

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE - 4 NOVEMBER 2008

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

Tuesday 4 November 2008 at 4.00 pm

Present: Provost McCormick, Councillors Blair, Brooks, Clocherty, Fyfe, Grieve, Loughran, McCabe, McKenzie, Osborne and Wilson, Rev W Hamilton, Mr B Anderson (for Father McMahon), Church Representatives, Mr G Miller, Parent Representative and Mr T Tracey, Teacher Representative.

Chair: Councillor McKenzie presided.

In attendance: Corporate Director Education & Social Care, Head of Schools, Head of Lifelong Learning & Educational Support, Head of Support & Development, Head of School Estate Projects, School Estate Manager, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Manager, Mr H McNeilly (for Head of Legal & Administration) and Head of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs.

Apologies: Father M McMahon.

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

772 HMIe Report on Highlanders' Academy Primary School and Nursery Class

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care advising the Committee of the results of the HMIe external evaluation of Highlanders' Academy Primary School and Nursery Class. The report advised that the external evaluation included within the indicators of quality, 7 indicators which were judged to be "very good" and a further 9 indicators which were judged as "good".

Ms Patricia Robertson, Head Teacher of Highlanders' Academy Primary School was present and spoke to this item.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee endorse the comments made by the HMIe external evaluation of Highlanders' Academy Primary School and Nursery Class; and
- (2) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to the Head Teacher, staff and pupils of the school as well as staff within Education Services Headquarters for the work undertaken to achieve the evaluation.

773 Tackling Dyslexia

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care informing the Committee of the work undertaken within Education Services to combat and alleviate the effects of dyslexia on young people's learning.

Ms Joan McLaughlin, Head Teacher and Ms Margaret Ann McMahon, Depute Head Teacher of St Gabriel's Primary School, the first school in Inverclyde to achieve the Dyslexia Friendly Schools Award, were present together with a pupil of the school, Ryan Chapman, who addressed the Committee on his experiences as a dyslexia sufferer and the improvements brought about by the strategies introduced within the school.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee extend its congratulations to St Gabriel's Primary School on its achievement of a Dyslexia Friendly Schools Award and note the strategies used to support young sufferers of dyslexia; and

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(2) that the Committee express the view that it would expect every school within Inverclyde to work towards Dyslexia Friendly status as part of the quality improvement agenda.

774 Inverclyde - Malawi Schools Partnership

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care informing the Committee of the progress made in relation to the Inverclyde - Malawi Schools Partnership Initiative.

The Committee heard from Mr Robert McGoldrick of Gourock High School and Ms Christine Reid of Overton Primary School who spoke of their experiences during their working visits to Malawi and from Mr Ian Mills of Education Services who advised of the recent allocation of funding of £35,000 towards the Partnership Initiative.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the report; and
- (2) that the Committee welcome the additional funding from the Scottish Government towards the Partnership Initiative.

775 Capital Programme 2008/11 - Progress

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care and the Chief Financial Officer on the progress of the Capital Programme 2008/11.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the progress of the specific projects detailed in appendix 1 to the report; and
- (2) that approval be given to the cost increase totalling £15,074 in the St Francis' Primary School window replacement contract as detailed in appendix 2.

776 Revenue Budget 2008/09 - Period 5

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There was submitted a report by the Chief Financial Officer on the position of the Revenue Budget 2008/09 as at Period 5 (31 August 2008) which projected an overspend of £134,000.

Decided:

- (1) that the current projected overspend of £134,000 in the Revenue Budget 2008/09 as at 31 August 2008 be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the virements totalling £557,140 detailed in paragraph 7.1 and appendix 3 of the report.

777 Education Service Performance Report - August to October 2008

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) advising of the progress made by Education Services during the period August to October 2008 in relation to achieving the service objectives and (2) explaining how this contributed to the achievement of key corporate priorities.

Decided:

- (1) that the report be approved;
- (2) that a report be submitted to the Committee on the principles, policies and practices implemented within Inverclyde schools in relation to more able children; and
- (3) that a report be submitted to the Committee on the role of the staff welfare officer.

778 The Arts Education Team, Inverclyde Council

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care informing the Committee of the work of the Arts Education Team for the period June 2006 to July 2008 and how that work is contributing to the achievement of key corporate priorities.

Noted

779 **Update on the Possible Change to Provision at the School Age Language Unit, Highlanders' Academy** 779

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing an update on further consultation with parents affected by changes to the provision at the School Age Language Unit, Highlanders' Academy.

Decided:

- (1) that the Committee note the issues and responses arising from the meeting with parents of children who attend the School Age Language Unit held on 29 September 2008; and
- (2) that agreement be given to a wider consultation on School Age Language provision in Inverclyde.

780 **Workforce Development Funding** 780

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care requesting approval for expenditure over £10,000 for a course of study at the University of Glasgow.

Decided: that agreement be given to payment of £11,250 to the University of Glasgow to enable 6 Heads of Establishment to undertake a course of study to allow them to register with the Scottish Social Services Council.

781 **Revision to Standard Circular on Indiscipline and Exclusion Procedures** 781

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care on proposed changes to Indiscipline and Exclusion Procedures contained in new Standard Circular 2.10.

(Councillor McCabe left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided: that the contents of new Standard Circular 2.10 (Indiscipline and Exclusion Procedures) be approved.

782 **Update on the More Choices, More Chances Initiative** 782

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing an update on progress made with the More Choices, More Chances Initiative.

(Councillor McCabe returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided: that the Committee note the positive information contained in the report.

783 **Effective Transitions** 783

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care on the development of a policy to ensure effective transitions between early years and primary establishments.

(Councillor Brooks left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided:

- (1) that the policy detailed in the appendix to the report be endorsed;
- (2) that the policy be implemented in all early years and primary establishments in Inverclyde; and
- (3) that the agreed principles of the policy be further articulated to develop transition procedures from primary to secondary school in line with the Curriculum for Excellence.

784 Future Capacity of Greenock Academy and the New School at Bayhill**784**

There was submitted a replacement report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care setting out a policy framework for admissions to Greenock Academy and therefore to the new school which will be formed from the merger of Greenock Academy and Gourock High School.

The Corporate Director Education & Social Care advised the Committee that paragraph 5.4 of his report should be deleted. There was also circulated to the Committee a further paper listing the implications of an overcrowded school as requested by the Convener.

(Councillor Brooks returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Following discussion, Councillor McKenzie moved (1) that the staffing allocation at Greenock Academy be in line with the number of pupils anticipated to attend the school; (2) that the capacity of Greenock Academy be increased from 80 to 100 for admissions in August 2009; and (3) that Gourock High School and Greenock Academy become one school from August 2010, only for the purposes of considering placing requests, and at that time the total capacity of the S1 intake effective from August 2011 be set at 180.

As an amendment, Councillor Blair moved that any decision be deferred to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee or, if required, to a special meeting of the Committee to enable the Convener and the Corporate Director to meet with the Chairs of the Gourock High School and Greenock Academy Parent Councils.

On a vote, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 7 for the motion which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the staffing allocation at Greenock Academy be in line with the number of pupils anticipated to attend the school;
- (2) that the capacity of Greenock Academy be increased from 80 to 100 for admissions in August 2009; and
- (3) that Gourock High School and Greenock Academy become one school from August 2010, only for the purposes of considering placing requests, and at that time the total capacity of the S1 intake effective from August 2011 be set at 180.

785 School Transport Contracts for the New Inverclyde Academy**785**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care seeking approval for the school transport contracts which will serve the new Inverclyde Academy. (Mr Tracey left the meeting during consideration of this item of business).

Decided: that approval be given to the allocation of contracts 7233A, 7234A and 7235A to Pride of the Clyde and contract 7243B to the Adaptable Bus Contract (Scottish Travel) at a total annual cost of £141,120, in line with the recommendations of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport.

786 Gourock Primary School - Request by Councillor Ahlfeld**786**

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Regeneration & Resources on a request received from Councillor Ahlfeld relative to the provision of temporary accommodation for Gourock Primary School.

Decided: that Councillor Ahlfeld, along with the Convener, Vice-Convener and Councillor White, meet with the Corporate Director Education & Social Care to discuss this issue at 2 pm on Friday 14 November 2008 and, if considered appropriate, a report thereon be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

787 Items for Noting

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing information for noting on (1) the GAIN (Grab An Instrument Now) project, (2) the Youth Music Forum, (3) Head Teacher appointments and (4) pre-school statistics 2008.

Noted

It was agreed in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act as are set opposite each item.

Item	Paragraph(s)
Update on PPP Project	6, 8 and 9
Gibshill Children's Centre	1

788 Update on PPP Project

788

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care providing an update on the progress of the Council's PPP Project.

Noted

789 Gibshill Children's Centre

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There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education & Social Care (1) appending the report of the sub-group established to examine the relationship between the Gibshill Family Centre and the Parent Support and Education Centre and (2) making recommendations as to future provision.

There was circulated to the Committee, a letter sent to the Chief Executive by the Parent Support and Education Centre making representations in this regard.

Following discussion, Councillor McCabe moved (1) that agreement be given to Family Support Services being developed within Gibshill Children's Centre using the accommodation currently used by the Parent Support and Education Centre and (2) that a report be submitted to the Committee in due course on the progress made in implementing this decision.

As an amendment, Councillor Grieve moved that the service continue as existing but with the support of all Council officers and staff within Human Resources to achieve a resolution to the issues identified.

On a vote, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 9 for the motion which was declared carried.

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Decided:

- (1) that agreement be given to Family Support Services being developed within Gibshill Children's Centre using the accommodation currently used by the Parent Support and Education Centre; and
- (2) that a report be submitted to the Committee in due course on the progress made in implementing this decision.