

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 21 MAY 2024

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 21 May 2024 at 2pm

Present: Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Crowther (for Law), Daisley, McGuire (for Communities business only), McVey, Moran, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Clocherty presided.

In attendance:

Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development
Tony McEwan	Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources
Michael Roach	Head of Education
Anne Sinclair	Managing Solicitor (for Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital & Customer Services)
Hugh Scott	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Iain Cameron	Principal Accountant (Education & Communities)
Mary McCabe	Finance Manager (Education & Communities)
Sarah Christie	Cultural Services Manager
Mark Coyle	Project Lead – Scottish Attainment Challenge, Education Services
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Karen MacVey	Members' & Committee Services Team Leader

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Daisley, McGuire and Wilson attending remotely.

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

267 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

267

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Law, with Councillor Crowther substituting, Councillor McGuire (for Education business only), Ms F MacDonald, Parent Representative, Ms P McEwan, Teachers Representative, and Mr J Docherty and Rev D Burt, Church Representatives.

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

Agenda Item 2 (2023/24 Communities Revenue Budget Update) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

Agenda Item 5 (Changes to Community Grants Fund) – Councillors Clocherty and Quinn.

268 2023/24 Communities Revenue Budget Update

268

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the projected position of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 21 MAY 2024

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected underspend for 2023/24 of £193,000 be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that £121,000 of the projected underspend relates to Inverclyde Leisure utility costs and that this budget over provision will be returned to the non-pay inflation contingency from 2024/25, in line with the treatment of windfall savings; and
- (3) that it be noted that the 2023/24 outturn will be reported after the summer recess.

269 Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items

269

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer (1) providing performance information for the Communities part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) providing an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Communities Capital Programme and Asset related items.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position of the 2024/28 Capital Programme be noted;
- (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Leisure Pitches Asset Management Plan/Lifecycle Fund, (b) Community Hub King George VI, (c) Bank Street Community Hub (32nd Scouts), (d) Parklea Branching Out, (e) Hillend Bowling Club, and (f) the Asset Transfer Working Group updates on (i) Gourrock Park Walled Garden, (ii) Wellington Allotments, (iii) KGV Bowling Club, and (iv) Coppermine (Scouts); and
- (3) that the Convenor write to the Scottish Government on behalf of the Committee to (a) express disappointment at the decision to reduce funding for the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund budget which has led to 32nd Scouts being unsuccessful at Stage 2 of the application process for Bank Street Community Hub, (b) requests if there are any alternative funding sources that could be approached, and (c) clarify the position for funding going forward and if existing applications will have priority over any new applications.

270 Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives

270

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

Decided: that the updates on the following be noted (a) Alliance Board Partnership Plan Delivery Structure, (b) Locality Plan Progress and Review, (c) Inverclyde Fire Skills Course, (d) International Women's Day, (e) Early Adopter Community for Affordable Childcare, and (f) Child Poverty Accelerator Funding.

271 Changes to Community Grants Fund

271

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking approval to make changes to the criteria for the Community Grants Fund from 2024/25.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared connections as members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure. They also formed the view that the nature of their connection and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process and were declaring for transparency.

Decided:

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 21 MAY 2024

- (1) that the virement of £30,000 in respect of playschemes to contribute to the provision of free playschemes be noted;
- (2) that it be agreed that the current arrangements for other ringfencing arrangements should cease but that the Grants Sub-Committee be instructed to continue to give an annual grant to the Samaritans without application and that the officer recommendation for the amount for this grant take into account the totality of the available funding and the impact that this has on other applications;
- (3) that the strengthening of the grant criteria for groups be agreed in order to ensure that a condition of grant is that recipients must not only be supporting the aims of the Council Plan but also not acting against the interests of the Council; and
- (4) that it be noted that officers will provide a further update report should further changes to the grants criteria be proposed by Elected Members.

The Communities business concluded at 2.35pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm.

272 **2023/24 Education Revenue Budget Update**

272

There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the projected position of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget and highlighting the reasons for the increase in the projected overspend and action being taken by officers.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected overspend for 2023/24 of £939,000 and the £778,000 increase in overspend since the last Committee be noted, and that a report will be brought to Committee after the summer recess on any expected impact on the 2024/25 Budget;
- (2) that it be noted that the Communities part of the Committee is currently projecting an underspend of £193,000 which partly offsets the projected overspend for the Education part of the Committee; and
- (3) that it be noted that the 2023/24 outturn will be reported to Committee after the summer recess.

273 **Education Capital Programme 2024/28 - Progress**

273

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer (1) providing performance information for the Education part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) providing an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Education Capital Programme.

Decided:

- (1) that the current position of the 2024/28 Capital programme be noted;
- (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) general lifecycle works, (b) Reinforced Aerated Autoclave Concrete (RAAC), (c) CO² monitors in schools, and (d) Universal Free School Meals; and
- (3) that it be noted that there are no plans to carry out any remediation works arising from the RAAC at St Michael's Primary School in the period to 31 March 2026 and that this will be kept under review and Committee informed of any changes to this approach.

274 **Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 – Annual Refresh and Performance Summary 2023/24**

274

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

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 21 MAY 2024

Organisational Development presenting the refreshed Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan containing new or revised improvement actions requiring approval.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in the delivery of the Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/24 be noted; and
- (2) that the implementation of the refreshed Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan from 2024/25 onwards be approved.

275 **Education Services Standards and Quality Report April 2023 – April 2024** 275

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development presenting the Education Services Standards and Quality Report for April 2023 - April 2024 for consideration and approval.

Decided: that the Education Services Standards and Quality Report for April 2023 - April 2024 be approved for content and publication.

276 **Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives** 276

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

Decided:

- (1) that the updates on the following be noted (a) Care Inspectorate inspection outcomes for Lady Alice Primary School Nursery Class, (b) Independent Review of Qualifications and assessment, (c) Education and skills reform, (d) Pupil Equity Funding (PEF), (e) Equality in Education – ant-racism in education, (f) Children's Advocacy in children's hearings, (g) Secondary Gaelic Medium Education update, and (h) teacher numbers update; and
- (2) that the thanks and appreciation of the Committee be conveyed to all staff at Lady Alice Primary School for the successful Care Inspectorate inspection outcomes recently received.

277 **Strategic Equity Fund (SEF) Plan 2024 - 2026 with Associated Stretch Aims Update** 277

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development requesting the Committee note (1) the updated Strategic Equity Funding (SEF) Plan 2024 – 2026, and (2) the Strategic Equity Fund Exit Strategy.

Decided:

- (1) that the content and publication of the SEF Plan for 2024 – 2026, including the detailed Stretch Aims, as detailed at appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) that the content of the SEF Exit Strategy, as detailed at appendix 2 to the report, be noted; and
- (3) that it be remitted to officers to provide a report to the Committee analysing school attendance figures.

278 **Report on Primary Enhanced Nurture Provision** 278

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the development of a primary enhanced nurture provision called Thrive which is based at St Michael's Primary School.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and the success of the primary enhanced nurture

provision called Thrive as part of the Delivering Differently Project at Lomond View Academy be noted.

279 Update on West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative

279

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising of plans for the West Partnership Regional Improvement Collaborative following the national review of Regional Improvement Collaboratives undertaken by the Scottish Government and the associated reduction in funding for 2024-25 onwards.

Decided: that the content of the report be noted.