

**Report To:** Education & Communities  
Committee

**Date:** 11 May 2021

**Report By:** Corporate Director  
Education, Communities &  
Organisational Development

**Report No:** EDUCOM/21/21/RB

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**Subject:** Report on Outstanding Education Remits for the Education and  
Communities Committee

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Education and Communities Committee on outstanding remits for the Education part of the Committee.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 This report gives updates on the progress with the following outstanding remits for the Education part of the Education and Communities Committee.

2.2 Updates considered in this report are:

- Review of Secondary Parentpay Usage
- Placing Request Appeals and future pressure on the learning estate

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to note the updates in this report.

**Ruth Binks**  
Corporate Director  
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

### **4.1 Review of Secondary Parentpay Usage**

In October 2018 the Committee approved the removal of cash payments for school meals and school trips as appropriate from primary schools starting in August 2019. The Committee also noted that a review of secondary schools would take place a further report brought back to the Committee.

### **4.2 Placing Request Appeals and Future Pressures on the Learning Estate**

In September 2019, the Sheriff Court upheld the Council's position to refuse placing requests to St Columba's High School. The Committee agreed that a future report would be brought back on future pressures on the learning estate. The Committee also asked for a further report to be brought back to the Committee following receipt of the Sheriff's written decision.

## **5.0 UPDATES**

### **5.1 Review of Secondary Parentpay Usage**

A review of cashless catering was undertaken in the secondary estate. Currently, secondary schools have flexible arrangements in place to pre-pay for school meals. Parentpay is also in use in our secondary schools for reducing the amount of cash being held by the school. Following a discussion with secondary pupils from several of our secondary schools, their preference at this time was not to move completely to a cashless system as they enjoy the flexibility the current system affords them. Any parent who wishes to pay for everything through Parentpay already has that option but as pupils become older and more independent, they appreciate the flexibility that the mixed option provides.

Scotland Excel is currently undertaking the development of a national procurement framework for cashless catering in schools and this is expected to be introduced later in 2021. The recommendation is to keep the current arrangements in place until it becomes necessary to change.

### **5.2 Placing Request Appeals and Future Pressures on the Learning Estate**

#### **5.2.1 Placing request Appeals**

To date, no written judgement confirming the verbal decision of the Sheriff has been received from the court about the appeals for St Columba's High School in 2019 and it is probably fair to say that given the length of time, this will not be forthcoming. Whilst the council policy stood up to rigorous scrutiny in court, feedback from the process identified that parents felt that the policy in place for village primary schools was unfair. The policy in place was also putting pressure on St Columba's High School.

At the beginning of 2020, a statutory consultation process was subsequently undertaken to amend the policy in place for transition to secondary schools from the village schools. This was agreed and the new policy has now been implemented. Admissions to schools and placing requests were considered at the beginning of 2021 and the revision to the village schools policy has reduced the pressure on capacity for St Columba's High School for pupils within the catchment area.

#### **5.2.2 Placing Requests for academic Year 2021/22**

The initial admissions and placing request process for academic year 2021/22 has now been completed and appeals for this year will be heard during May/June 2021. All schools in

Inverclyde were able to accept those within their catchment area who were entitled to, and wanted to, attend.

Every secondary school in Inverclyde received placing requests. The current position is as follows:

Inverclyde Academy accepted 7 – refused 0  
 Clydeview Academy accepted 58 – refused 0  
 Port Glasgow High School accepted 10 – refused 0  
 St. Stephen’s High School accepted <5 – refused 0  
 Notre Dame High School accepted 26 – refused 33  
 St. Columba’s High School accepted 11 – refused <5

All primary schools in Inverclyde were able to accept placing requests with the exception of Ardgowan Primary School. 5 places were granted to Ardgowan and 7 were refused.

### 5.2.3 Future pressures on the learning estate

Work is ongoing to monitor the future capacity of the learning estate and the impact of any new building developments. Current analysis indicates that proposed developments could lead to pressure on pupil capacities in the following: St Columba’s High School and Wemyss Bay, St Andrew’s, Aileymill and St Ninian’s primary schools.

New housing development can increase usage of community infrastructure such as schools, sometimes resulting in new or extended infrastructure being required. In such circumstances, the Council considers it reasonable to seek a financial contribution from the developers of new housing towards the cost of the new infrastructure required as a result of the development. The Council will prepare Supplementary Guidance setting out the types of community infrastructure developer contributions will be sought for, in what circumstances they will be sought, and the level of contribution that will be sought. With regard to educational requirements, the Planning Service liaises with Education colleagues on the implications of new housing development on schools through the annual housing land audit and during the Plan preparation process.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 6.1 Finance

#### Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

### 6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications in this report

### 6.3 Human Resources

There are no HR implications in this report

### 6.4 Equalities

#### Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

### 6.5 Repopulation

N/A

## 7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 N/A

## 8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 N/A.