

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 31 OCTOBER 2017**

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**Education and Communities Committee**

**Tuesday 31 October 2017 at 2pm**

**Present:** Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, Curley, J McEleny (for MacLeod), McCabe, C McEleny, McVey, Murphy, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson, Rev F Donaldson, Rev D Burt and Ms F Gilpin, Church Representatives, Ms A McMillan, Parent Representative and Ms P McEwan, Teacher Representative.

**Chair:** Councillor Clocherty presided.

**In attendance:** Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Acting Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities, Community Safety and Wellbeing Manager, Ms G Murphy (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services), Mr I Cameron (for Chief Financial Officer), Mr C Given (Finance Services), Community Learning & Development Manager, Libraries, Museum & Archives Manager, Head of Education, Ms L Wilkie (Education Services) and Property Services Manager.

**The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.**

**583 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

**583**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor MacLeod with Councillor J McEleny substituting.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 4 (Inverclyde Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2018/19 – 2022/23) – Councillors McCabe, C McEleny, McVey and Wilson.

Agenda Item 6 (Charging Structure for Team Sports) – Councillors Clocherty and J McEleny.

Agenda Item 15 (Increase in Early Learning and Child Care to 1140 Hours) – Councillor Robertson.

**584 Communities 2017/18 Revenue Budget Report – Period 5 to 31 August 2017**

**584**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2017/18 Communities Revenue Budget position as at Period 5 to 31 August 2017.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee note the current projected underspend of £20,000 for the 2017/18 Communities Revenue Budget as at Period 5 to 31 August 2017;

(2) that the Committee approve the virement totalling £1,000 as detailed in paragraph 7.1 and Appendix 5 of the report; and

(3) that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on the current position in relation to the Lady Alice Bowling Club.

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**585 Communities Capital Programme 2017-2020 Progress 585**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) on the status of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the position in respect of the various grass playing pitches within Inverclyde and the estimated cost of bringing all of the pitches up to the standard of Birkmyre Park and the other refurbished pitches.

**586 Inverclyde Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2018/19 – 2022/23 586**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for the submission to the Scottish Government of the new yearly Inverclyde Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) covering the period from 2018/19 – 2022/23.

Councillors McCabe, C McEleny and McVey declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of River Clyde Homes and Councillor Wilson declared a non-financial interest as a Director of Link and Larkfield Housing Associations. All of the Members formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the Chamber or their participation in the decision making process.

**Decided:**

- (1) that approval be given to the Strategic Housing Investment Plan for the five year period from 2018/19 – 2022/23 for submission to the Scottish Government by 1 November 2017; and
- (2) that the projects included in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2018/19 – 2022/23, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be noted.

**587 Empty Homes Officer Shared Service 587**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the new Empty Homes Officer Shared Service pilot project with River Clyde Homes.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the new two year Empty Homes Officer Shared Service pilot project with River Clyde Homes to tackle long term empty homes in Inverclyde; and
- (2) that a progress report be submitted to the Committee in May 2018.

**588 Charging Structure for Team Sports 588**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) on the position with regard to charging for pitches and halls for team sports and (2) providing benchmarking information in this regard.

Councillors Clocherty and J McEleny declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the Chamber or their participation in the decision making process.

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**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the current position in respect of charges for team sports; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to the Committee on the support provided to sporting organisations within Inverclyde on a sport by sport basis, and that to provide context, the report include information, where available, on the participation rates in respect of the various sports.

**589      Loan of a Painting from the McLean Museum and Art Gallery      589**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising of a request for the loan of a painting from the McLean Museum and Art Gallery (the James Watt Trust).

**Decided:** that the Committee approve the request for the loan of the painting “An Old Woman Reading” by Harry Clifford Pilsbury to Art UK for exhibition at the London Art Fair from 17 until 21 January 2018, subject to matters of transport, security and insurance being arranged to the satisfaction of the Libraries, Museum & Archives Manager.

**590      Draft Local Police Plan 2017-2020 - Inverclyde      590**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval of the consultation response to the draft Local Police Plan 2017-18 – Inverclyde.

**Decided:**

- (1) that approval be given to the response to the draft Local Police Plan 2017-18 – Inverclyde appended to the report; and
- (2) that Police Scotland be requested to provide an update on the final Plan to the next meeting of the Police & Fire Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

**591      Draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Inverclyde 2017      591**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval of a consultation response to the draft Inverclyde Local Fire and Rescue Plan and, subject to the consultation response, endorsement of the final Plan.

**Decided:**

- (1) that approval be given to the consultation response to the draft Inverclyde Local Fire and Rescue Plan appended to the report and that the final Plan be endorsed, subject to the comments contained in the consultation response; and
- (2) that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service be requested to provide an update on the final Plan to the next Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

**592      A Three Year Plan for Co-ordinating Community Learning and Development (CLD) in Inverclyde 2015-2018: Progress Report Year 2      592**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the progress made in implementing the three year plan for Co-ordinating Community Learning and Development in Inverclyde 2015-2018.

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**Decided:**

- (1) that the progress made in implementing the three year plan for Community Learning and Development in Inverclyde be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the recommendations set out in Section 5 of the review, namely (a) that a risk assessment of the Plan is undertaken to develop the next three year Plan 2018-2021, (b) that the co-ordination of CLD is integrated within the emerging Local Outcome Improvement Planning infrastructure and (c) that a workforce development review is progressed in conjunction with Education Scotland and Community Learning and Development Standards.

**593 Year of Young People 2018 – Inverclyde Plan****593**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) informing the Committee of the work being undertaken to plan Inverclyde's contribution to the 2018 themed year, the Year of Young People, (2) providing further information on the planned activity in this regard and (3) seeking endorsement of the Inverclyde Year of Young People 2018 Draft Plan.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the requirement of the Council to develop a Plan for the Year of Young People 2018;
- (2) that endorsement be given to the Inverclyde draft Year of Young People 2018 Plan as set out in the report;
- (3) that the final Plan be submitted to the Committee in January 2018 with an update on progress in August 2018 and an evaluation by February 2019; and
- (4) that a report be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee seeking the allocation of £20,000 to celebrate the Year of Young People, the report to include proposals for the use of the funding sought.

**It was agreed in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6, 9 12 and 13 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**

**594 Clune Park Regeneration Plan Progress Report: Update on Current Actions****594**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) on the current actions to implement the Council's decisions on the Clune Park Estate and (2) providing information on key, current actions to ensure that the Council is fully advised of progress.

The Committee noted the current progress in respect of the Clune Park Area Regeneration Plan and the further action as detailed in the report, all as detailed in the appendix.

**The Communities business concluded at 4.10pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4.15pm with Rev Donaldson, Rev Burt, Ms Gilpin, Ms McMillan and Ms McEwan joining the meeting. Councillor Wilson did not return to the meeting at this juncture.**

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**595 Election of a Parent Representative to the Education & Communities Committee 595**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the results of the nominations of a Parent Representative to serve on the Education & Communities Committee. The report advised that two nominations had been received and, following a ballot with each Parent Council entitled to cast a single vote, Ms Anna McMillan had received the higher number of votes.

Councillor Clocherty welcomed Ms McMillan to the meeting.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the appointment of Anna McMillan as Parent Representative to serve on the Education & Communities Committee in accordance with the Scheme of Arrangements.

**596 Education 2017/18 Revenue Budget – Period 5 to 31 August 2017 596**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the 2017/18 Education Revenue Budget position as at Period 5 to 31 August 2017.

(Councillor Wilson returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

**Decided:** that the Committee note the projected current underspend of £456,000 in the 2017/18 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 5 to 31 August 2017 and that proposals have been developed as part of the 2018/20 budget to address a number of the projected underspends.

**597 Education Capital Programme 2017-2020 Progress 597**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and the Chief Financial Officer (1) on the status of the projects forming the Education Capital Programme and (2) highlighting the overall financial position.

**Decided:**

(1) that the Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;

(2) that the Committee note the significant increase in the planned 2017/18 expenditure based on latest cashflow forecasts received from contractors; and

(3) that approval be given to the changes to the scope of the St Mary's Primary School Refurbishment and Extension Project including the revised budget allocation and utilisation of the overall Capital Programme contingency/lifecycle fund allocation re-profiling to address the revised scope of works as outlined in Section 7.1 and Appendix 2.

**598 Increase in Early Learning and Childcare to 1140 Hours 598**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development on the draft submission to the Scottish Government of Inverclyde's 1140 expansion programme.

Councillor Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item as the spouse of a registered child minder. She also formed the view that the nature of her interest and of the item of business did not preclude her continued presence in the Chamber or her participation on the decision making process.

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**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the content of the 1140 hours expansion plan as set out in the appendix to the report; and
- (2) that agreement be given to the submission of the plan to the Scottish Government in final form.

**599 Inverclyde Schools Malawi Partnership 599**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Education providing information on the Inverclyde Schools Malawi Partnership, one of the longest running partnerships in Scotland which has been sustained and developed over a 10 year period.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the success of the sustained partnership between Inverclyde schools and schools in Malawi; and
- (2) that arrangements be made for an informal briefing on the Malawi Partnership to be provided to all Members involving the “voluntary” communication group and young people involved in the partnership.

**600 Inverclyde Summer Lunch Clubs 2017 600**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Inverclyde Summer Lunch Clubs 2017 including the outcomes achieved.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Committee note the contents of the report; and
- (2) that support be given to the continued development of lunch provision and family learning sessions during the school holiday period.

**601 Statutory Consultation to Address Minor Anomalies in the Current School Catchment Areas 601**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to undertake a statutory consultation to amend the catchment areas identified in Appendix 1 to the report in order to produce a GIS map of school catchment areas.

**Decided:** that approval be given to the carrying out of a statutory consultation to amend the catchment areas identified in Appendix 1 in order to produce a GIS map of school catchment areas.

Ms Gilpin left the meeting at this juncture.

**602 Period Poverty – Request by Councillor McCabe 602**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources on a request received from Councillor McCabe that a report be submitted at the earliest opportunity identifying proposals, including funding, to tackle the problem of period poverty in Inverclyde.

**Decided:** that a report be submitted to the Committee at the earliest opportunity identifying proposals, including funding, to tackle the problem of period poverty in Inverclyde.

The Convener being of the opinion that the undernoted report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development was relevant, competent and urgent moved its consideration in terms of the relevant Standing Order to allow the Committee to be advised of the submission at the earliest opportunity. This was agreed unanimously.

**603 Fair Funding for Schools**

**603**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee to note the response from Inverclyde Council Education Services to the Scottish Government's consultation on Education Governance - Fair Funding to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education.

**Decided:** that the Committee note the contents of the submission by Inverclyde Education Services to the Fair Funding consultation, as set out in appendix 2 to the report.