

Education, Children and Families Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 13 December 2016

Present

Councillors Day (Convener), Fullerton (Vice-Convener), Aitken, Aldridge, Austin Hart, Bridgman, Child, Corbett, Jackson, Key, Lewis, Lunn, Main, Milligan, Munro, Redpath, Robson, Rust and Tymkewycz.

Added members for Education matters

Rev Thomas Couper, Allan Crosbie and Alexander Ramage.

1. Rising School Rolls

1.1 Deputation – Victoria Primary School Parent Council

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Rachel Hamada, Gillian Meek and Sue Widdicombe on behalf of the parents of Victoria Primary School Parent Council in relation to the report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families on Rising Rolls. The deputation highlighted the following:

- A recent consultation meeting had taken place with parents on three proposed plans for the school. None of these involved keeping the current building in any form.
- No guarantees had been made about the future of the school building, which had great importance from a historical and community perspective.
- It was felt that there had not been the opportunity to fully canvass views of parents before moving into the statutory consultation period.
- Parents were interested in adapting the existing building in some way or creating three smaller schools (to retain Victoria Primary School as a small school).
- There were concerns the loss of facilities promised during the building planning process, the plot size at Western Harbour and the lack of interim plans to last from 2018 to 2020, when the school was predicted to be full and was the earliest date a new school could be built.

The deputation requested the Committee to consider the following.

- A delay before going to full statutory consultation so that a canvass of school community views and feedback could be undertaken.
- A meeting with council officials to present such views and get clarity on questions before the final consultation draft was approved.
- That consideration be given to the future use of the old building if the decision was made to build new premises and for this to be incorporated into the consultation document.

1.2 Report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families

An update was provided on proposals to address accommodation pressures at the following seven primary schools in the City - Bruntsfield, Corstorphine, Liberton, Stockbridge, St Margaret's RC, Trinity and Victoria Primary Schools.

The findings of feasibility work undertaken at Victoria and the former Fort Primary School building were also outlined and approval sought to undertake a statutory consultation proposing the relocation of Victoria Primary School to a new building on a site in the Western Harbour.

Details were also provided of secondary schools which were anticipated to experience more significant rising rolls from 2018.

Councillor Booth was heard as the local member for Leith Ward. He advised that parents at Trinity Primary had expressed concerns and would welcome a sibling guarantee for the children that could be affected by the catchment area change. They would also welcome clarity on what impact any changes in the pupil numbers at Trinity and Victoria Primary Schools would have on the catchment area for Trinity Academy. He also expressed support for the points put forward by the deputation from Victoria Primary School Parent Council.

Decision

- 1) To approve that the projects at Corstorphine Primary School and St Margaret's RC Primary School as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Acting Executive Director's report would be delivered through Hub South East Scotland Ltd.
- 2) To approve a full statutory consultation, beginning at the end of January 2017, proposing the relocation of Victoria Primary School to the site in the Western Harbour allocated for a primary school in the Local Development Plan, could be progressed based on the draft consultation paper attached in Appendix 3 of the Acting Executive Director's report.#
- 3) To note that, in respect of Trinity Primary, it was likely that a very small number of families would be taken out of the current catchment and that Trinity Primary Parent Council had requested a sibling guarantee for those families. Therefore, to agree that, as part of the formal consultation, there would be an option put forward for a sibling guarantee for those who have an elder child in the catchment at the time when the boundary change came into effect.
- 4) That, in the event of the existing Victoria Primary School ceasing to be a school, to agree that consideration be given to the historic school building of Victoria Primary School being retained for use as a community resource and the new annexe/extension to be retained which could be potentially used as a nursery.
- 5) To note the intention to report to Council in June 2017 the outcomes of the statutory consultation proposing the relocation of Victoria Primary School to the site in Western Harbour.

- 6) To note that the funding implications of the proposal for the relocation of Victoria Primary School to the site in the Western Harbour would be reported to the Finance and Resources Committee as part of the Local Development Plan Action Programme update in January 2017.
- 7) To note the intention to report back to Committee in March 2017 on the preferred solution to accommodation issues at Stockbridge Primary School.
- 8) To note the intention to submit a report to Committee in March 2017 seeking approval for a statutory consultation proposing the establishment of a permanent shared annexe for Boroughmuir and James Gillespie's High Schools.
- 9) To refer the anticipated funding deficit of £10.565m to the Council in February 2017 for consideration as part of the capital budget setting process.
- 10) To note that the funding deficit excluded any costs associated with providing a new primary school in the south Edinburgh area which remained an unfunded cost of £12.737m in the Capital Investment Programme 2016-2021 and to refer this unfunded priority to the Council in February 2017 for consideration as part of the capital budget setting process.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 24 May 2016 (item 12); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Allan Crosbie declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a teacher at James Gillespie's High School and as a parent of a child at Bruntsfield Primary School.

Councillor David Key declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a parent of a child at Bruntsfield Primary School.

2. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 11 October 2016 as a correct record.

3. Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan – March to June 2017

The Education, Children and Families Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period March to June 2017 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for March to June 2017.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan – March to June 2017, submitted.)

4. Education, Children and Families Committee Rolling Actions Log – December 2016

The Education, Children and Families Committee Rolling Actions Log for December 2016 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To approve the closure of actions 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 28.
- 2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log – 13 December 2016, submitted.)

5. Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin December 2016

The Education, Children and Families Committee Business Bulletin for December 2016 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin – 13 December 2016, submitted.)

6. Developing a Vision for the Schools and Lifelong Learning Estate

An update was provided on the action plan which was included in the 2014 Children and Families Asset Management Plan approved by Committee in December 2014. The latest roll projections for primary and secondary schools and their strategic importance to future school estate planning were outlined. It was recommended that roll projections and methodologies were published on the Council's website and then updated and published annually each December.

Trinity Academy Parent Council had emailed Members a written statement outlining their concerns about current capacity issues within Trinity Academy and the perceived lack of planned investment in the school going forward.

The Parent Council urged the Committee to investigate all potential solutions to these current and future issues and provide a secondary school that allowed pupils to achieve their optimum potential now and in the future, was of benefit to the local community and which provided a level playing field for young people in Edinburgh North and Leith. The Parent Council felt that a plan of action was vital and was required now.

The Parent Council further requested that the Committee note the content of their paper and agree that a report on Trinity Academy and an action plan to address its issues be brought to the next Committee meeting.

Decision

- 1) To approve that the school roll projections and methodologies included in appendices 2, 3 and 4 of the report by the Acting Executive Director be published on the Council website, updated and published annually each December.
- 2) To agree that the future asset requirements of Children and Families should be developed in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and integrated into the asset sections of the Locality Improvement Plans.
- 3) To agree to offer to establish working groups at the three schools (Bonaly Primary School, St Ninian's RC Primary School and Trinity Academy) highlighted in the projections as requiring future accommodation solutions and that improvement options be reported back to Committee in March 2017.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 24 May 2016 (item 9); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted; submission by Trinity Academy Parent Council.)

7. Local Development Plan Education Infrastructure Update

The anticipated education infrastructure implications of the Local Development Plan, including the requirement to deliver seven new primary schools and a new secondary school, and extensions to many existing schools was outlined.

Approval was sought for a statutory consultation process for the delivery of a new primary school in south east Edinburgh, with associated changes to the catchment areas of existing primary and secondary schools.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the Acting Executive Director's report which provided an update on the new education infrastructure that was anticipated to be required as a result of the additional pupils that would be generated by new housing development proposed by the Council's Local Development Plan.
- 2) To approve that a statutory consultation be undertaken, as set out in the draft statutory consultation paper, regarding the establishment of a new non-denominational primary school within south east Edinburgh, as well as catchment boundary changes for existing primary and secondary schools.
- 3) To note that a report on the outcomes of the consultation would be presented to the Council for consideration in June 2017.
- 4) To note that the funding implications of the proposal would be reported to the Finance and Resources Committee as part of the Local Development Plan Action Programme update in January 2017.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 24 May 2016 (item 10); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

8. Cessation of Placements in the Guthrie Unit – St Katharine’s

An update on the reduction in the usage of secure accommodation by the City of Edinburgh Council, including the decision to implement the cessation of secure placements in the Guthrie Unit within the St Katharine’s campus, was provided.

Decision

- 1) To agree that new secure placements for the Guthrie Unit would cease.
- 2) To agree the savings achieved from the closure be offset against the income target.
- 3) To note the risk and associated costs of buying independent secure beds and requirements for other services to support young people who would no longer be given places in secure accommodation.

(Reference – report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

9. Youth Work Funding 2017-2019

The participative process that had led up to the proposed approach to revenue grants funding for open-access youth work in 2017/18 and 2018/19 was outlined including information on the funding available and how this could be broken down on a citywide and locality basis.

Decision

- 1) To approve the award of grant funding for 2017/18 as set out in appendix 1 of the Acting Executive Director’s report and that £60,000 be made available for distribution citywide through Participatory Budgeting (PB).
- 2) To approve that in 2018/19, the grant award to each of the eight organisations be reduced by 20% to create a budget for universal youth work to be distributed by PB in each locality. In addition, £60,000 be made available citywide for distribution by PB as in 2017/18.
- 3) To approve that from 2019/20 the entire budget for youth work be distributed through PB; the allocation to each locality to be based on identified need, as set out in Table 2 of the Acting Executive Director’s report.

(Reference – report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

10. Breakfast Club Development Fund Update

Progress towards achieving the objective of every child attending a local authority primary school having access to breakfast club provision was outlined. Breakfast clubs had been established in 81 out of 88 primary schools and it was anticipated that 98% of City of Edinburgh Primary Schools would have access to breakfast club provision by 2017.

Decision

- 1) To note the report and approve the distribution of the 'Breakfast Club Development Fund' model proposed.
- 2) To call for a progress report within 2 cycles of the end of 2017/18; the report to include a financial report based on Appendix 2, a report against the agreed measures of success (namely an increase in the number of children from low income and vulnerable families accessing breakfast club provision at no cost) and an increase in the number of schools which support children in SIMD categories 1-4.
- 3) To report to Committee within two cycles on how additional support needs would be met in the transition of children from referred breakfast clubs to universal provision.

(References – minutes of the Education, Children and Families Committee 6 October 2015 (item 19) and 11 February 2016 (item 1); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Cammy Day declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a trustee of Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre.

11. Early Years Disability Services Grant Programme 2017-19

Information was provided on the small grant programme which had been established to replace the support and respite services previously delivered by Capability Scotland for families with a disabled child under 5 years of age.

Two applications had been received and assessed and approval was sought to award a grant of £140,057 to The Yard Adventure Centre.

Decision

- 1) To note the consultation with parents and the resulting grant process.
- 2) To approve the grant award of £140,057 to The Yard Adventure Centre.
- 3) To request that a progress report be brought back to the Committee in six months.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 11 October 2016 (item 7); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

12. Implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 - Update

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 placed children and young people at the heart of planning and services and aimed to ensure that their rights were respected across the public sector.

An update on the implementation of the legislation was provided including details on ongoing work between colleagues at local and national levels to support the development of regulations and guidance.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress on implementation of the legislation in Edinburgh.
- 2) To agree that a report specifically around the transition process from children's to adult services be submitted to the first meeting of the Committee following the Local Government elections in May 2017.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 6 October 2015 (item 28); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

13. Looked After Children: Transformation Programme Progress Report

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on 25 September 2013 considered a report setting out targets for shifting the balance of care towards more preventative services that reduced the need for children to come into care. This aimed to secure better outcomes for children, avoid a continued increase in costs and deliver cashable savings by 2015/16.

An update was given on progress towards achieving the previously agreed targets to the end of September 2016.

The service was on or ahead of target with the overall number of Looked After Children (LAC), the number of LAC in foster care and the number placed with kinship carers.

The service was behind target on prospective adoptions due mainly as a result of the increased success in placing children with kinship carers.

The service was behind target on the proportion of foster care placements being provided by the Council's own carers and the number of LAC in residential.

One-off measures had been identified to mitigate the financial implications of the areas behind target and work was ongoing to develop sustainable alternative savings in 2017/18 where targets were not expected to be delivered.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made to date against the targets as set out in Appendix 1 of the Acting Executive Director's report.
- 2) To note the actions in progress to deliver further improvements towards the March 2018 target.
- 3) To note that sustainable alternative savings were currently being developed to address the forecast shortfall against targets in 2017/18.
- 4) To note that the next update would be provided in June 2017.
- 5) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.

(References – minutes of the Education, Children and Families Committee 8 December 2015 (item 13); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

14. Energy in Schools Annual Report

An overview of the 2015/16 energy use across the Council's school estate was provided, including an update on energy/carbon reduction projects.

Consumption levels across the school estate was largely stable, however, there had been a notable drop in energy consumption across the high school estate due to building refurbishments, building closures and a greater distribution of energy efficient plant.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources.
- 2) To note that an annual progress report would be submitted to Committee in 2017 on Energy in Schools.
- 3) To agree that additional data detailing information on consumption per unit floor area be included in future reports.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 6 October 2015 (item 29); report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

15. School Meals Update

An annual update on the school meals service and progress updates on Food for Life (FFL) Accreditation and online school payments was submitted.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the Acting Executive Director's report and the successful delivery of additional accommodation space in four schools to facilitate implementation of extended entitlement to free school meals to all P1 to P3 pupils.
- 2) To note the successful retention of Food for Life (FFL) Bronze catering mark across the school estate.
- 3) To note achieving Silver FFL Catering Mark in two City of Edinburgh Facilities Management Catering pilot schools (Currie Community High School and Buckstone Primary).
- 4) To request a further report in two cycles on the financial implications arising from moving towards silver and gold standards for all schools.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 6 October 2015 (item 22); report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

16. Communities and Families Senior Management Team Risk Update

Information was given on the Communities and Families Senior Management Team's prioritised risks at November 2016 together with the key controls in place to mitigate these risks.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the risk register.
- 2) To request that the risk register be presented to Committee on an annual basis.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 3 March 2015 (item 20); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

17. Policy and Procedures on Sponsorship of Events Targeted at School Pupils

Progress was reported on the review of the policy and procedures on sponsorship targeted at primary and secondary school pupils through events, visits and partnership working in consultation with parent councils and schools.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made by officers in reviewing policy and procedures on sponsorship targeted at school pupils.
- 2) To request a further update report on completion of the policy and procedures in March 2017.
- 3) To request a further report on completion of the revised draft of the policy and procedures in March 2017.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 24 May 2016 (item 25); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

18. Corporate Performance Framework: Performance to October 2016

An update was provided on Council performance against Education, Children and Families strategic outcomes covering the period to October 2016. The report was presented in line with an update on the Council's Performance Framework approved by the City of Edinburgh Council in June 2016.

Decision

To note the performance for the period to October 2016.

(References – Act of Council No 4 of 30 June 2016; report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

19. Communities and Families Revenue Budget Monitoring 2016/17 – Month Five Position

The projected month five revenue budget monitoring position for the Communities and Families directorate was outlined. The directorate was continuing to manage significant levels of budget pressure in many areas of the service. The total unfunded budget pressure was currently £5.7m. Mitigating management action had been identified to fully address the budget pressures, resulting in a net residual balanced budget position for 2016/2017.

Decision

- 1) To note the balanced revenue budget position at month five.
- 2) To note that approved savings in 2016/17 totalled £12.9m and that the savings programme was being closely monitored with action taken to address any highlighted risks of non-delivery.

(References – minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee 13 December 2016 (item 13); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

20. Recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee – 23 November 2016

The recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee (SWCRC) held on 23 November 2016 on a complaint against the Communities and Families Directorate were submitted.

Decision

To approve the recommendations of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee.

(Reference – report by the Chair of the Social Work Complaints Review Committee, submitted.)