

POLICY AND RESOURCES EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE – 16 JUNE 2020

Policy and Resources Executive Sub-Committee

Tuesday 16 June 2020 at 3pm

Present: Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty, McCabe, C McEleny, Robertson and Brooks (for Wilson) (all by video-conference).

Chair: Councillor McCabe presided.

In attendance: Chief Executive, Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership, Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Head of Legal & Property Services, Chief Financial Officer, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Head of Environmental & Public Protection, Shared Head of Service Roads, Early Years Manager, Head of Regeneration & Planning, Mr N Greenshields, Education Officer, Legal Services Manager (Licensing, Litigation & Committee Services), IT Service Manager, Service Manager, Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety and Ms S Lang (Legal & Property Services) (all by video-conference).

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

252 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 252

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson, with Councillor Brooks substituting.

Councillors Ahlfeld, C McEleny and Robertson declared interests in Agenda Item 7 (Appendix 4 relative to Agenda Item 2 (COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Scrutiny Report)).

253 Payment of Contracted Sums to School Transport Providers 253

The Executive Sub-Committee agreed unanimously to the suspension of Standing Orders to allow reconsideration of the decision made at its 2 June 2020 meeting relative to the payment of contracted sums to school transport providers for the period 1 April to 30 June 2020.

Following discussion, Councillor Brooks moved that a payment of 100% of contracted sums be made to school transport providers for the month of April 2020 and that payments of 60% of contracted sums be made for the period 1 May to 30 June 2020.

As an amendment, Councillor C McEleny moved that a payment of 100% of contracted sums be made to school transport providers for the period 1 April to 30 June 2020.

Following a roll call vote, 3 Members, Councillors Ahlfeld, C McEleny and Robertson voted in favour of the amendment and 3 Members, Councillors Brooks, Clocherty and McCabe voted in favour of the motion. There being equality in voting, the Convener exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion which was declared carried.

Decided: that a payment of 100% of contracted sums be made to school transport providers for the month of April 2020 and that payments of 60% of contracted sums be made for the period 1 May to 30 June 2020.

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254 COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Scrutiny Report

254

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive providing an update on action taken by officers in order to address and mitigate the risks arising from the COVID-19 emergency.

Decided:

- (1) that the actions taken to date to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 emergency in Inverclyde be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that further reports will be submitted regularly for Members' scrutiny and review;
- (3) that the proposed arrangements set out in paragraphs 5.7 to 5.9 of the report in respect of the re-opening of schools be noted;
- (4) that agreement be given to the continuation of the support for pupils who were in receipt of free schools meals for the 2019/20 academic year until 28 August 2020 and that approval be given to the funding route for this as outlined in section 5 of the report;
- (5) that delegated powers be granted, for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, to the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources to grant the Council's consent as landowner for relevant applications as may be considered appropriate in consultation with other relevant officers but otherwise, it be remitted to the Corporate Director to report to the Executive Sub-Committee for consideration of any applications for landowners' consent where refusal is recommended;
- (6) that an overview report on the actions taken to date relative to the future of Inchgreen Dry Dock be submitted to the August meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Committee; and
- (7) that the Council write to the First Minister, with a copy also being sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture, endorsing the letter by the Secretary of the Save Inchgreen Dry Dock campaign to the First Minister set out in Appendix 3 to the report, which seeks the Scottish Government's support of, and investment in, the local maritime economy.

255 Update on Early Learning and Childcare Expansion Programme

255

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) advising of an underspend in the 2019/20 Early Learning and Childcare Revenue Budget and (2) providing an update on the implementation of the expansion plan for session 2020/21.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the allocation of the 2019/20 underspend as detailed in section 5 of the report subject to agreement by the Scottish Government;
- (2) that it be noted that a detailed review of the 2020/21 Early Learning and Childcare Revenue Budget is being undertaken and will be reported to the September meeting of the Education & Communities Committee; and
- (3) that it be agreed to note the changes to the expansion plan and that further changes may be required in response to Scottish Government guidance on the 1140 hours and the public health position as a result of COVID-19.

256 Education ICT Infrastructure and Pupil Access to ICT from Home

256

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the ICT action required by Education Services in response to the changed pattern of learning which will be in place

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from August 2020 including the upgrading of Wi-Fi provision and connectivity across the school estate, supporting remote learning by providing pupils with laptop computers and internet access at home and the proposed purchase of a new online platform which will support schools to deliver home learning to pupils.

Decided:

- (1) that approval be given to the proposal to increase connectivity to all of the Education estate and that the use of Pupil Equity Funding to support this improvement be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the use of unallocated Attainment monies to improve Wi-Fi infrastructure in five secondary school buildings including Craigmarloch School;
- (3) that it be noted that Education Services will also work with the primary schools to identify whether they also wish to proceed with the upgrading of their Wi-Fi infrastructure through the use of their Pupil Equity Funding over the course of the next two sessions;
- (4) that it be agreed that the one remaining Early Learning Centre which does not have a Wi-Fi infrastructure upgrade will have this work addressed from the 2019/2020 Early Learning and Childcare funding underspend;
- (5) that approval be given to the purchase of 250 laptops for allocation by Education Services to support remote learning on a prioritised basis, the one-off cost of £100,000 to be charged to the COVID-19 Earmarked Reserve;
- (6) that approval be given to the purchase of Clickview at a cost of £20,000 funded from the Attainment Challenge Budget;
- (7) that it be noted that the policy for providing laptops to certain pupils will be the subject of a report to the September meeting of the Education & Communities Committee; and
- (8) that the report which is to be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee in August 2020 on the wider issues affecting families in poverty include information on the impact of increased electricity costs on these families as a result of the requirement by school pupils to use laptop computers at home as part of the remote learning arrangements.

257 Craigend Resource Centre

257

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources seeking authority to transfer an additional area of land, as shown hatched on the plan at Appendix 1 to the report, to Craigend Resource Centre Ltd in relation to the organisation's development at McLeod Street, Greenock.

Decided: that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources to transfer ownership of an additional area of land to Craigend Resource Centre Ltd as shown hatched on the plan at Appendix 1 and otherwise on terms and conditions considered acceptable to the Head of Legal & Property Services and the Chief Financial Officer.

258 Anti-Slavery Reparations - Request by Councillor McCabe

258

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services on a request received from Councillor McCabe in the following terms:

“That in response to the concerns raised by the Black Lives Matter campaign relative to Scotland's links to the slave trade, a report be brought back as soon as practicable on Inverclyde's historical connections to the slave trade and the ways in which these connections can be recognised in today's society including recommendations as to how

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community reparations can be made.

I am asking that this request be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency because of the nature of the community concerns being expressed right now throughout the country and worldwide”.

Decided:

(1) that a report be submitted as soon as practicable to Inverclyde Council on Inverclyde’s historical connections to the slave trade and the ways in which these connections can be recognised in today’s society including recommendations as to how community reparations can be made and that the report also reflect the existence and impact of modern-day slavery;

(2) that consultation be carried out with all relevant community organisations and the Ward Members relative to the former Gourock Burgh Council Crest and that the result of these consultations be included in the report set out in (1) above; and

(3) that a report be submitted to the Education & Communities Committee on actions which have been taken by the Council to support Fair Trade.

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 paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

259 Appendix 4 relative to Agenda Item 2 (COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Scrutiny Report)

259

There was submitted Appendix 4 to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Scrutiny Report providing a comprehensive list of all business grants paid to June 2020.

Councillor Robertson declared a financial interest in this item as the result of a remuneration contract with Stepwell Consultancy Ltd and she left the meeting prior to its consideration.

Councillor Ahlfeld declared a non-financial interest in the item as a member of Greenock Torpedo Factory Club and Councillor C McEleny declared a non-financial interest as a member of Greenock Morton Supporters’ Club. Both Members formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence at the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process.

Decided: that the appendix be noted.