

PLEASE NOTE TIMES OF MEETING

A meeting of the Education & Communities Committee will be held on Tuesday 24 January 2023.

The Communities business will commence at 2pm and the Education business at 4pm.

Members may attend the meeting in person at Greenock Municipal Buildings or via remote online access. Webex joining details will be sent to Members and Officers prior to the meeting. Members are requested to notify Committee Services by 12 noon on Monday 23 January 2023 how they intend to access the meeting.

In the event of connectivity issues, Members are asked to use the *join by phone* number in the Webex invitation and as noted above.

Please note that this meeting will be live-streamed via YouTube with the exception of any business which is treated as exempt in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

Information relating to the recording of meetings can be found at the end of this notice.

IAIN STRACHAN
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

BUSINESS

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<p><u>COMMUNITIES</u></p> <p>PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT</p> <p>2. Communities Revenue Budget Report – 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 31 October 2022 Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance</p>	p
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5.	Proposed Indoor Tennis Facility Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	p
EDUCATION		
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6.	Education Scotland Report on Kings Oak Primary School and Nursery Class Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	p
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NEW BUSINESS		
9.	Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	p
10.	Outcome of Pre-consultation Process - Future Leadership of Blairmore Nursery School Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	p
<p>The reports are available publicly on the Council’s website and the minute of the meeting will be submitted to the next standing meeting of the Inverclyde Council. The agenda for the meeting of the Inverclyde Council will be available publicly on the Council’s website.</p> <p>Please note: this meeting may recorded or live-streamed via YouTube and the Council’s internet site, where it will be capable of repeated viewing. At the start of the meeting the Provost/Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded or live-streamed.</p> <p>You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. Data collected during any recording or live-streaming will be retained in accordance with the Council’s published policy, including, but not limited to, for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available via the Council’s internet site or You Tube.</p> <p>If you are participating in the meeting, you acknowledge that you may be filmed and that any information pertaining to you contained in the recording or live-stream of the meeting will be used for webcasting or training purposes and for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available to the public.</p>		

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Enquiries to – **Diane Sweeney**– Tel 01475 712147

Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	24 January 2023
Report By:	Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	FIN/76/22/AP/IC
Contact Officer:	Iain Cameron	Contact No:	01475 712832
Subject:	Communities Revenue Budget Report - 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 31 October 2022		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 To advise Committee of the 2022/23 Revenue Budget position at 31 October 2022.
- 1.3 The total Communities Revenue Budget for 2022/23, excluding Earmarked Reserves, is currently £4,366,410. The latest projection is an overspend of £70,000 (1.6%), which is an increase in expenditure of £12,000 since Period 5. More details are provided in section 3 of the report and the appendices.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the current projected overspend for 2022/23 of £70,000 as at 31 October 2022.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Committee note that the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development and Heads of Service will continue to review areas where non-essential spend can be reduced in order to bring the projection back on budget.

Alan Puckrin
Interim Director Finance
& Corporate Governance

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities
& Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the current position of the 2022/23 Revenue Budget and to highlight the main variances contributing to the projected overspend of £70,000 for 2022/23.
- 3.2 The current Communities Revenue Budget for 2022/23 is £4,366,410 which is an increase of £19,840 from the Approved Budget. Appendix 1 provides more details of the budget movement.
- 3.3 **2022/23 Projected Outturn (£70,000 overspend 1.6%)**

The main projected variances contributing to the net overspend are listed below and in Appendix 3:

- (a) Projected overspend of £64,000 for Libraries & Museum mainly due to an income shortfall of £55,000. A budget pressure from 2023/24 of £25,000 was agreed at the Policy & Resources Committee on 15 November 2022.
- (b) Projected overspend of £80,000 for Sports and Leisure due to an overspend on Free Swimming for Under 16s which is the subject of a 2023/25 Budget saving option.
- (c) Projected underspend of £41,000 for Community Safety Employee Costs due to vacant posts.
- (d) Projected underspend of £33,000 for Community Halls mainly due to the over recovery of Income for School Lets (£21,000) and underspend on Summer Playschemes (£20,000)

3.4 EARMARKED RESERVES

Appendix 4 gives an update on the operational Earmarked Reserves, ie excluding strategic funding models. Spend to date on these operational Earmarked Reserves is £933,000 (which is 99.9% of phased budget and 71.8% of total projected spend).

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Corporate Director will continue to ensure that steps are taken to reduce expenditure where this will not have a direct impact on service delivery. It is anticipated that overall Education and Communities will outturn within budget in spite of the current overspend; more detail is provided within the Education revenue report later in the agenda.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	x		
Legal/Risk	x		
Human Resources		x	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		x	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			x
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			x
Environmental & Sustainability			x
Data Protection			x

5.2 Finance

The projected over spend of £70,000 will continue to be addressed and reported to the next meeting of the Committee. In the interim, the Corporate Director will ensure that steps are taken to reduce expenditure where this will not have a direct impact on service delivery.

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					

5.3 Legal/Risk

The approved Governance Documents set out the roles and responsibilities of Committees and officers in ensuring budgets are not overspent and the process to be followed in the event an overspend is unavoidable.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no specific human resources implications arising from this report.

5.5 Strategic

There are no specific strategic implications arising from this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The paper has been jointly prepared by the Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance and the Corporate Director Education, Communities, and Organisational Development.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 There are no background papers for this report.

Communities Budget Movement - 2022/23**Period 7 - 1st April 2022 to 31st October 2022**

Service	Approved Budget 2022/23 £000	Movements			Revised Budget 2022/23 £000
		Inflation £000	Virement £000	Supplementary Budgets £000	
Libraries & Museum	1,653		3		1,656
Sport & Leisure	870		15		885
Community Safety	515				515
Community Halls	931		1		932
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	378				378
Totals	<u>4,347</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,366</u>

Movement Details

£000

External Resources**Inflation**0**Virement**Rankin Park from ERR
Insurance Virement15
419**Supplementary Budget**019

COMMUNITIES**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT****CURRENT POSITION****Period 7 - 1st April 2022 to 31st October 2022**

2021/22 Actual £000	Subjective Heading	Approved Budget 2022/23 £000	Revised Budget 2022/23 £000	Projected Out-turn 2022/23 £000	Projected Over/(Under) Spend £000	Percentage Over/(Under)
1,878	Employee Costs	1,881	1,935	1,908	(27)	(1.4%)
573	Property Costs	581	581	584	3	0.5%
1,047	Supplies & Services	1,033	1,049	1,049	0	-
7	Transport Costs	3	3	3	0	-
60	Administration Costs	75	79	79	0	-
2,023	Other Expenditure	1,089	1,093	1,153	60	5.5%
(1,269)	Income	(315)	(374)	(340)	34	(9.1%)
4,319	TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE	4,347	4,366	4,436	70	1.6%
0	Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	
4,319	TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE EXCLUDING EARMARKED RESERVES	4,347	4,366	4,436	70	1.6%

2021/22 Actual £000	Objective Heading	Approved Budget 2022/23 £000	Revised Budget 2022/23 £000	Projected Out-turn 2022/23 £000	Projected Over/(Under) Spend £000	Percentage Over/(Under)
1,664	Libraries & Museum	1,653	1,656	1,720	64	3.9%
968	Sports & Leisure	870	885	965	80	9.0%
462	Community Safety	515	515	474	(41)	(8.0%)
827	Community Halls	931	932	899	(33)	(3.5%)
398	Grants to Vol Orgs	378	378	378	0	-
4,319	TOTAL COMMUNITIES	4,347	4,366	4,436	70	1.6%
0	Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	
4,319	TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE EXCLUDING EARMARKED RESERVES	4,347	4,366	4,436	70	1.6%

COMMUNITIES**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT****MATERIAL VARIANCES****Period 7 -1st April 2022 to 31st October 2022**

<u>Out Turn</u> <u>2021/22</u> <u>£000</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Heading</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2022/23</u> <u>£000</u>	<u>Proportion</u> <u>of Budget</u>	<u>Actual to</u> <u>31-Oct-22</u> <u>£000</u>	<u>Projection</u> <u>2022/23</u> <u>£000</u>	<u>(Under)/Over</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>£000</u>	<u>Percentage</u> <u>Over / (Under)</u>
(21)	Libraries & Museum Income	(67)	(39)	(11)	(12)	55	(82.1%)
151	Sports & Leisure U16 Free Swimming	120	85	127	200	80	66.7%
416	Community Safety Employee Costs	474	253	225	433	(41)	(8.6%)
17	Community Halls Playschemes	40	40	20	20	(20)	(50.0%)
(239)	School Lets Income	(139)	(81)	(40)	(160)	(21)	15.1%
Total Material Variances						53	

Appendix 4

EARMARKED RESERVES POSITION STATEMENT

COMMITTEE: Communities

<u>Project</u>	<u>Lead Officer/ Responsible Manager</u>	<u>Total Funding 2022/23</u> £000	<u>Phased Budget Period 7 2022/23</u> £000	<u>Actual Period 7 2022/23</u> £000	<u>Projected Spend 2022/23</u> £000	<u>Amount to be Earmarked for 2023/24 & Beyond</u> £000	<u>Lead Officer Update</u>
Community Fund (Participatory Budgets)	Tony McEwan	40	0	0	40	0	Funding for Gibshill CC and Port Glasgow BC. Will be fully spent in 2022/23.
Community Support Fund	Tony McEwan	50	0	0	0	50	Balance will be written back as no commitments against this budget.
COVID 19 - Recovery of Cultural Events	Tony McEwan	10	0	0	10	0	Funding will pay for external consultant working on Heritage Lottery bid for Libraries.
Covid - Inverclyde Leisure Recovery	Tony McEwan	1,077	789	789	1,077	0	IL have used £789k to offset against payroll costs. Additional funding of £279k was awarded by Sept P&R and will also be offset against payroll costs.
Covid Recovery - Lighting Gourock Amphitheatre	Tony McEwan	29	0	0	29	0	Work has started and expected to be completed 2022/23. Currently awaiting parts to complete.
Covid Recovery - Signage for Rankin Park	Tony McEwan	9	0	0	0	9	Balance will be written back as signs no longer required.
Covid Recovery - Allocation to Localities for Recovery Events	Tony McEwan	120	120	119	119	1	Payments to various community groups for events over summer months. Spending complete.
Summer of Fun	Tony McEwan	25	25	25	25	0	Contribution to Pictures in the Park and Cultural Events. Spending complete.
Total		1,360	934	933	1,300	60	

Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	24 January 2023
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance	Report No:	EDUCOM/02/24/RB
Contact Officer:	Hugh Scott, Service Manager	Contact No:	01475 715459
Subject:	Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to consider performance reporting for the Communities part of the Education & Communities Committee and provide an update in respect of the status of the projects forming the Communities Capital Programme and Asset related items.
- 1.3 This report advises the Committee of the progress of the projects within the Communities Capital Programme and those external grant funded projects where the Council holds all or part of the grant funding for projects being progressed through partner organisations. The report also provides an update on other Council Community Asset related activity.
- 1.4 The Communities capital budget is £4.331m with total projected spend on budget. The Committee is projecting to spend £1.264m in 2022/23 with net slippage of £1.154m (47.73%) being reported. Appendix 1 details the capital programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- notes the current position and the progress on the specific projects of the 2022/25 Capital Programme;
 - notes the proposal to replace the loan to IL to fund the Moveable Pool Floor with a grant which will be considered at a meeting of the Council in March 2023; and
 - notes that a separate report on the Indoor Tennis facility project is included on the agenda for this Committee.

Alan Puckrin
Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 This report shows the current position of the approved Communities Capital programme reflecting the allocation of resources approved by Inverclyde Council on 24 February 2022.
- 3.2 The report also covers progress of external partner projects where the Council holds all or part of the funding through successful bids as part of the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund process.

2022/25 Current Capital Position

- 3.3 The Communities capital budget is £4.331m. The budget for 2022/23 is £2.418m, with spend to date of £0.743m equating to 30.73% of the original approved budget and 58.78% of the revised estimated spend. The current projection is £4.331m which means total projected spend is on budget.
- 3.4 The Committee is projecting to spend £1.264m in 2022/23 with net slippage of £1.154m (47.73%) being reported. This is an increase in slippage of £0.515m (21.30%) from the previous reported position and is due to the anticipated slippage in the King George VI Community Hub project as outlined in 3.9 below. Appendix 1 details the capital programme.

Communities Capital Projects

- 3.5 **Lady Alice Bowling Club:** The Council continues to support the management committee of Lady Alice Bowling Club in respect of the proposals for the building and project costs. The work has now commenced on site with a completion date of early 2023.
- 3.6 **Indoor Sports Facility for Tennis:** The Committee has previously been advised of the progress in relation to the proposed Tennis Project at Rankin Park. Following discussions with funding partners, further market testing has not resulted in a decrease in costs for the project and in the context of the Council's financial position, a separate report will be considered by committee on 24 January 2023.
- 3.7 **Leisure Pitches Asset Management Plan / Lifecycle Fund:** The lifecycle works continue to be progressed based on the asset plan agreed at the September 2020 Education & Communities Committee. As previously reported, the 3G pitch carpet replacement at Battery Park was completed at the end of September 2022. The rejuvenation of the 3G multi-use games area surface at Inverkip Community Hub was completed in October 2022. The Drumshantie Road 3G pitch carpet replacement was also recently certified complete at the end of November 2022. The Committee is requested to note that lifecycle management of the leisure pitches over the next five years will predominantly involve periodic surface rejuvenation.
- 3.8 **Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Moveable Floor:** As previously reported the final site programme is subject to the specialist sub-contractor survey, design and manufacture process. Specialist diver surveys have been undertaken and original facility construction information has been provided to the Contractor to allow the specialist contractor to complete the design process. The manufacture and installation programme will be submitted for review upon completion of the current activity which is anticipated to propose installation in 2nd Quarter 2023.

Funding for the project included a £235k loan from the Council to IL, with an additional £40k being used from IL's reserves. In view of the very significant financial challenges faced by IL it is proposed that the loan be replaced by a grant and that this be factored into the proposed 2023/26 Capital Programme for consideration by the Council in March 2023.

3.9 **Community Hub King George VI:** The project is being funded through the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) with the objective of sympathetically restoring an important heritage building for community use, including introduction of a series of low carbon energy saving design solutions which will help shape and inform future design direction and contribution to the Council's net-zero objectives. As previously reported, the Contractor commenced works on site in August with completion originally programmed for summer 2023. The Committee is requested to note that the project is currently behind programme relating predominantly to poor ground conditions and below ground drainage complexities encountered in the early groundworks. The project sequencing is also constrained by the volume of work required to the rear of the building and restricted access which limits the ability to address work to the internal floor slabs ahead of completion of the stairwell extension to the rear. It has also been necessary to re-design the drainage scheme to address the volume of groundwater encountered during the early groundworks. The Committee has previously been advised of the scope of the project and the pilot nature of the initiatives noted above, this has also involved some additional complexity related to availability of high-performance materials such as triple glazed windows and their incorporation within a listed building, including the requirement for enhanced air tightness which requires careful detailing and a focus during construction. The projected expenditure in the current financial year has been adjusted to reflect the difficult start to the project, and it is anticipated that this will alter overall completion to late 2023.

Communities External Partner Projects

3.10 **Craigend Resource Centre:** The recently completed facility provides the East End of Greenock with a new, modern space for residents of the area and wider community. The upgrade work includes the construction of new car park and toddlers' play park with works projected to be completed in the coming weeks.

3.11 **The Inverclyde Shed Meet, Make + Share:** The Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) funded project is transforming a vacant light industrial unit in East Blackhall Street into a community workshop. Work has now commenced onsite with projected completion date of early 2023.

3.12 **Parklea Branching Out:** Parklea Branching Out (PBO) was awarded £1.1m funding through the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) to deliver a project that seeks to develop a new central community activity hub which will become a focal point of the work of PBO and provide an increased variety of training and work experiences for clients. The PBO has now completed the first of stage of the process and have appointed a design team to progress the project through the required design, procurement and construction phases with that activity currently ongoing. The project is currently overbudget and the service continues to work with PBO to reduce costs.

3.13 Update on Asset Transfer Working Group:

Asset Transfer: The Asset Transfer Working Group continues to meet monthly. It is chaired by the Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources, with representation from the Communities Service, Legal Services, Property Services and Community Planning. The purpose of the working group is to ensure a co-ordinated approach amongst the key services that are involved in asset transfers. Work is currently taking place to update and revise information on the Council's web site in relation to asset transfer, including the development of guidance for communities on how to go about an asset transfer.

The table below provides details of asset transfers that have been recently completed or are ongoing.

Asset Transfers that have been completed

Lady Alice Bowling Club – work started in September 22 and is due to be completed by January 2023.
McLean’s Yard / Cove Road – transfer and 25-year lease agreed.
East Blackhall Street – transfer completed in December 21.
Asset Transfers that are ongoing
Caddlehill Community Garden – The Environment and Regeneration Committee agreed to a lease in June 2022 and this is currently being drawn up.
Wateryett’s Drive, Kilmacolm – currently liaising with a community group who plan to submit a formal asset transfer application for the land.
Larkfield Community Halls – discussions are taking place with Youth Connections regarding the building.
Morton in the Community – discussions are taking place to identify suitable land.
Martial Arts Academy – discussions are taking place to identify suitable land.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 The Committee are asked to note the progress on projects and note that relevant reports will be brought back for Committee consideration as and when required.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		X	
Legal/Risk		X	
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		X	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing			X
Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

5.2 Finance

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					

5.3 **Legal/Risk**

There are no known Legal implications contained within this report.

5.4 **Human Resources**

There are no known Human Resources implications contained within this report.

5.5 **Strategic**

None.

6.0 **CONSULTATION**

6.1 This report has been prepared following consultation with the Interim Head of Property Services and Finance Services.

7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.

Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	24 January 2023
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report	EDUCOM/27/23/TMcE
Contact Officer:	Tony McEwan, Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources	Contact No:	01475 712828
Subject:	Communities Update Report – Update on Local and National Initiatives		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 This report provides an update on matters relevant to the Communities part of the Education and Communities Committee. It also requests the Committee to consider a request in respect of funding for Inverclyde Leisure.
- 1.3 Updates are provided on:
- Culture Collective;
 - Outstanding remit in relation to electronic donations to the Watt Institution;
 - Donation to the Watt Institution;
 - Library Services Awards;
 - Active Schools Report;
 - Clyde Conversations;
 - Community Learning and Development 3 year Strategic Plan;
 - Early Adopter Authority Free Childcare; and
 - Request from Inverclyde Leisure Board regarding payment of the National Living Wage.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee:
- notes the updates contained in this report; and
 - agrees to remit to the Policy and Resources Committee, a recommendation to make an additional payment to Inverclyde Leisure to implement the National Living Wage from January 2023.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 Culture Collective

In March 2020, Creative Scotland commenced a pilot programme to establish a network of creative practitioners, organisations, and communities, working together to create a positive difference locally and nationally in response to Covid-19. A consortium of Inverclyde partners including Inverclyde Council, Beacon Arts Centre, RIG Arts, CVS Inverclyde and Kayos Theatre Group successfully bid to be one of the 26 projects across Scotland who shared £6m in funding. Inverclyde's project received £275,000 for 18 months' of arts activity across the area (March 2021 – September 2022). An additional £198,000 of funding was confirmed in March 2022 to extend the Inverclyde programme until September 2023.

Activities carried out in this reporting period include:

- Community practice residency in Greenock South West – Producer Ben Vardi is working with a community group to create a podcast;
- *Galoshans* festival art residencies – Jane McNally explored how light, moving images and sculpture can work together in the context of public events and #theafrowegian (aka Jidefor Muotune) presented an adaptation of a Greenock version of the *Galoshans* Play, projected on to the walls of the Beacon Arts Centre. All the characters were adapted to feature black, brown or mixed race people, living working or with strong links to Inverclyde; and
- Birds of Paradise Theatre Company offered disability equality training to Inverclyde's cultural sector, providing information and guidance on ensuring venues, user experience, participatory activity, recruitment processes, communications and marketing are accessible to people with disabilities.

3.2 Outstanding remit in relation to electronic donations to the Watt Institution

The facility to pay for items from the museum shop by card machine was established at the Watt Institution in September 2022. Since then, officers have been examining options to facilitate donations by card machine to increase income. There are two ways to do this; via the current card payment system or by purchasing a specific electronic donation system.

The option to use the current card payment system has already been set up and implemented at no additional cost. Signage above the donations box invites visitors to donate via card if they wish. This process was implemented on 8 November 2022 and between then and the time of writing, there have been no donations, electronic or otherwise. The other option, to purchase a specific electronic donation system, would cost around £300 per year to rent the equipment, and any system chosen would need to be fully compatible with payment systems already used by the Council, which may involve IT consultancy costs. Given that it is not yet clear how much income the Watt Institution could expect to make in donations going forwards, the service will continue with the existing system for now and revisit the rental payment points in the future if the level of donations received warrants further investigation.

3.3 Donation to the Watt Institution by Dr Daniel Temianka

A major donation to the Watt Institution of \$10,000 (£8,591) was made by Dr Daniel Temianka, and his wife Dr Zeinab Dabbah, of California, USA. Dr Temianka is the son of renowned virtuoso violinist, conductor, author and music educator Henri Temianka, who was born in Greenock in 1906, and generously donated a sculptural bust of his father, created by acclaimed sculptor Miriam Baker, to the Watt Institution in 2016. Dr Temianka was delighted to hear of the plans to create a Creativity Space within the Watt Institution and wished to contribute to the

overall funding package. Dr Temianka's generous donation will be used to support the ongoing development of the Creativity Space and run activities and events, including free to attend creative workshops, which would not have otherwise been possible.

3.4 Libraries Service Awards

SLIC Awards

Inverclyde Libraries won the Project of the Year Award at the 2022 Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) Awards for the Climate Beacons project. The project focused on sustainability and aimed to stimulate long-term public engagement in the lead up to and following COP26. It was described as 'inspirational' by the judges in the way in which it grew the sense of community. It linked the local to the global through author events, involving members of the community, including those in the prison population who are not often included in climate conversations, and contributed to the circular economy through lend and mend hubs. The judging panel felt the project was a 'powerful and cohesive project that acts as a model for others.'

SLIF Award

A partnership project between Port Glasgow Community Campus Library, Inverclyde Academy School Library, Attainment Challenge library services and several Inverclyde early years establishments has successfully bid for £4,000 from the School Library Improvement Fund to "Read Around the World". Through participation in a reading buddy programme in partnership with local nurseries and New Scot families, the project aims to increase reading for pleasure and attainment in reluctant readers whilst promoting diversity, racial equality, and integration.

3.5 Active Schools Success

Active Schools aims to provide increased high-quality opportunities for young people to take part in sport and physical activity before school, during lunchtime and after school, and to develop effective pathways between schools and sports clubs in the local community.

Inverclyde Council works in partnership with **sportscotland**, the national agency for sport, to invest and support our local Active Schools network. Inverclyde is part of a national programme with engagement from all 32 local authorities.

Each local authority Active Schools team completes an online monitoring system managed by **sportscotland**. This system is completed for each school in the authority every term. **sportscotland** has advised that the Active Schools Team in Inverclyde engaged 48% of school pupils in extra-curricular activities during the 2021/22 academic year, which is the highest participation rate across all 32 local authorities.

3.6 Clyde Conversations

Community Learning and Development (Youth Work Services) supported young people to plan and deliver two events as part of Clyde Conversations 5 on 22 and 23 February 2022 with a total of 125 pupils taking part.

The report, which was agreed by the Inverclyde Alliance Board on 5 December 2022 provides information about feedback sessions held following the Clyde Conversations events, including details of what young people consider to be the top priorities moving forward. The service has now begun to address the issues highlighted to young people which will be reported back to them ahead of any future Clyde Conversation events.

The report can be accessed at:

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers-2022/inverclyde-alliance-board-meeting-5-december-2022>

3.7 Community Learning and Development 3 Year Plan

The Community Learning and Development (CLD) 3 Year Plan 2021-24 Annual Report and a revised action plan report was approved by the Inverclyde Alliance on 5 December 2022. The revised actions now reflect the current landscape and will best enable the CLD Partnership to achieve the priorities within the plan.

The main changes that have been made to the actions under each priority include further development of on-line learning platform; reviewing how the CLD Partnership delivers digital services; and increasing participation in employment, learning and training by those who are digitally excluded. There is also now more of a focus on how the partnership can alleviate poverty in our communities and develop the CLD workforce. The report can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers-2022/inverclyde-alliance-board-meeting-5-december-2022>

3.8 'Early Adopter' Affordable Childcare

Inverclyde Council has been awarded short-term funding by the Scottish Government to design 'community level systems' of school age childcare to meet the identified needs of children and families in the area (aligning with other supports and interventions where this can maximise benefits).

This funding will provide out-of-school childcare provision for to up to 30 children from the Port Glasgow school cluster area who are from families living on a low income and are one of the six priority groups outlined in the Child Poverty Act. This provision which will last until 31 March 2023 will allow the Council to assess and co-design the types of provision required by parents. Food will be provided along with subsidised transport to children who will be travelling further than one mile to the childcare hub at Newark Primary School.

It is anticipated that learning from this and the other three local authorities who have been allocated this funding will inform the Scottish Government's plan's for out-of-school care provision in the future.

3.9 Payment of the National Living Wage for Inverclyde Leisure Employees

At a meeting of its Board on 28 November 2022, the Inverclyde Leisure Board expressed its concern that it would not be able to pay its employees the National Living Wage from January 2023, instead of the planned date of April 2023. Recognising its own financial position the Board requested that the IL Chief Executive submits a formal request to the Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development for additional one-off funding of £77k which would allow IL to pay its lowest paid employees the National Living Wage from 1 January 2023. It is therefore recommended that the Education and Communities Committee agrees to remit this request to the Policy and Resources Committee to consider as part of the Council's ongoing support to Inverclyde Leisure.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	x		
Legal/Risk		x	
Human Resources		x	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		x	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			x
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			x
Environmental & Sustainability			x
Data Protection			x

4.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A			77k		To be requested from P&R for National Living Wage Payment for IL employees.

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

4.3 Legal/Risk

None

5.4 Human Resources

None

5.5 Strategic

None

5.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

None

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
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, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(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 – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

5.7 Children and Young People

Has a Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
x	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children’s rights.

5.8 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report.

N/A

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
x	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.9 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 – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 None

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	24 January 2023
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/09/23/TM
Contact Officer:	Tony McEwan, Head of Culture Communities and Educational Resources	Contact No:	01475 712828
Subject:	Proposed Indoor Tennis Facility		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement of the Education and Communities Committee to cancel the project to build an Indoor Tennis Facility at Rankin Park in Greenock.
- 1.3 The service was advised in January 2022 of a significant increase in costs associated with the development which would take it over the budgeted £1.835m to £2.7m. A series of meetings took place with the service, Alliance Leisure (the Agent), Inverclyde Leisure (IL), and our funding partners, Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and sportscotland, to establish where the increase in costs could be attributed and where costs could be driven down.
- 1.4 Alternative models for construction were considered and market tested but this resulted in project costs between £2.6m and £3.6m. Without extra funding from partners, who have advised there is no more funding available for the Rankin Park proposal, there is a funding shortfall of between £0.6-£1.6million. It is unlikely that even if an alternative site was identified that it would be more cost effective.
- 1.5 Paragraph 4.1 of this report outlines the three potential options the service considered. However, given the significant increased costs of the project due to market conditions; the difficulties of the site; the uncertainty in the leisure sector, combined with the financial context of the Council and IL, it is recommended that the project should not be progressed any further, and cancelled.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee;
- approves that the project to build an Indoor Tennis Facility at Rankin Park is cancelled and that sportscotland and the LTA are formally advised of the Committee's decision.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 At its meeting on 21 January 2019, the Education and Communities Committee noted an application which was made to the Transforming Scottish Indoor Tennis Fund (TSIT) with the Council's contribution to the overall project previously agreed as £500k, with a total project cost of £1.35m. The project would be managed by Inverclyde Leisure and its development partner (Alliance Leisure), procured through the established UK Leisure procurement framework (UKLF). Funding for the project would be provided by Inverclyde Council, the Lawn Tennis Association through its TSIT programme, sportscotland and to a lesser extent, Inverclyde Leisure.
- 3.2 The project would utilise and extend the existing pavilion at Rankin Park to include 3 indoor tennis courts, a gym, play area and café. At this time, the requirements of the project were that it must have a minimum of three indoor courts; have other facilities on site to support the project; and critically, be attached to an existing facility.
- 3.3 Regular updates have been provided to the Education and Communities Committee regarding the development of the Indoor Tennis Facility at Rankin Park. A report was considered by the Education and Communities Committee in September 2020 which set out proposals to move the location of the facility from being attached to the existing changing pavilion at Rankin Park to a self-contained facility on the ground that, at that time, was occupied by the second bowling green of Rankin Park Bowling Club. This significant change to the project was required due to the likelihood of an objection being lodged by SEPA to the original site following identification of a flood plain on the site of the proposed build. This change, which in effect increased the size of the build to incorporate the changing accommodation separate from the pavilion, together with the impact of the COVID pandemic contributed to both a delay to the project timeline and a subsequent increase in the estimated cost of the project. Alliance Leisure indicated at this time that the total estimated cost of the revised development proposals would be £1.835m, subject to confirming ground conditions through intrusive survey and the final market testing process.
- 3.4 Sportscotland and the LTA confirmed a contribution of £1.2million, meaning a Council commitment to the project of £635k.
- 3.5 In December 2021, the Rankin Park Bowling Club lease was varied to remove the second green and a grant of £25k was awarded to the club in order that it could carry out minor repairs and improvements and provide a large enough footprint for the project. During this time, the planning application was approved and the service and IL began the process of preparing for full market testing of the project.
- 3.6 Meetings with the service, IL and Alliance Leisure took place early January 2022 to attempt to establish cost certainty. On 20 January 2022, the service and IL were advised the estimated project cost in its current scope and specification had increased to circa £2.7m. Alliance Leisure advised that this change was due to a number of factors, including an underestimation of the costs associated with the changing accommodation and ventilation; increased costs in the ground works identified through the intrusive surveys; and market pressures leading to an increase in the cost of steel, concrete and labour. The service, IL, Alliance Leisure and our funding partners engaged in discussions to identify the increased costs in relation to the projected £1.835m estimate prior to market testing; options for changes to the project; and ultimately deciding whether the revised estimated costs represented value for money for all partners involved.
- 3.7 Since February 2022, the service and IL were engaged in discussions with Alliance Leisure to establish where the cost increases occurred and also to make attempts to drive down the overall cost of the project through value engineering, including the use of an internal modular unit, and evaluating options for the removal of spoil from the site. Additionally, the service and IL have engaged with sportscotland throughout this time to ensure the project remained within the original

aims of the agreement with the LTA. As a result of the value engineering and the changes to the removal of spoil, estimated costs for the project reduced to around £2.4m.

- 3.8 As part of the 2022/23 Budget in February 2022, the Council set aside an additional £200k for the project should it be required, thus increasing the total Council funding to £835k, increasing the funding available to £2.035million. Officers began working with sportscotland and the LTA to examine whether they would also increase their contribution in line with the Council's increased commitment.
- 3.9 At a meeting with sportscotland on 4 May 2022, sportscotland highlighted concerns that they and the LTA had over the rising costs of the project and its perceived reduction in the quality of the centre which reduced the estimated cost from £2.7m to £2.4m. It further advised that it was their view that similar projects were coming in at around £1.6m/£1.7m. As such they were unlikely to support any increased investment beyond the £1.2m already promised. At this meeting, sportscotland also suggested that the Council may wish to arrange for IL to consider alternative providers through market testing.
- 3.10 It was the view of officers that this £1.6m/£1.7m cost for similar projects may not account for a project on the site of the former bowling green at Rankin Park has challenging ground conditions due to the presence of a water main, the removal of spoil and its proximity to flood plains. Nor is it clear if similar projects included a gym and café area. Alliance Leisure Ltd advised that the increase costs were deemed appropriate in terms of the current provider, but also advised that a different design and different provider may nevertheless come in less expensive than the current quote.
- 3.11 Further market testing was undertaken in July and August 2022. In September 2022, the service was advised of the following results for a project without the value engineering referred to at 3.7 above:

Provider	Frame	Est cost £m
A	Aluminium	2.6
B	Aluminium	2.8
C	Steel	3.4
D	Steel	3.4
E	Timber	3.6

- 3.12 A meeting to discuss the market testing results was held with funding partners on 9 September 2022. Although the funding partners expressed their continued commitment to an Indoor Tennis Facility in Inverclyde, they have now advised that they are reluctant to support any increase in their contribution on the specific site at Rankin Park due to the significant groundwork costs. It is their view that there would be a disproportionate cost for the groundworks, in relation to the rest of the project.
- 3.13 Funding partners acknowledged the significant resources the Council and IL have already allocated to the project. They also acknowledged the Council's projected budget gap and the competing priorities it now has and were advised that as a result of this, elected members may be reluctant to proceed with the project any further, let alone consider a change in location. Nevertheless, it was indicated by funders that with the 'right' product in place, they may be in a position to increase their current funding contribution of £1.2m, should an alternative site be identified.

3.14 Given the significant budget pressures identified by the Council, it was agreed by the Education and Communities Committee at its meeting on 1 November 2022 that the future of the Indoor Tennis Project should be considered as part of the Council's Budget process for 2023/25. Following this, sportscotland was advised of the Committee's decision.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 The views of sportscotland of building on the Rankin Park site, the increase in costs and the budget process presented officers with a number of options to recommend to the Education and Communities Committee:

1. Proceeding with the project on the existing site, regardless of sportscotland's recommendations. This would, however, necessitate an increase in the Council's contribution from £835k to at least £1.4m. It is officers' view that the increased cost to the Council is very difficult to justify given the challenging financial context facing the Council;
2. For the service to identify alternative sites within Rankin Park (such as on the grass pitch) or in other areas across Inverclyde which will have more 'straightforward' ground works but will still encourage wider participation in tennis. With this option, there remains the risk there would not be a reduction in overall costs. Additionally, the identification of an alternative site which meets the requirements of the TSIT programme would be extremely difficult. The Rankin Park site was specifically chosen because of its proximity to other facilities and also the socio-economic make-up of the area. Any other site in Inverclyde would also have the potential to come across the same issues as the Rankin Park site; or
3. To recommend the cancellation of the project entirely. This option would return the balance of £740k from the Communities Capital programme.

4.2 Having considered the options, the significant pressure on the Council's future Capital Programme plus the potential for significant savings within the existing Leisure estate as part of the 2023/26 Budget, the Corporate Management Team recommends option 3. The project was initially intended to be revenue cost neutral beyond years 3 and 4 and this would be increasingly unlikely to be achieved given the ongoing financial pressures facing the wider leisure industry and increasing utility and non-domestic rates costs. Committee should be re-assured that relationships with the external funding providers have remained positive throughout this process. Additionally, sportscotland is keen to emphasise, that whilst this project has had a number of setbacks, relationships remain strong and that it remains keen to continue to work in partnership with Inverclyde Council, and explore projects in the future.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	X		
Legal/Risk	X		
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		X	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty		X	
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X	
Environmental & Sustainability		X	
Data Protection		X	

5.2 Finance

At present there is not a fundable solution to build an Indoor Tennis facility on the site identified by the Council. The Council is facing major pressures on the overall capital programme and there are proposals to materially reduce the size of the existing leisure estate due to the Revenue Budget funding gap. In addition, due to increasing running costs it is now less certain that the facility would not require some level of deficit funding from the Council.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Capital	Indoor Tennis	To 2022/23 2022/23	£95k (£740k)		Sunk costs out of the £835k Council Contribution Capital freed up if project does not proceed

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

5.3 Legal/Risk

Due to the increased costs of the project, there are financial risks to the Council, particularly in light of competing priorities in the IL managed estate.

5.4 Human Resources

None

5.5 Strategic

The development of Indoor Tennis facility has been a key project for the Council, Inverclyde Leisure and sportscotland for several years. However, the context has changed since the project was initially brought forward. In addition, the project has increased significantly in costs, in a time of increasing budget pressures.

5.6 Consultation

No consultations have taken place in respect of this specific project but IL funding was considered as part of the Council-wide budget consultation in October 2022.

5.7 Background papers

None

Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	24 January 2023
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/02/23/MR
Contact Officer:	Michael Roach, Head of Education	Contact No:	01475 712761
Subject:	Education Scotland Report on Kings Oak Primary School and Nursery Class		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to inform the Education & Communities Committee of the Education Scotland short inspection of King's Oak Primary School and Nursery Class.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 King's Oak Primary School and Nursery Class was inspected from 20 – 22 of September 2022, under the Education Scotland's short inspection model. The inspection focused on progress being made within the school and nursery class to improve learning and teaching, and to raise attainment, securing progress in closing the poverty-related attainment gap.

2.2 The report published in November 2022 outlines the positive practices and interventions that are having an impact on improving outcomes for learners within the school and nursery class and areas for improvement.

2.3 Education Scotland notes that senior leaders and staff in the school and nursery work effectively to foster strong, positive and nurturing relationships. Alongside this they comment on the staff's work to secure and maintain good learning and teaching.

2.4 The report identifies the polite, motivated children who show empathy for one another in class and around the school as a key strength. They state that they respond well to opportunities to learn in different contexts calmly and respectfully.

2.5 The inspection team praised staff in all roles across the school and nursery for having children's wellbeing and success at the heart of everything they do. They comment that they know the local context very well and are adapting approaches to learning and teaching well to maintain children's engagement and enthusiasm in their learning and respond to their interests and needs.

2.6 Education Scotland highlighted three areas for improvement which include:

- Continue to raise attainment for all children across the school and nursery class.
- As planned, develop more effective systems to monitor the progress and attainment of children in all areas of their learning.
- As a priority, senior leaders should work closely with the local authority to develop the roll out of digital technologies across the school and nursery.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education & Communities Committee notes the Education Scotland report on King's Oak Primary School and Nursery Class.

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

4.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 4.1 As part of Education Scotland's inspection framework, King's Oak Primary School and Nursery Class was inspected in September 2022. Education Scotland staff and associate assessors from education authorities, evaluated the education provision provided within the school and nursery
- 4.2 The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school at all stages, identified key strengths and areas for improvement.

The framework for this inspection included reviewing quality indicators which enabled Education Scotland to evaluate aspects of:

- 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment
 - 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement
- 4.3 Education Scotland assessed and reported on the views of parents, pupils and staff, the quality of learning and teaching and how well the school was raising attainment and achievement for all pupils
 - 4.4 The report was published in November 2022. It has been issued to staff, parents, local elected members and the Convener and Vice-Convener (Education).

5.0 CURRENT PROVISION

- 5.1 King's Oak Primary School and Nursery Class has received a positive report overall from Education Scotland which outlines the progress made in two key areas. There are three areas for improvement across the school and nursery.
- 5.2 The report noted that senior leaders and staff in the school and nursery work effectively to foster strong, positive and nurturing relationships. The positive relationships across the school and its community are cited as strengths.
- 5.3 It also reported that the school is benefitting from infrastructure improvements to IT and that maximising the use of digital technologies is at an early stage.
- 5.4 In almost all classes the report highlights that children participate well in lessons and that across the early level pupils are experiencing learning in line with the principles of Releasing the Ambition.
- 5.5 The report outlines that Senior leaders and teachers are creating increased opportunities for children to contribute effectively to the wider life of the school and developing social skills.
- 5.6 The use of assessment is noted as being robust and is leading to improved outcomes. The report asks the school to continue with its plans to further develop assessment and moderation and extend assessment process across all curricular areas.
- 5.7 Progress in literacy and numeracy is noted as being satisfactory across the early and first level and is good at the second level. The report indicates that the school data indicates that the SLT and teachers have raised attainment over the past four years in aspects of literacy and numeracy. Improvement activity to raise attainment further is ongoing. The attainment gap has narrowed most noticeably in reading, writing and numeracy. Recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic at second level shows an improving picture to prior levels of attainment over the past five years.

- 5.8 The report also outlines that the headteacher plans effectively for a range of interventions using PEF and Scottish Attainment Challenge Funding, in consultation with staff and parents.
- 5.9 In the Nursery Class the report outlines that the children are happy, settled, and enjoy their time in nursery. All children benefit from nurturing relationships with practitioners which helps build children's confidence and self-esteem. The depute and practitioners work well together in improving the environment. It is well organised and provides spaces for children to explore independently.
- 5.10 The report outlines that practitioners are implementing improvement planning well which is having a positive impact on the learning experiences for all children. The inspection found that the depute motivates and leads the nursery team well to do their best for the children in their care.
- 5.11 The inspection found that the nursery has a strong focus on health and wellbeing which is having a positive impact on children's learning, development and achievements. The nursery team takes very positive steps to ensure equity for all. They are very aware of the children affected by poverty and take appropriate and sensitive steps to address this. Children who require additional support for learning have effective individual targeted support plans.
- 5.12 In assessing the quality indicators, Education Scotland found them to be the following:

For the Primary School:

2.3	Learning, teaching and assessment	good
3.2	Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory

For the Nursery Class:

2.3	Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
3.2	Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory

- 5.13 The report outlines that Education Scotland are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection.
- 5.14 They have asked that the Education Service and school will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.
- 5.15 The Head teacher, Depute Head Teacher and Depute of the Nursery class continue to meet with their Education Officer on a regular basis to ensure that the actions from the report and incorporated into their school improvement plan and thus track progress. This will be reported on in full in the annual standards and quality report to parents.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 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/Risk

The Additional Support for Learning act requires authorities to ensure that all policies and procedures are in place to ensure appropriate provision. An ASL tribunal service is in place where there is a disagreement between a local authority and a family.

6.3 Human Resources

None.

6.4 Strategic

None.

6.5 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

A full Equalities impact assessment has been completed for this policy.

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
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, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(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 – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

6.6 Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children’s rights.

6.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

6.8 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 – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 N/A

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 The inspection report can be accessed here:

[King’s Oak Primary School and Nursery Class visit letter, Inverclyde Council 15/11/22 \(education.gov.scot\)](#)

The summary of findings for the primary school and nursery class can be found here:

[King’s Oak Primary School, Inverclyde Council 15/11/22 \(education.gov.scot\)](#)

[King’s Oak Primary School and Nursery Class, Inverclyde Council 15/11/22 \(education.gov.scot\)](#)

Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	24 January 2023
Report By:	Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance and Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	FIN/77/22/AP/IC
Contact Officer:	Iain Cameron	Contact No:	01475 712832
Subject:	Education Revenue Budget Report - 2022/23 Projected Outturn at 31 October 2022		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 To advise Committee of the 2022/23 Education Revenue Budget position at 31 October 2022.
- 1.3 The total Education Revenue Budget for 2022/23, excluding Earmarked Reserves, is currently £92.354 million. The latest projection is an overspend of £92,000 (0.1%), which is an increase in expenditure of £125,000 since Period 5. More details are provided in section 3 of the report and the appendices. The projection excludes a utilities cost pressure of over £1 million which has been reported corporately at the Policy and Resources Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the current projected overspend for the 2022/23 Education Revenue Budget of £92,000 as at 31 October 2022.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Committee note that overall Education and Communities are projecting to outturn £162,000 overbudget. However, there is anticipated income as outlined at 5.2 and the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development and Heads of Service are continuing to review areas where non-essential spend can be reduced in order to alleviate this overspend.

Alan Puckrin
Interim Director Finance
& Corporate Governance

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities
& Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the current position of the 2022/23 Education Revenue Budget and to highlight the main variances contributing to the projected overspend of £92,000.
- 3.2 The current Education Revenue Budget for 2022/23 is £92.354 million which is a decrease of £3.047 million from the Approved Budget. Appendix 1 provides more details of the budget movement.
- 3.3 **2022/23 Projected Outturn (£92,000 Overspend 0.1%)**

The main projected variances contributing to the net overspend are listed below and in Appendix 3:

- (a) Projected underspend of £192,000 for Teachers Employee Costs.
- (b) Projected overspend of £109,000 for Non teachers Employee Costs, mainly due to non achievement of turnover savings targets.
- (c) Projected underspend of £68,000 for Property Costs (Underspends of £44,000 for Non Domestic Rates, £21,000 for Water, £20,000 for Sanitary Products and £43,000 for Biomass Fuel. Overspend of £60,000 for Janitors and Cleaning).
- (d) Projected overspend of £244,000 for External Transport Costs (Underspend of £38,000 for SPT School Buses. Overspends of £8,000 for PE Transport, £47,000 for Gaelic Transport, £18,000 for Pupil Consortium Travel and £209,000 for ASN Transport).
- (e) Projected underspend on FM Catering Provisions of £41,000.
- (f) Projected underspend of £91,000 for Education Catering Charge.
- (g) Projected underspend of £37,000 for Early Years Framework.
- (h) Projected overspend of £93,000 for ASN Placements.
- (i) Projected under recovery of £46,000 due to shortfall in School Meals Income.
- (j) Projected under recovery of £32,000 due to shortfall in Breakfast Club Income.
- (k) Projected under recovery of £31,000 for Facilities Management Income (over recovery of Cleaning and Janitors income in line with increased employee costs £50,000 and £10,000 and under recovery of Catering income £91,000, in line with reduced employee costs and provisions spend).

3.4 VIREMENTS

There are no virements this Committee cycle.

3.5 EARMARKED RESERVES

Appendix 4 gives an update on the operational Earmarked Reserves, ie excluding strategic funding models. Spend to date on these operational Earmarked Reserves is currently £2.021 million (which is 106% of phased budget and 71% of total projected spend).

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The projected outturn has increased from an underspend of £33,000 at Period 5 to an overspend of £92,000 at Period 7. The Corporate Director and Heads of Service will continue to ensure that steps are taken to reduce expenditure where necessary and maximise income to ensure that overall Education and Communities outturns within budget.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	x		
Legal/Risk	x		
Human Resources		x	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		x	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			x
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			x
Environmental & Sustainability			x
Data Protection			x

5.2 Finance

The projected overspend of £92,000 will continue to be monitored and progress reported to the next meeting of the Committee. Officers continue to liaise with UK and Scottish Governments to maximise income for New Scots and it is anticipated that when this is finalised, the overall Committee should outturn within budget. The Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development and Heads of Service will also continue to review areas where non-essential spend can be reduced, including delaying filling vacancies.

This position excludes a projected overspend on electricity and gas which is currently projected to be in excess of £1 million for this Committee. This overspend is being reported within Policy & Resources Committee as a corporate overspend.

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					

5.3 Legal/Risk

The approved Governance Documents set out the roles and responsibilities of Committees and officers in ensuring budgets are not overspent and the process to be followed in the event an overspend is unavoidable.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no specific human resources implications arising from this report.

5.5 Strategic

There are no specific strategic implications arising from this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The paper has been jointly prepared by the Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance and the Corporate Director, Education, Communities, and Organisational Development.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 There are no background papers for this report.

Education Budget Movement - 2022/23**Period 7 - 1st April 2022 to 31st October 2022**

Service	Approved Budget	Movements			Revised Budget 2022/23 £000
	2022/23 £000	Inflation £000	Virement £000	Supplementary Budgets £000	
Corporate Director	150		1		151
Education	79,581	344	(4,726)	1,463	76,362
Inclusive Education	15,564	18	(56)	123	15,649
Facilities Management	106	80	6		192
Totals	95,401	442	(4,775)	1,586	92,354

Movement Detail**External Resources**

Probationer Teachers
Teachers Pay Award 01/01/22

594
992

1,586

Virements

SEMP to Loan Charges
Funding for Whiteboards
Insurance
ASN to Corporate Comms

(4,656)
(150)
54
(23)

(4,775)

Inflation

SEMP
Internal Transport - Fuel
Catering Provisions

344
18
80

442

(2,747)

EDUCATION**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT****CURRENT POSITION****Period 7 - 1st April 2022 to 31st October 2022**

2021/22 Actual £000	Subjective Heading	Approved Budget 2022/23 £000	Revised Budget 2022/23 £000	Projected Out-turn 2022/23 £000	Projected Over/(Under) Spend £000	Percentage Over/ (Under)
48,707	Employee Costs - Teachers	48,911	52,086	51,894	(192)	(0.37%)
29,719	Employee Costs - Non Teachers	28,642	31,728	31,837	109	0.34%
18,509	Property Costs	14,355	14,352	14,284	(68)	(0.47%)
6,132	Supplies & Services	5,590	6,003	5,851	(152)	(2.53%)
2,163	Transport Costs	2,245	2,199	2,446	247	11.23%
675	Administration Costs	673	718	683	(35)	(4.87%)
5,029	Other Expenditure	20,131	13,076	13,130	54	0.41%
(25,264)	Income	(25,146)	(27,508)	(27,379)	129	(0.47%)
85,670	TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE	95,401	92,654	92,746	92	0.10%
0	Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	
0	Loan Charges / DMR	0	(300)	(300)	0	
85,670	TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE EXCLUDING EARMARKED	95,401	92,354	92,446	92	0.10%

2021/22 Actual £000	Objective Heading	Approved Budget 2022/23 £000	Revised Budget 2022/23 £000	Projected Out-turn 2022/23 £000	Projected Over/(Under) Spend £000	Percentage Over/ (Under)
167	Corporate Director	150	151	160	9	5.96%
59,979	Education	64,158	65,520	65,240	(280)	(0.43%)
115	Facilities Management	106	192	189	(3)	(1.56%)
10,398	School Estate Management Plan	15,423	11,111	11,111	0	-
70,492	TOTAL EDUCATION SERVICES	79,687	76,823	76,540	(283)	(0.37%)
11,279	ASN	11,602	11,716	12,072	356	3.04%
1,675	Community Learning & Development	1,850	1,852	1,844	(8)	(0.43%)
2,057	Other Inclusive Education	2,112	2,112	2,130	18	0.85%
15,011	TOTAL INCLUSIVE EDUCATION	15,564	15,680	16,046	366	2.33%
85,670	TOTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE	95,401	92,654	92,746	92	0.10%
0	Earmarked Reserves	0	0	0	0	
0	Loan Charges / DMR	0	(300)	(300)	0	
85,670	TOTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE EXCLUDING EARMARKED RESERVES	95,401	92,354	92,446	92	0.10%

EDUCATION**REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT****MATERIAL VARIANCES****Period 7 - 1st April 2022 to 31st October 2022**

<u>Out Turn</u> <u>2021/22</u> <u>£000</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Heading</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2022/23</u> <u>£000</u>	<u>Proportion</u> <u>of Budget</u>	<u>Actual to</u> <u>31-Oct-22</u> <u>£000</u>	<u>Projection</u> <u>2022/23</u> <u>£000</u>	<u>(Under)/Over</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>£000</u>	<u>Percentage</u> <u>Over / (Under)</u>
48,707	Employee Costs -Teachers	52,086	30,210	29,897	51,894	(192)	(0.4%)
30,782	Employee Costs - Non Teachers	31,728	16,452	16,636	31,837	109	0.3%
3,303	Non Domestic Rates (NDR)	3,352	3,352	3,308	3,308	(44)	(1.3%)
243	Water	276	138	127	255	(21)	(7.6%)
26	Biomass	84	49	0	41	(43)	(51.2%)
86	Free Sanitary Products	89	52	0	69	(20)	(22.5%)
1,332	ED Cleaning Contract	1,240	517	612	1,290	50	4.0%
3,728	ED Catering Contract	3,414	1,707	1,645	3,323	(91)	(2.7%)
939	FM Catering Provisions	1,060	619	546	1,019	(41)	(3.9%)
1,038	SPT School Buses	1,160	580	556	1,122	(38)	(3.3%)
42	Gaelic Transport	40	20	45	87	47	117.5%
502	ASN Transport	352	176	268	561	209	59.4%
361	ASN Placements	367	214	212	460	93	25.3%
9	Early Years Framework	37	22	0	0	(37)	(100.0%)
(665)	School Meal Income	(646)	(314)	(279)	(600)	46	(7.1%)
(11)	Breakfast Club Income	(50)	(24)	(8)	(18)	32	(64.0%)
(6,806)	FM Income	(6,877)	(3,439)	(2,994)	(6,846)	31	(0.5%)
Total Material Variances						90	

Appendix 4

EARMARKED RESERVES POSITION STATEMENT

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION

<u>Project</u>	<u>Lead Officer/ Responsible Manager</u>	<u>Total Funding 2022/23 £000</u>	<u>Phased Budget To Period 7 2022/23 £000</u>	<u>Actual To Period 7 2022/23 £000</u>	<u>Projected Spend 2022/23 £000</u>	<u>Amount to be Earmarked for 2023/24 & Beyond £000</u>	<u>Lead Officer Update</u>
Beacon Arts	Tony McEwan	87	0	0	27	60	Beacon emergency contingency of £60k, currently no requirement for this funding in 2022/23. It is anticipated that the remaining £27k spend to save funding will be drawn down this financial year.
Year of Young People Legacy	Tony McEwan	30	20	23	30	0	£20k was used as contribution to Free Summer Playschemes and £10k will be used to fund Clyde Conversations event scheduled for Feb 2023.
Early Years 1140	Michael Roach	1,992	992	1,087	1,705	287	Funding additional Teachers in Primary Schools as well as Early Years staff plus core budget shortfall in 2022/23. £287k is required to fund staffing up to June 2023.
ASN Review	Tony McEwan	184	75	58	184	0	Funding for additional PSA staff up to August 2022 (then funded from 1140 EMR) Service will start 2 x new EYECO posts for current academic year pupil support. Balance remaining at end of 2022/23 will be used to offset ASN Transport overspend (projected to be £96k of EMR to offset overspend).
Covid Recovery - Enhanced Cleaning Buildings 2021/22	Ruth Binks	54	54	54	54	0	Spending complete, posts have ended.
Covid Recovery - Additional Cleaning Materials/ Sanitiser/Wipes 2021/22	Ruth Binks	110	0	30	30	80	Per FM there is no longer a requirement for majority of this budget as core budget is now sufficient. £80k will be written back.
Covid Recovery - Extra Duke of Edinburgh Opportunities - 2 years	Ruth Binks	198	49	52	87	111	Paying for 2 additional staff members to November 23 and Resources. £50k will be written back.
Covid - Level 4 2nd Phase	Tony McEwan	158	158	155	158	0	Contribution to FSM payments over summer holidays. Spending almost complete.
Covid - Teachers	Michael Roach	562	562	562	562	0	Funding for Covid Recovery teachers up to July 2022. From August 2022 these teachers have been funded from core budget. Spend now complete.
Total		3,375	1,910	2,021	2,837	538	

Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	24 January 2023
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance	Report No:	EDUCOM/29/23/EM
Contact Officer:	Eddie Montgomery	Contact No:	01475 712472
Subject:	Education Capital Programme 2022/25 - Progress		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to consider performance for the Education part of the Education and Communities Committee and provide an update in respect of the status of the projects forming the Education Capital Programme.
- 1.3 The Education capital budget is £13.638m with total projected spend on budget. The Committee is projecting to spend £2.038m in 2022/23 with £183k advancement being reported. Appendix 1 details the capital programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the current position and the progress on the specific projects of the 2022/25 Capital Programme as outlined in the report and appendix.

Alan Puckrin
Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 This report shows the current position of the approved Education Capital programme reflecting the allocation of resources approved by Inverclyde Council on 24 February 2022.
- 3.2 The report also covers progress on the limited programme of works remaining connected with the 1140 Hours Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare.

2022/25 Current Capital Position

- 3.3 The Education capital budget is £13.368m. The budget for 2022/23 is £1.855m, with spend to date of £1.632m equating to 87.98% of original projected spend (80.08% of the revised projection). The current projection is £13.368m which means total projected spend is on budget. The revised projection for 2022/23 is £2.038m with £183k advancement in connection with the over expenditure on the Gourock Primary School project as outlined in 3.4 below. Appendix 1 provides more detail.

Education Capital Projects

- 3.4 **Gourock Primary School Extension:** The Contractor has now substantially completed the remaining works involving the conversion of the former kitchen area to teaching space and the formation of the extended car parking area. As previously reported to Committee, the allocated budget for the project will be exceeded and final account negotiations for the project are on-going with the overall project cost reconciliation also subject to the engagement and resolution of the original contract and performance bond. Over expenditure of £247K is currently being reported as indicated within the Appendix. The total cost of the project is being contained through a review of existing unallocated funds within the lifecycle fund and the complete on site allowances. A report on the outcome will be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

Education Lifecycle Works 2022/23

- 3.5 **General Lifecycle Works:** The lifecycle programme for the Education estate is informed from the external condition surveys carried out in connection with asset management and estate core fact reporting. The budget also addresses suitability issues identified from the surveys undertaken through Heads of each establishment and sufficiency issues identified through the continued monitoring of school rolls and projections. The lifecycle programme for the four PPP schools is managed as part of the contract through the Facilities Management provider with monitoring via Property Services. The 2022/23 programme works continues to be progressed. A summary of projects completed or in development to date is included as Appendix 2.

1140 Hours Expansion - Various Establishment Minor Works

- 3.6 An allocation of funds was made available from the projected early years revenue underspend to address improvements across a number of early years establishments associated with access to, and use of, external environments. Works have been completed at Blairmore Nursery. The Enabling works at Wemyss Bay Nursery Class were undertaken over the October holiday period and tenders have been returned for the proposed porch / canopy works with a formal acceptance imminent. The works proposed at Kings Oak Nursery Class will be phased to address disruptive works at an appropriate time and with the canopy works tender preparation ongoing and external fencing alterations being scoped.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Committee are asked to note the progress on projects and note that relevant reports will be brought back for Committee consideration as and when required.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		X	
Legal/Risk		X	
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)			X
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			X
Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

5.2 Finance

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					

5.3 Legal/Risk

There are no known Legal implications contained within this report.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no known Human Resources implications contained within this report.

5.5 Strategic

None

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 This report has been prepared following consultation with the Interim Head of Property Services and Finance Services.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

EDUCATION CAPITAL REPORT

Appendix 1

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION & COMMUNITIES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Est Total Cost	Actual to 31/3/22	Approved Budget 2022/23	Revised Est 2022/23	Actual to 30/11/22	Est 2023/24	Est 2024/25	Est Future Years
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<u>SEMP Projects</u>							
9,153	0	805	805	510	4,347	3,000	1,001
3,331	2,311	706	1,020	1,020	0	0	0
183	91	53	20	20	72	0	0
390	0	71	44	44	346	0	0
13,057	2,402	1,635	1,889	1,594	4,765	3,000	1,001
<u>ELC 1140 Projects</u>							
141	0	71	0	0	141	0	0
141	0	71	0	0	141	0	0
<u>CFCR Projects</u>							
170	21	149	149	38	0	0	0
170	21	149	149	38	0	0	0
13,368	2,423	1,855	2,038	1,632	4,906	3,000	1,001
TOTAL ALL PROJECTS							

Education Lifecycle Works 2022/23									
School / Centre Name	Lifecycle Element					Comments / description			
	Floor Finishes	Decoration	Building Services / Systems	Fittings / Fittings	External Fabric Treatment	External Fencing	External Works	Partial Refurb	
Education - Primary									
Aileymill Primary School		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Smoke curtains, car park surfacing, water coolers.
All Saints Primary School		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Smoke curtains, car park surfacing, water coolers.
Ardgowan Primary School		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						Emergency lighting.
Gourock Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		External furniture / fittings Gym hall floor refurb + decor. Fire alarm upgrade.
Inverkip Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Kilmacollm Primary School							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Partial LED upgrade / emergency lighting / alterations. Fingerguards.
King's Oak Primary School			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Operable windows to screens
Lady Alice Primary School		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					CCTV upgrade / emergency lighting. Fingerguards.
Newark Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						Boiler seals / CCTV software + controls / em lighting.
St. Andrew's Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Internal alterations / improvements. Fingerguards.
St Francis Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								Emergency lighting.
St John's Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					Emergency lighting / classroom fittings (part).
St Joseph's Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					External wall décor / additional pinboards (POE).
St Mary's Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
St Michael's Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						Emergency lighting / sprinkler components.
St Ninian's Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						Actuator works.
St Patrick's Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Internal alterations / improvements. Fire alarm panel replacement.
Wemyss Bay Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emergency lighting / pipework / WC refurb (part).
Whinhill Primary School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Education - Secondary									
Clydeview Academy				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		3G Pitch floodlight upgrade (LED) / water coolers / HE ovens / Internal lighting upgrade (LED)
Inverdyke Academy		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					Internal doors (part) / AHU works / External décor.
Notre Dame High School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					Water coolers / HE ovens / external render décor.
Port Glasgow Community Campus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Facade renovation / PE corridor refurb / internal doors (part) / part LED upgrade / hockey goals. Biomass components.
St Columba's High School		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						Emergency lighting.
Education - Standalone Early Years Establishments									
Binnie Street Children's Centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Emergency lighting.
Bluebird Family Centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						Emergency lighting / external lighting.
Gibshill Children's Centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Partial LED upgrade.
Hillend Children's Centre					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				Annexe external décor.
Wellpark Children's Centre			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WC Refurbishment. External lighting.

Noted within August / November reports

Added at January report

Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	24 January 2023
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/02/25/MR
Contact Officer:	Michael Roach	Contact No:	01475 712850
Subject:	Education Update Report – Report on Local and National Initiatives		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to ask members of the Education & Communities Committee to note updates relating to the Education Service both in terms of local development as well as national policy development.

1.3 The report includes update on:

- Care Inspectorate inspection outcomes
- Strategic Equity Fund – stretch aims
- Achievement of a level national data publication
- Education and qualifications reform update
- Consultation on the Transfer of the functions of the Education Appeal Committee to the Scottish Tribunals

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members of the Education & Communities Committee are asked to note the content of the update report.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

3.0 UPDATES

3.1 Care Inspectorate inspection outcomes

Over the autumn term the Care Inspectorate has resumed their inspection activity alongside that of Education Scotland. So far this term 4 authority establishments have been inspected with 2 reports being published. A further 3 private providers have been inspected.

- 3.2 Craigmarloch Onserly (Nursery Class / Primary 1) was inspected in September 2022. The full report can be found here: [Find care \(careinspectorate.com\)](#)

The provision was found to be very good in every category as below:

How good is our care, play and learning?	Very Good
How good is our setting?	Very Good
How good is our leadership?	Very Good
How good is our staff team?	Very Good

- 3.3 Rainbow Family Centre was inspected in October 2022. The full report can be found here: [Site Search \(careinspectorate.com\)](#)

The provision was found to be very good in every category as below:

How good is our care, play and learning?	Very Good
How good is our setting?	Very Good
How good is our leadership?	Very Good
How good is our staff team?	Very Good

- 3.4 St Francis Primary School Nursery Class and Bluebird Family Centre were also inspected this term and we are awaiting the final publication of their reports.

3.5 Scottish Attainment Challenge – stretch aims

As part of the refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge, amongst a number of key changes to the programme are the introduction of Strategic Equity Funding and the publication of the [Scottish Attainment Challenge: Framework for Recovery and Accelerating Progress](#) with its requirement for local authorities to set locally identified stretch aims for progress in raising attainment and closing the poverty related attainment gap. These aims should be embedded in local authority education service improvement plans.

- 3.6 Following rigorous work from local authorities, supported by Education Scotland, all local authorities submitted their stretch aims to Scottish Government at the end of September. A final publication that summarises the collective stretch aims of local authorities was published in early December and can be found here: [Scottish Attainment Challenge - local stretch aims: 2022 to 2023 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

- 3.7 Inverclyde's Strategic Equity Fund plan, as well as our local stretch aims, can be found here: [www.inverclyde.gov.uk/assets/attach/15686/SEF-Plan-2022-2023.pdf](#)

- 3.8 Post-publication, attention will turn to supporting the implementation of these ambitious aims, updating the Framework for Recovery and Accelerating Progress for 2023/24 to reflect updates to the National Improvement Framework (to be found here: [Introduction, vision, and key priorities - Education - Achieving Excellence and Equity: national improvement framework and improvement plan 2022 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)) and take on board feedback from local authority colleagues on the stretch aims process.

3.9 **Education and qualification reform update**

The Education Reform programme continues to be delivered in line with its approach of combining multiple strands of reform within a single programme structure.

- 3.10 The National Discussion closed on 5 December and its outputs are anticipated in the spring. These outputs will be able to be considered by the Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment ahead of the outputs from this being published also in the spring. On 21 October, a public consultation was launched seeking views on the future of qualifications and assessment, including the option of introducing a school leaving certificate. The development of Purpose and Principles for post-school education, research and skills in Scotland is also progressing.
- 3.11 The above will provide the context in which the work to design and deliver the new national education bodies will be taken forward. The current focus in this respect is on development of Strategic Target Operating Models (TOMs) by the end of 2022. These will describe the desired state for each new organisation, offering a high-level representation of how the new bodies can be best organised to more efficiently and effectively deliver and execute our future vision for education.
- 3.12 TOMs will provide a strategic document for dissemination and engagement with users and stakeholders. In line with previous programme commitments, Scottish Government will engage with users and stakeholders through a variety of forums and user experience panels to further develop these models from early 2023 onwards. To support cultural change and in response to Professor Muir's report the TOMs have been informed by a Design Framework which outlines seven elements which are mandatory in the design of the new bodies. These design principles mean all 3 new bodies must be: User-centred, data focused, flexible to change, learning organisations, digital by default, collaborative, and operate in a sustainable way.
- 3.13 In line with the commitment in Programme for Government, an Education Reform Bill will be introduced to provide underpinning legislation to the new public body responsible for qualifications and the new independent inspectorate. It is anticipated that this will be in the first part of 2023.

A full range of stakeholder engagement opportunities will be identified as the reform programme progresses throughout 2023.

3.14 **Publication of Achievement of a Level data 2021/22**

The Scottish Government published the 2021/22 ACEL data on 13 December 2022 and can be found here: [Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence \(CfE\) Levels 2021/22 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/achievements-of-curriculum-for-excellence-cfe-levels-2021-22)

This annual statistical publication:

- Provides information on national performance of school pupils in the **literacy organisers** (i.e. reading, writing, and listening and talking) and **numeracy**.
- Reports on the percentage of pupils who have achieved the expected Curriculum for Excellence level in these organisers, based on teachers' professional judgements.
- Covers all Primary 1 (**P1**), Primary 4 (**P4**), Primary 7 (**P7**) and Secondary 3 (**S3**) pupils in publicly funded mainstream schools, and all pupils based in publicly funded special schools/units.

Further to the recent members briefing where these outcomes were shared at authority level, the benchmarking of data against all other 32 local authorities shows that Inverclyde is within the top 10 performing authorities on all measures.

3.15 Consultation on the transfer of the functions of Education Appeal Committee to the Scottish Tribunal Service

The Scottish Government are consulting on the transfer of functions of Education Appeal Committees to the Scottish Tribunals and are inviting responses to this consultation by 6 February 2023.

The consultation can be accessed at [Education appeal committees - transfer of functions to Scottish Tribunals: consultation - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/consultations/education-appeal-committees-transfer-of-functions-to-scottish-tribunals)

Local authorities are required to set up and maintain Education Appeal Committees (“appeal committees”). The great majority of the appeals considered by these appeal committees relate to school admission placing requests and a smaller number to exclusions from school.

The proposal under consultation is to take forward the transfer of the jurisdiction of appeal committees to the Scottish Tribunals as provided for by the 2014 Act. If approved, this process would require secondary legislation governing the operation of appeal committees to be put in place. This process would be expected to take at least 18 to 24 months from the date a decision is made to progress the transfer.

Officers from both Legal and Education Services have collaborated to respond to the consultation, and a copy of the response is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		X	
Legal/Risk	X		
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		X	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty		X	
Children & Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing		X	
Environmental & Sustainability		X	
Data Protection		X	

4.2 Finance

There are limited financial costs associated with the information provided in this paper.

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					

4.3 **Legal/Risk**

None.

4.4 **Human Resources**

None.

4.5 **Strategic**

None.

4.6 **Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty**

A full Equalities impact assessment has been completed for this policy.

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
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, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(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 – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

4.7 Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

4.8 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

4.9 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 – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

5.0 CONSULTATIONS

N/A.

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A.

Response to Scottish government about transfer of Education Appeals to the Scottish Tribunals

Question 1

Do you agree that appeal committees **should transfer** to the Scottish Tribunals?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Please explain your answer in the text box.

There is no need for the work of appeal committees to transfer to the Scottish Tribunals. It is the view of Inverclyde Council's Education Service that the existing appeals process to the Education Appeal Committee is fit for purpose and works well. The experience of Inverclyde's Education Service is that appeals which have been considered and determined by the Inverclyde Education Appeal Committee are well run and progress expeditiously. The current process permits the Council's Education Appeals Committee to retain control over the timing of appeals to ensure they are progressed in a timely manner and concluded prior to the commencement of the new school term in August each year. Most appeals before the Inverclyde Education Appeal Committee are heard in April or May each year to allow sufficient time for parents to appeal any decision to the local Sheriff Court and learn the outcome of that appeal prior to the commencement of the new school term in August.

Furthermore, in the past Inverclyde's Education Service has received a high number of appeals in relation to placing requests. It is believed that transferring appeals to the Tribunal Service will notably increase the volume of work for officers of the Council's Education Service and the Council's Legal Service team, in terms of attending and presenting the Council's case to the Tribunal, with its own procedural rules, to represent the Education Service at preliminary and subsequent Appeal Hearings and also when preparing large bundles of documentation to assist the Tribunal.

Transferring the work to the Tribunal Service is likely to make it more difficult for parents to participate in the process and we feel that the proposal will disadvantage those from less affluent areas because of the need to travel quite a distance to the location. We also feel that people in professional occupations will be more confident when entering the tribunal setting. We feel that people are more comfortable visiting their local Council buildings which are known to them than appearing in a tribunal setting.

We consider the numbers in the proposal paper to be out of date and do not feel that they accurately affect the fluctuations and numbers that can be involved in the appeals process. We anticipate that this will almost inevitably mean a delay in settling appeals and that the outcomes of appeals may be unknown until after the new academic term has commenced. This will result in significant disruption to the schooling of pupils in Inverclyde, disrupting timetables for whole year groups (or indeed whole schools) if extra classes need to be created as a result.

Question 2

Do you consider that appeal committees should remain with local authorities but with improvements to how they operate? And if so, what changes would you like to see?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Please explain your answer in the text box.

We are of the view that education appeals should continue to be dealt with by the Local Authority Education Appeal Committee and we do not consider that improvements are necessary.

Question 3

Do you consider that no changes should be made to how appeal committees operate? And if so, why?

Yes, no changes should be made

No, changes should be made

Not Sure

Please explain your answer in the text box.

The experience of Inverclyde Council in relation to how the education appeal committee process currently operates is very positive. Inverclyde Education Appeal Committee members are well trained and ably advised by a very experienced legal representative. All Chair members of Inverclyde education appeal committees are specifically trained to put appellants at ease, insofar as this is possible, and go to great lengths to ensure that appellants are provided with a fair hearing, by those who have an intimate knowledge of Inverclyde, its communities and schools. The current system is able to manage time pressures and enables important decisions to be taken expeditiously by an experienced Committee with good knowledge of local issues. It is believed that transfer of the process to the Tribunal Service will entirely remove the ability of Inverclyde's Education Appeal Committee to retain control over the timing of appeal hearings and place an additional burden upon Inverclyde Education Authority officers, both in terms of appearing at Tribunal hearings and the preparation of paperwork. Transfer will also make the process more remote for families. As noted above, these proposals would likely also result in additional work for Council officers.

Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	24 January 2023
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/28/23/MR
Contact Officer:	Michael Roach	Contact No:	01475 712850
Subject:	Outcome of Pre-consultation Process – Future Leadership of Blairmore Nursery School		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to ask members of the Education & Communities Committee to agree the formal consultation process regarding the future leadership of Blairmore Nursery School.
- 1.3 The Education Service carried out a pre formal consultation process with key stakeholders on the future leadership and status of Blairmore Nursery School in Greenock during October and November 2022. This was agreed to at the last Education Committee meeting.
- 1.4 The previous Head teacher retired in August 2022. A temporary Head teacher is in place for session 2022 / 23. Given this there has been an opportunity to review the leadership options for the school including its status as a standalone establishment.
- 1.5 A pre-consultation process allowed the service to engage with the key stakeholders linked to the school to hear about their thoughts for how the leadership of the school and the school's status might best progress and identify a single preferred option to take forward into a formal statutory consultation, unless there is no appetite to change the current status of the school.
- 1.6 Three key options were identified by the service and these formed the basis of the pre consultation process i.e. the school remains a school in its own right led by a Head teacher, the provision becomes a nursery class and is amalgamated as part of All Saints Primary school or the school remains as an establishment in its own right but becomes an early learning centre.
- 1.7 There are no proposals to change the early years currently on offer i.e. provision for 2-3 year olds and 3-5 years.
- 1.8 In fully considering the feedback received from all stakeholders during the pre-consultation process, it has been determined that establishing Blairmore as a standalone Family Centre is the preferred option of the majority of stakeholder and responders and the one that the service would now recommend is taken forward through a formal consultation process.

1.9 The planned consultation timeline would begin on 24 January 2023, concluding on 14 March with a report on its outcome being brought back to Committee in May 2023.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members of the Education & Communities Committee are asked to approve the commencement of a formal consultation process with key stakeholders of Blairmore Nursery school for it to become a standalone Early Learning Centre under the leadership of a Head of Centre. The proposal paper is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 Blairmore Nursery School is located in the East End of Greenock. It shares a campus with All Saints Primary School.

The School provides Early Learning and Childcare for 72 children aged 3 -5 years and 15 children aged 2 – 3 years. Family support services are provided within the school and the community.

The service provides high quality care and learning. This is evidenced by internal self-evaluation processes, Authority quality assurance processes and external evaluations.

The Head teacher retired in August 2022. A temporary Head teacher is in place for session 2022/23 allowing the service to consider, with the community, the best way forward for the leadership of the school.

3.2 Across Inverclyde there are a variety of models of Early Years establishments including 2 nursery schools, one of which is Blairmore, standalone early years family and children’s centres and nursery classes as part of primary schools.

3.3 The Education Service considered that there were 3 options to consider during a pre-consultation process:

- The nursery school remains as a standalone nursery school and a replacement Headteacher is recruited.
- The nursery school is incorporated into All Saints Primary School as a nursery class under the leadership of the Headteacher of All Saints Primary School.
- The nursery school becomes a standalone Early Learning Centre under the leadership of a Head of Centre.

3.4 The pre-consultation process didn’t offer other options that the service has not considered that could be taken forward.

3.5 Pre-consultation process and outcome

During October and November 2022, a Your Voice portal linked to the pre-consultation was made live and shared widely via letters and social medial channels, to all key stakeholders linked to Blairmore and All Saints Primary School, including all staff and parents.

3.6 A meeting was held for all parents affected by the proposal as well as separate meetings for the staff teams at Blairmore and All Saints Primary School. All staff attended the meetings at the schools. There were less than 5 parents in attendance at the parent meeting.

3.7 During the parent meeting a presentation was given by the Head of Education, explaining both the pre-consultation process as well as the three options therein. During the parent consultation meeting there were very few questions asked that affected the overall outcome of the process.

3.8 During the staff consultation events numerous questions were asked, mainly about the timescales involved, how any amalgamation would affect the overall management structure linked to a nursery class model and its overall capacity vs a standalone model.

3.9 47 people responded to the online consultation as below:

Parent/carer	14
Staff	13
Child	1

Other	10
Other (please specify):	9*

**included grandparents, former parents, council employees in other establishments and former students*

3.10 The first question asked which of the three options was the preferred option of responders. The results were as below:

Option	Number in favour
Option 1: The nursery school remains as a standalone nursery school and a replacement Headteacher is recruited.	16
Option 2: The nursery school is incorporated into All Saints Primary School as a nursery class under the leadership of the Headteacher of All Saints Primary School.	7
Option 3: The nursery school becomes a standalone Early Learning Centre under the leadership of a Head of Centre.	23

*one responder skipped this question.

3.11 The second question asked responders to outline the main reason for their responses. These are summarised against each option as below:

Options	Reasons for choosing the option
Option 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave things as they are as the current school is doing well under a headteacher • Any change could have a negative impact on what is working • Pupils and staff already getting the support they need from a head teacher • Becoming part of All Saints school could have a detrimental impact as there would be too much pressure on the head of the school as Blairmore has a total of 87 children. • Blairmore is non-denominational whereby All Saints is a catholic school • The nursery has a great reputation within the community and is a desirable early years establishment that gets a good reputation for providing high quality service and has a personal approach to all who attend • The nursery is run well with a teacher as head and this should continue as the teacher is bringing different skills from an EYECO and this can only benefit the children that attend
Option 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitions would be easier / smoother • Easier for parents to communicate with just one Head teacher • Happens in other schools and works well. • Would save the council money.
Option 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery needs its own head to provide support to families and staff and maintain current standards • Too many children for one headteacher to oversee and support if part of a larger school • Family centres provide a wide range of support and can engage parents in a wide variety of learning opportunities • Blairmore has a strong reputation for family support and engagement this would be promoted more in an Early Learning centre rather than incorporated with a large primary school • One respondent chose this option due to the possibility of extended hours and a change in provision but this is not being proposed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model 3 offers own budget to be spent responsively on learners needs responsively and decided by management and not shared across the school as well
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4.0 PROPOSALS TO BE TAKEN FORWARD TO FORMAL CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Given the above, the service would concur that changing the status of the Nursery School to that of an Early Years Children’s Centre. The proposal paper is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 4.2 For any change of status of an education establishment a formal consultation process must take place under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This would include a clear proposal document being shared taking forward option 3 outlined above, with consultation events taking place as well as a route for feedback on the consultation to be taken both in person and in written form via the council website.
- 4.3 For any change of status of an education establishment a formal consultation process must take place under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This would include a clear proposal document being shared taking forward option 3 outlined above, with consultation events taking place as well as a route for feedback on the consultation to be taken both in person and in written form via the council website.
- 4.4 Education Scotland’s formal report on the proposals from the local authority / service would be published. This would then be shared with the Education Committee who would have the final decision on the proposals being made.
- 4.5 Length of Consultation Period

An advertisement will be placed in the local newspaper on 26 January 2023. The consultation process will end on 14 March 2023. This is a consultation period in excess of six weeks and including thirty school days as required by statute.

Date	Action
27 January 2023 – 14 March	Public Consultation period Publication of proposal paper. Public Meeting to be held at Blairmore on Monday 27 February 2023.
17 March 2023	Report sent to Education Scotland
7 April 2023	Report received back from Education Scotland
18 April 2023	Summary of consultation report completed
9 May 2023	Report to Committee

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		X	
Legal/Risk	X		
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		X	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty	X		
Children & Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing		X	
Environmental & Sustainability		X	
Data Protection		X	

5.2 Finance

There are no direct financial costs associated with consultation process i.e. there would be no costs to running such a process. The proposed change to a standalone ELC would save £17k. This replaces the £36k February saving proposal.

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
00387 Blairmore Nursery	Employee Costs	Aug 23	(£17,000)	N/A	This is the salary differential between a Head teacher and a Head of Centre – if the change is taken forward.

5.3 Legal/Risk

Any proposed proposals to discontinue permanently a school (this includes special schools and nursery schools) or a stage of education in a school (this includes years in a secondary school or all nursery classes in a primary school or a special class in a mainstream school or where the council proposes to discontinue Gaelic medium provision); are subject to statutory consultation through the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.

5.4 Human Resources

N/A.

5.5 Strategic

N/A.

5.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

X	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required. This will be undertaken after the statutory consultation process.
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	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, assessed as not relevant and no EqlA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqlA is not necessary/screening statement.
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(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 – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty.

5.7 **Children and Young People**

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

5.8 **Environmental/Sustainability**

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.9 **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 – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 This report seeks permission to begin a formal consultation process as above.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 N/A.

Education Services Proposal to change the current Blairmore Nursery School to a standalone Early Learning Centre under the leadership of a Head of Centre

Any proposed proposals to discontinue permanently a school (this includes special schools and nursery schools) or a stage of education in a school (this includes years in a secondary school or all nursery classes in a primary school or a special class in a mainstream school or where the council proposes to discontinue Gaelic medium provision); are subject to statutory consultation through the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.

A pre-consultation process has been undertaken and this showed that the option to change the school to a standalone family centre was the one preferred by the community.

Consultation proposal document

Inverclyde Council are looking for your views on our proposal to change the current Blairmore Nursery School to a standalone Early Learning Centre under the leadership of a Head of Centre.

Any proposed proposals to discontinue permanently a school (this includes special schools and nursery schools) or a stage of education in a school (this includes years in a secondary school or all nursery classes in a primary school or a special class in a mainstream school or where the council proposes to discontinue Gaelic medium provision); are subject to statutory consultation through the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.

A pre-consultation process has been undertaken and this showed that the option to change the school to a standalone family centre was the one preferred by the community.

Closing date for responses on this consultation will be:

- **Tuesday 14 March 2023**

There will be a public meeting held on:

- **Monday 27 February 2023 at 18:30 at Blairmore Nursery School**

This document has been issued by Inverclyde Council for consultation under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone: (01475) 712850.

Contents

List of Consultees and how to access the proposal document

- 1. Background to the proposed changes and pre-consultation process**
- 2. Proposed Options**
- 3. The consultation process**
- 4. Implementation date for the proposal**
- 5. Educational benefits – assessment of the likely effects of the proposal**
- 6. Employee implications**
- 7. Financial implications**
- 8. Responding to the proposal**
- 9. Appendix 1 – Consultation response form**

Communication list and how to access the proposal document:

Statutory consultees:

- The Parent Council of affected schools
- The parents/carers of the pupils at the affected schools
- Parents whose children are expected to attend the affected schools within 2 years of publication of the proposal document
- Pupils (where they are considered to be of suitable age and maturity)
- Council employees at the affected schools
- Trade Union representatives
- Church representatives
- Bord na Gaidhlig

Other stakeholders who will be contacted:

- Education Scotland
- Elected members
- Local Members of Parliament and local members of Scottish Parliament
- General Public (Inverclyde)
- Community Councils

Consultees will be informed that in order for their views to be taken into account, they must complete and submit a copy of the Consultation Response Form. Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposal by making an online submission using the link:

www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay

Alternatively, written submissions should be made using the form attached at the end of this document no later than Tuesday 20 February 2018.

Accessing the proposal document

The steps listed below have been taken to ensure that the proposal document is widely available.

- Notice of the proposal and of publication of this proposal document have been placed in the Greenock Telegraph to engage with the general community.
- The proposal document has been published on the Inverclyde Council website:

www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay

- This document can be made available in alternative forms or translated by contacting Education Services on (01475) 712850.
- The proposal document will also be available for inspection at all educational establishments, Council Customer Services and libraries.

1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES AND PRE-CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 1.1 Blairmore Nursery School is located in the East End of Greenock. It shares a campus with All Saints Primary School. The Head teacher retired in August 2022. A temporary Headteacher is in place for session 2022 / 23.

The School provides Early Learning and Childcare for 72 children aged 3 -5 years and 15 children aged 2 – 3 years. Family support services are provided within the school and the community. The service provides high quality care and learning. This is evidenced by internal self-evaluation processes, Authority quality assurance processes and external evaluations.

We undertook a pre-consultation process because the retirement of the head teacher has allowed the authority to explore different, and potentially better, ways of delivering early years education in the area.

The pre-consultation considered three different options, each with potential merits but also each with potential disadvantages or implications. The options are outlined below.

- Option 1 - The nursery school remains as a standalone nursery school and a replacement Headteacher is recruited.
- Option 2 - The nursery school is incorporated into All Saints Primary School as a nursery class under the leadership of the Headteacher of the Primary School.
- Option 3 - The nursery school becomes a standalone Early Learning Centre (ELC) under the leadership of a Head of Centre.

The results are outlined below:

Option	Number in favour
Option 1: The nursery school remains as a standalone nursery school and a replacement Headteacher is recruited.	16
Option 2: The nursery school is incorporated into All Saints Primary School as a nursery class under the leadership of the Headteacher of All Saints Primary School.	7
Option 3: The nursery school becomes a standalone Early Learning Centre under the leadership of a Head of Centre.	23

Options	Reasons for choosing the option
Option 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave things as they are as the current school is doing well under a headteacher • Any change could have a negative impact on what is working • Pupils and staff already getting the support they need from a head teacher • Becoming part of All Saints school could have a detrimental impact as there would be too much pressure on the head of the school as Blairmore has a total of 87 children. • Blairmore is non denominational whereby All Saints is a catholic school • The nursery has a great reputation within the community and is a

	<p>desirable early years establishment that gets a good reputation for providing high quality service and has a personal approach to all who attend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nursery is run well with a teacher as head and this should continue as the teacher is bringing different skills from an EYECO and this can only benefit the children that attend
Option 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitions would be easier / smoother • Easier for parents to communicate with just one Head teacher • Happens in other schools and works well. • Would save the council money.
Option 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery needs its own head to provide support to families and staff and maintain current standards • Too many children for one headteacher to oversee and support if part of a larger school • Family centres provide a wide range of support and can engage parents in a wide variety of learning opportunities • Blairmore has a strong reputation for family support and engagement this would be promoted more in an Early Learning centre rather than incorporated with a large primary school • One respondent chose this option due to the possibility of extended hours and a change in provision but this is not being proposed. • Model 3 offers own budget to be spent responsively on learners needs responsively and decided by management and not shared across the school as well

2.0 PROPOSED OPTIONS

The option to change the school to a standalone family centre was the one preferred by the community and is the option being proposed during this consultation.

3.0 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 The formal consultation on the proposal within this document will be undertaken under the terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 as amended. The consultation requires to run for 30 school days and will start on 27 January 2023 and will end on 14 March 2023. Written representations must be received by this date in order to be taken into account.

3.2 The schools affected by this proposal are:

Blairmore Nursery School

3.3 Public Meeting

There will be 1 public meeting to held on:

- Monday 27 February 2023 at 6:30 pm at Blairmore Nursery School

The meetings will provide those in attendance with an opportunity to:

- Hear about the proposal.
- Ask questions about the proposal.
- Express views about the proposal.

A note will be taken of the views expressed during the public meeting and of any questions asked. In addition to the public meeting, written representations including online responses will be able to be made during the consultation period.

3.4 Who will be consulted?

Statutory consultees:

- The Parent Partnership (or equivalent) of the school.
- The parents/carers of the pupils at the affected school.
- Parents whose children are expected to attend the affected schools within 2 years of publication of the proposal document.
- Pupils (where they are considered to be of suitable age and maturity).
- Council employees at the affected schools.
- Trade Union representatives.
- Church representatives.
- Bord na Gaidhlig.

Other stakeholders who will be contacted:

- Education Scotland
- Elected members
- Local Members of Parliament and local members of Scottish Parliament
- General Public (Inverclyde)
- Community Councils

Consultees will be informed that in order for their views to be taken into account, they must complete and submit a copy of the Consultation Response Form.

Pupil consultation will take place through primary (P4 - 7) and Secondary Pupil Councils.

3.5 Involvement of Education Scotland

The Council will provide the proposal document to Education Scotland at the start of the consultation period. When the consultation period has ended, the Council will collate all of the written and oral representations. Thereafter, the following information will be provided to Education Scotland:

- A copy of relevant written representations made to the Council on the proposal (or summary of them if agreed within Education Scotland).
- A summary of oral representations made at the public meetings.
- Other relevant documentation, as far as is practicable.

Education Scotland will prepare a report on the educational aspects of the proposal taking account of the above, the Educational Benefits Statement contained in this proposal document and in so far that Education Scotland considers them relevant, any written representations made directly to them. Education Scotland may also visit the schools affected by the proposal and make reasonable inquiries of persons there and of such other persons as they consider appropriate. Education Scotland require to send their report to the Council no later than 3 weeks (or longer if agreed with the Council) after having received the information from the Council.

3.6 Consultation Report

After receiving Education Scotland's report, the Council will review the proposal taking account of relevant written representations received during the consultation period, oral representations made during the public meeting and Education Scotland's report. The Council will then prepare and publish a consultation report which will include a recommendation on the proposal.

The Council will notify on the publication of the consultation report, which will be made available on the Council website, in schools and at Council Headquarters.

The consultation report will be published 3 weeks before it is formally considered by the Council.

3.7 Inaccuracies or omissions

Where inaccuracies or omissions are discovered within this proposal document, the Council will determine whether relevant information has been omitted or, if there has been an inaccuracy. Appropriate action will then be taken by the Council which may include issuing corrections, issuing a corrected proposal document or an extension of the consultation period. In any of these events all relevant consultees (and where applicable the notifier(s) of any omissions or inaccuracies) and Education Scotland will be advised of the appropriate action. Notifiers of any omissions or inaccuracies will also be given the opportunity to make representations if they disagree with the Council's determination of and any action on the matter, which may result in the Council making a further determination / decision on the matter.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE FOR THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 It is expected that the proposal, if accepted, would be implemented from the start of the school term in August 2023.

5.0 EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS – ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSAL

Education is a key priority of Inverclyde Council.

- 5.1 Inverclyde Council is firmly committed to delivering a high-quality education provision in learning environments fit for learning and teaching in the 21st century. Environments that nurture ambition and aspirations, improve attainment and achievement, and create and widen opportunities for all children and young people to achieve their full potential and move into positive and sustained destinations when they leave school. The Council also demonstrates its strong belief in the value of education through financial investment to allow full implementation of Curriculum for Excellence and Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and supporting programmes and activities that focus on removing barriers to learning and closing the attainment gap.
- 5.2 Across Inverclyde there are differing models of early years establishments the majority of which are either standalone family centres or nursery classes as part of primary schools. There are also two remaining standalone nursery schools in Inverclyde (Blairmore and Newark). The provision of early years through a standalone nursery school has become less common as early years childcare and education has progressed through 1140 hours.

- 5.3 Family centres tend to offer more flexibility for age ranges and can operate increased flexible hours. The Head of a family centre is trained specifically in early years and experience has shown us that the leadership progression route through this type of service is very popular and produces strong management teams.
- 5.4 Whilst some primary teachers choose to specialise in early years provision, this has become less popular over the years with many teachers who seek promotion opting to transfer to primary schools because of the increased opportunities through the management structure. Recruitment to leadership posts in education establishments continues to be a challenge nationally and in particular for Head teacher posts of Nursery Schools. The ability to attract strong leadership is essential for the delivery of a high-quality early years' service.
- 5.5 Although, attaching the nursery to the neighbouring school was considered in the pre-consultation, this was not a popular option with those who responded. This is because people felt that the school and nursery would be too big for the leadership team to be able to provide support for family's needs. Those who responded also felt that the model of a standalone family centre would be more responsive to the needs of the young people.
- 5.6 The option being considered will not only provide a high-quality model that is replicated across Inverclyde, it will also provide a small saving to the Council. This saving allows Inverclyde Council to demonstrate an appropriate allocation of resources taking into account best value for the public pound.
- 5.7 An equality impact assessment has been undertaken in the preparation of this proposal and any equality issues that are raised during the consultation period will be taken into account.

6.0 EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This proposal will result in a small saving of £17,000.

8.0 RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL

- 8.1 Page 4 of this document provides details on how to access a copy of the proposal document.
- 8.2 Interested parties are invited to respond to the proposal by making an online submission using the link:

www.inverclyde.gov.uk/yoursay

Alternatively, written submissions should be made using the form attached at the end of this document no later than Tuesday 14 March 2023.

9.0 Appendix 1 – Consultation response form



Appendix 1

Education Services

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO ADDRESS MINOR ANOMALIES IN SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please use this form to let us know what you think about this proposal

The closing date for responses is **14 March 2023**.

This form should be returned to:

Education Services

Wallace Place

Greenock

PA15 1JB

Inverclyde Council are looking for your views on our proposal to change the current Blairmore Nursery School to a standalone Early Learning Centre under the leadership of a Head of Centre.

Any proposed proposals to discontinue permanently a school (this includes special schools and nursery schools) or a stage of education in a school (this includes years in a secondary school or all nursery classes in a primary school or a special class in a mainstream school or where the council proposes to discontinue Gaelic medium provision); are subject to statutory consultation through the Schools (Consultation)(Scotland) Act 2010.

A pre- consultation process has been undertaken and this showed that the option to change the school to a standalone family centre was the one preferred by the community.

Q1 Do you agree with the proposal to change Glenbrae Nursery School to a standalone family centre?

Yes No Undecided

This box gives an opportunity to explain the reason for your response.

This box gives an opportunity to explain the reasons for your response.

In order to validate your response to this proposal please provide your details:
(this section must be completed in order for your views to be taken into account)

Name

Address

If you would like to make any comment on the proposal, or suggest an alternative option for consideration please do so in the space below:

Q6 I am responding in my capacity as a (please indicate by selecting the appropriate answer below):

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Parent/carer of a child at primary school | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parent/carer of a child at secondary school | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parent/carer of a child in nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parent Council member (primary school) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parent Council member (secondary school) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Member of staff at primary school | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Member of staff at secondary school | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Church representative | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Elected member | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Trade Union | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Member of the public | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Member of Community Council | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bord na Gaidhlig | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other group (please specify)

Handling your response – Please note that:

We will use the information you provide for the purpose of this consultation, including statistical and analytical purposes.

We will pass a full copy of your response to Education Scotland, or a summary of it if agreed with them.

We are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and therefore would have to consider any request made under the Act for information relating to written responses/records or oral representations made to us relating to this consultation.

Thank you for taking the time to respond.