

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 14 JUNE 2022

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### Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 14 June 2022 at 1pm

**Present:** Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Daisley, Law, McCabe (for McGuire for Education business only), McGuire (for Communities business only), McVey, Moran, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson, Rev F Donaldson, Rev D Burt and Mr J Docherty, Church Representatives.

**Chair:** Councillor Clocherty presided.

**In attendance:** Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources, Head of Education, Service Manager, Community Learning and Development, Community Safety and Resilience & Sport, Mr I Cameron (for Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance), Finance Manager (Education & Communities), Ms A Sinclair (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services), Interim Head of Property Services, Ms D Sweeney and Mr C MacDonald (Legal & Democratic Services), Ms L Wilkie (Education Services) and ICT Services Manager.

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors McCabe, McGuire and Wilson attending by video-conference and Councillor Moran attending the Communities business by video-conference and the Education business at the Municipal Buildings.

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

#### **265 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 265**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor McGuire for Education business only, with Councillor McCabe substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated, but certain connections were intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:

Agenda Item 2 (Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items) – Councillors Clocherty, Law and Quinn

Agenda Item 3 (Communities Update Report) – Councillors Clocherty, Quinn and Robertson

Agenda Item 5 (Single Use Plastic Bottles in Education Establishments and Inverclyde Leisure Estate) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn

Agenda Item 7 (Education, Communities and Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan – End of Year 3 Progress Report and Annual Refresh 2022/23) - Councillors Clocherty and Quinn

Agenda Item 13 (School Transport Contracts (Mainstream) – Results of Tenders for Contracts 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27) – Councillor Wilson

#### **266 Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items 266**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities &

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Organisational Development (1) providing performance information for the Communities part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) providing an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Communities Capital Programme and Asset related items.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure and Councillor Law declared connections as (a) a family member is involved with Caddlehill Gardens and (b) she is a registered volunteer archiver with the Watt Institution. They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and were declaring for transparency.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the current position of the 2022/25 Capital Programme and progress on the specific projects and work of the Asset Transfer Working Group be noted;
- (2) that the use of powers delegated to the Chief Executive to issue an acceptance for the Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Moveable Floor project as authorised by Councillors Clocherty, McGuire and Robertson together with the Chief Executive, be noted; and
- (3) that the use of powers delegated to the Chief Executive to issue an acceptance for the King George VI Community Hub project as authorised by Councillors Clocherty, Robertson and McCabe together with the Chief Executive, be noted.

### 267 Communities Update Report

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Communities aspect of the service.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure and Councillor Robertson declared connections as (a) a member of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild and (b) a member of the committee of Inverclyde Youth Theatre (Kayos). They also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and were declaring for transparency.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) review of crawl spaces in 3G pitches, (b) Child Poverty Action report, (c) affordable holiday hubs, (d) Young Scot annual report, (e) access to free sanitary products, (f) Culture Collective, and (g) free swimming for under-16s; and
- (2) that the appreciation of the Committee be extended to Mr Hugh Scott and his team for the efficient rollout of the Young Scot Card scheme.

### 268 Control the Bleed Kits

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development outlining proposals for establishing and promoting Control the Bleed Kits across Inverclyde.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the proposed use of Control the Bleed Kits as part of the Community Safety Partnership be noted;
- (2) that the purchase of Control the Bleed Kits for the Community Warden Service,

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as detailed in the report, be approved;

(3) that a promotional campaign to promote the purchase and use of Control the Bleed Kits across Inverclyde be approved; and

(4) that it be remitted to the Inverclyde Licensing Board to consider whether it would be appropriate to attach a condition or recommendation that premises that hold Premises Licences should have a Control the Bleed Kit.

**269 Single Use Plastic Bottles in Education Establishments and Inverclyde Leisure Estate 269**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development outlining the implications of ceasing to sell or provide single use plastic bottles in Educational Establishments and the Inverclyde Leisure estate.

**Decided:**

(1) that the ongoing progress and financial implications of reducing the use of single use plastic bottles in Educational Establishments and the Inverclyde Leisure estate be noted; and

(2) that it be remitted to officers to provide a further report by the end of the academic year detailing work undertaken with schools towards eco-friendly initiatives such as providing reusable water bottles and reducing waste.

**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 & 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**

**270 School Transport Contracts (Mainstream) – Results of Tenders for Contracts 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26 & 2026/27 270**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to accept the tenders for mainstream school transport contracts due for renewal from the start of the school session 2022/23. Councillor Wilson declared a connection in this item as member of Strathclyde Passenger transport. He also formed the view that the nature of his connection and of the item of business did not preclude his continued presence in the meeting or his participation in the decision making process and was declaring for transparency.

**Decided:** that the tenders for mainstream school transport contracts due for renewal from the start of the school session 2022/23 and as detailed at paragraph 5.5 of the report be accepted.

**The Communities business concluded at 2.05pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Councillor McCabe, Reverend Burt and Reverend Donaldson joining the meeting by video conference and Mr Docherty attending the Municipal Buildings.**

Prior to commencement of the Education business the Convenor welcomed Mr James Docherty to the meeting as the newly appointed representative of the Roman Catholic Church. The Convenor also referred to the forthcoming retirement of Ms Linda Wilkie, Early Years Manager with Education Services and paid tribute to Ms Wilkie's service

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and wished her a happy retirement.

- 271 Education Capital Programme Progress 271**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing performance information for the Education part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) providing an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Education Capital Programme.  
**Decided:** that the current position of the 2022/25 Capital Programme and the progress on the specific projects be noted.
- 272 Education, Communities and Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan - End of Year 3 Progress Report and Annual Refresh 2022/23 272**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing (1) a progress report on the delivery of the improvement actions within the Education, Communities and Organisation Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan and (2) a refreshed Education, Communities and Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2022/23, containing new or revised improvement actions which required approval of the Committee.  
 Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections in this item as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. Both Councillors also formed the view that the nature of their connections and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision making process and were declaring for transparency.  
**Decided:**  
 (1) that the progress on the delivery of the Education, Communities and Organisational Development Improvement Plan in year 3 and as detailed in appendix 1 of the report be noted; and  
 (2) that the refreshed Education, Communities and Organisational Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2022/23 as detailed in appendix 2 of the report be approved.
- 273 Education Services Standards and Quality Report April 2021 – April 2022 and Education Services Improvement Plan April 2022 – April 2023 273**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval for (1) the Education Services Standards and Quality Report for April 2021 to April 2022 and (2) the Education Services Improvement Plan for session 2022-23.  
**Decided:** that the content and publication of (a) the Education Services Standards and Quality Report for April 2021 to April 2022 and (b) the Education Services Improvement Plan for April 2022 to April 2023 be noted.
- 274 Establishment of a Catchment Area for Primary Gaelic Provision at Whinhill Primary School 274**
- There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing the outcome of the statutory consultation to establish a catchment area for primary Gaelic provision at Whinhill Primary School.

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**Decided:**

- (1) that the establishment of a primary catchment area covering the whole of Inverclyde for Gaelic education at Whinhill Primary School be approved;
- (2) that approval be given to (a) allowing pupils undertaking Gaelic education at Whinhill Primary School being able to revert to their catchment area non-denominational school without the need for a placing request and (b) attendance at Whinhill Primary School being classed as attending an associated primary school for the purposes of transfer to secondary school; and
- (3) that it be noted that a further report will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee identifying the exact financial impact of the proposal and options to contain the spend within the Directorate's budget.

**275 Education Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives 275**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on national and local projects and initiatives linked to education.

**Decided:** that the updates on the following be noted (a) the latest Covid-19 guidance, (b) attendance update, (c) latest update from SQA, (d) elective home education consultation, (e) Parental Engagement (PIE) consultation, (f) Professional Learning General Teaching Council Scotland Award, (g) National Improvement Framework consultation, and (h) national consultation on school uniform.

**276 Early Learning and Childcare Update Report 276**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on developments in the Early Learning and Childcare sector.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) Blairmore Nursery School Leadership, (b) Early Years Earmarked Reserve, (c) Early Years admissions, (d) Happitots Inverkip and Greenock, (e) West College Scotland, and (f) parental consultation; and
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to arrange an All Members Briefing on the admissions policy, including that applied to pre-school establishments.

**277 Election of Parent Representative and Teacher Representative to the Education & Communities Committee 277**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the results of nominations for a Parent Representative and Teacher Representative to the Education & Communities Committee.

**Decided:**

- (1) that it be noted that a ballot is being held for the Teacher Representative to serve on the Education & Communities Committee and that the results of the ballot will be brought to the next meeting of the Committee; and
- (2) that it be noted that no nominations have been received for the Parent Representative to serve on the Education & Communities Committee.