of Social Work Services should continue to report on performance through the Quarterly Performance Reporting cycles of the Committee; and
  - (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

### **THE NAME OF THE NEW DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOL IN CLYDEBANK**

- 11536 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services advising of the successful outcome on the recent consultation undertaken by the representatives of the Archdiocese of Glasgow regarding the name of the new denominational school in Clydebank and seeking endorsement of the Committee.
- 11537 After discussion and having heard Ms McBride in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-
- (1) to approve the naming of the new denominational school in Clydebank as St. Peter the Apostle High School;
  - (2) to recognise the amount of work and research undertaken by the representatives of the Archdiocese of Glasgow, members of St. Andrew's High School and St. Columba's High School Boards and all others involved in the consultation exercise, regarding the name of the new denominational school; and
  - (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

### **PROPOSALS ON SPEND OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS ALLOCATED BY THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**

- 11538 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services advising of the current status on the spending plans for the allocation of additional funds by the Scottish Executive.
- 11539 The Committee agreed:-
- (1) to approve the procurement of the appropriate goods, services and works, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, once the final scope had been determined; and
  - (2) that a further report advising of the final spend be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

### **HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF EDUCATION: REPORT ON ST. ANDREW'S HIGH SCHOOL**

- 11540 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing information on the inspection of St. Andrew's High School by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe) and the subsequent report published by HMIe on 23 January 2007.

11541 After discussion and having heard the Director of Education and Cultural Services and the Head Teacher of St. Andrew's High School in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to congratulate the staff, parents and children of St. Andrew's High School for their achievements as recognised by HMle in the report published on 23 January 2007; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

### **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

11542 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services on the third Quarterly Performance Report for the financial year 2006/07, prepared by the Department of Education and Cultural Services, and highlighting its performance across all the services delivered by the Department.

11543 After discussion and having heard the Director of Education and Cultural Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a presentation be made at a future meeting of the Committee in relation to the number of days lost through exclusions in the secondary sector and on the issue of discipline in Secondary Schools; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

### **UPDATE OF CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUILDING PROGRAMME 2006/2007**

11544 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing up-to-date information on the status of Education and Revenue Building Projects within the Education and Cultural Services Department and drawing the Committee's attention to significant issues or problems with the progress of any particular project.

11545 After discussion and having heard the Head of Service for the Schools' Estate in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the method of reporting on what had actually been spent to date on any particular project should be looked at corporately; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

**2006-07 REVENUE ESTIMATES – BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR  
THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 15 DECEMBER 2006**

- 11546 A report was submitted by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing up-to-date information on expenditure and income to date within the Education and Cultural Services approved budget for 2006-2007.
- 11547 Having heard Ms Townsend, Head of Service in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

The meeting closed at 12.10 p.m.