

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2025

### Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 2pm

**Present:** Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Clocherty, Hellyer, McGuire, McVey, Nelson, Quinn, Reynolds, Robertson and Wilson (for Education business only), and Rev D Burt, Rev F Donaldson and Mr J Docherty, Church Representatives, and Ms P McEwan, Teacher Representative.

**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, Inclusive Communities
Eddie Montgomery	Head of Physical Assets
Mary McCabe	Finance Manager (Education & Communities)
Yvonne Gallacher	Quality Improvement Manager – Early Years, Education Services
Adam Stephenson	Education Officer
Diane Sweeney	Senior Committee Officer
Lindsay Carrick	Senior Committee Officer
Emma Peacock	Solicitor
Rhoda Braddick	Corporate Policy, Performance & Communications Manager
PJ Coulter	Corporate Communications Officer (Media Relations)

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors McGuire, Quinn, Reynolds and Wilson, and Ms McEwan attending remotely.

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

### **130 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 130**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson (for Communities business only), and Ms MacDonald, Parent Representative.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

### **131 2024/25 Communities Revenue Budget Update 131**

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 2024/25 Communities Revenue Budget.

**Decided:** that it be noted that the Committee's Revenue Budget is currently projected to overspend in 2024/25 by £8,000 (0.1%) and that this is offset by an overall projected underspend in the Education Budget.

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| <b>132</b> | <p><b>Communities Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items</b></p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development and Chief Financial Officer (1) providing performance information for the Communities part of the Education &amp; 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.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b></p> <p>(1) that the current position of the 2024/28 Capital Programme be noted; and</p> <p>(2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Leisure Pitches Asset Management Plan/Lifecycle Fund, (b) King George VI Community Hub, (c) Boglestone Community Centre – Childcare Early Adopter Project, (d) Bank Street Community Hall, and (e) the Asset Transfer Working Group updates on (i) Wellington Allotments, (ii) KGV Bowling Club, (iii) Larkfield waste ground/Larkfield Guerilla Gardens (Banff Road/Fife Drive), (iv) Guides at Kilmacolm, (v) Broomhill Way shop unit/Broomhill Beats, (vi) Inverclyde Veterans Network, and (vii) Coppermine Community Hub.</p> | <b>132</b> |
| <b>133</b> | <p><b>Community Learning Development, Community Safety &amp; Resilience and Sport Service Annual Report 2024</b></p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development appending the Community Learning Development, Community Safety &amp; Resilience and Sport Service Annual Report for 2024.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b> that the contents of the report be noted.</p>  | <b>133</b> |
| <b>134</b> | <p><b>Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives</b></p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development providing an update on the Communities aspects of the service.</p> <p>The Head of Culture, Communities &amp; Educational Resources advised of a typographical error at paragraph 3.6 of the report, and accordingly the Spring Gala Concert will be on Thursday 27 March 2025.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b> that the updates on the following be noted (a) libraries as community spaces, (b) staff development, (c) Children and Young People, (d) Adult Services, (e) the Watt Institution, (f) Inverclyde Music Service, (g) developing a community safety lens for the Place Standard Tool – Inverclyde pilot site, (h) School Crossing Patroller – Sinclair Street, Greenock, (i) Hanlon Management Information System, (j) various Child Poverty Initiatives including pilot programmes in upper Port Glasgow, (k) the Child poverty Accelerator Funder Project, and (l) Outstanding Remit – new smoke alarm legislation.</p>   | <b>134</b> |
| <b>135</b> | <p><b>Interim Review of Inverclyde's Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2020-2025</b></p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development seeking approval of the Inverclyde Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2025 in advance of the expiry of the previous 2020-2025 Strategy.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b></p> <p>(1) that the Inverclyde Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2025 be approved; and</p> <p>(2) that it be agreed that a full review and wider consultation on a new strategy will be undertaken following publication and consideration of the findings and recommendations from the national review of the approach towards antisocial behaviour.</p>   | <b>135</b> |

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### 136 New Approach to ESOL Provision

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development informing the Committee of the new approach to support English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for 2025/26, which is a partnership project between Community Learning and Development and the Health and Social Care Partnership.

Councillor McGuire left the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the new approach to ESOL provision in Inverclyde for 2025/26 and the ongoing challenges be noted; and
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to provide an update on ESOL provision within the next 12 months.

**The Communities business concluded at 2.50pm. The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm with Rev Burt and Mr Docherty attending the Municipal Buildings and Councillor Wilson, Rev Donaldson and Ms McEwan joining the meeting remotely. Councillor McGuire rejoined the meeting at this juncture.**

### 137 2024/25 Education Revenue Budget Update

137

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 2024/25 Education Revenue Budget.

**Decided:** that the Committee notes that the Education Revenue Budget is currently projected to underspend in 2024/25 by £16,000 (0.01%).

### 138 Education Capital Programme 2024/28 - Progress

138

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; and
- (2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) general lifecycle works, (b) Public Private Partnership (PPP) Schools, (c) Estate Lifecycle Programme 2024/25, (d) Artificial Pitches Asset Plan, (e) Active Panel Refresh, and (f) Net Zero.

### 139 Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 Performance Report

139

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the progress made in the delivery of the Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the progress made in the delivery of the Education and Communities Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan 2023/26 be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that a refreshed Committee Delivery and Improvement Plan for

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reporting year 2025/26 will be presented to the next meeting.

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| <b>140</b> | <p><b>Education Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives</b></p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development providing an update on local and national projects and initiatives linked to education.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b> that the updates on the following be noted (a) Care Inspectorate inspection outcome for Gibshill Children’s Centre, (b) joint Education Scotland and Care Inspectorate inspection outcome for Wellington Children’s Centre, (c) education reform, (d) Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessments, (e) National Improvement Framework (2025), outdoor learning – schools, (f) Elective home education, (g) Equality in education – anti-racism in education, and (h) Outstanding Remit – cost of Gaelic Medium Education.</p>  | <b>140</b> |
| <b>141</b> | <p><b>Phase 1 – Review of Play for All Out of School Childcare/Holiday Childcare Service</b></p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development providing (1) feedback from the Play 4 All Out of School Childcare (OOSCC) and Holiday Childcare service consultation which took place in January 2025, and (2) proposals to amend the current policy.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b></p> <p>(1) that the proposed allocations criteria for Play 4 All OOSCC and Holiday Childcare service for all new applications for the August 2025 term, as detailed at appendix 2 to the report, be agreed;</p> <p>(2) that it be agreed that changes will be implemented for the Summer Holiday Childcare provision in 2025; and</p> <p>(3) that it be remitted to officers to bring a further update report on this matter to a future meeting of the Committee.</p> | <b>141</b> |
| <b>142</b> | <p><b>Bereavement, Change and Loss Guidelines</b></p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development presenting the Bereavement, Change and Loss Guidelines for noting.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b> that the Bereavement, Change and Loss Guidelines be noted.</p>  | <b>142</b> |
| <b>143</b> | <p><b>Education Services – Child Protection Guidelines</b></p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development presenting the Child Protection Guidelines for noting.</p> <p><b>Decided:</b> that the Child Protection Guidelines be noted.</p>   | <b>143</b> |
| <b>144</b> | <p><b>Education Authority Equality Mainstreaming Report 2025, Progress on Equality Outcomes 2021/25, the Equal Pay Statement 2025 and the Proposed Equality Outcomes 2025/29</b></p> <p>There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development presenting the Education Authority Equality Mainstreaming Report 2025, progress on delivery of the Equality Outcomes 2021/25, the Equal Pay Statement 2025 and the Proposed Equality Outcomes for the period</p>   | <b>144</b> |

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2025/29.

A typographical error was noted in the report as the Equal Pay Statement 2025, although referred to, had been omitted. The Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development advised she would review this and take appropriate action.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the contents of the report, with the exception of the Equal Pay Statement 2025, be noted; and
- (2) that the proposed Equality Outcomes 2025/29 be approved.