

Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday 5 September 2023

Present:

Councillors Griffiths (Convener), Burgess, Mitchell (substituting for Councillor Cowdy), Davidson, Graham, Glasgow, Hyslop, Jones, Kumar, O'Neill, Young and Younie (substituting for Councillor Young for item 7).

Added Members for Education Items

Religious Representatives

Fiona Beveridge, Angela Campbell and Dr Ruhy Parris (non-voting)

Secondary Sector Parent/Carer Representative

Alexander Ramage (non-voting)

Primary Sector Parent/Carer Representative

Louise Collingwood (non-voting)

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 6 June 2023 as a correct record.

2. Work Programme

The Committee's work programme updated to September 2023 was presented.

Decision:

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme, 5 September 2023, submitted)

3. Rolling Actions Log

The rolling actions log updated to September 2023 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:

- Action 1 - Funding for excursions for educational purposes, report by Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services; officers to circulate Overseas Excursion Guidance improvement process to members.
 - Action 2 – Holiday Support for children affected by a disability, report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services
 - Action 4 – Motion by Councillor Burgess – Outdoor Learning for Edinburgh Schools, report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services
 - Action 10 – Outdoor Learning – report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services
 - Action 17 – Edinburgh Secure Services and Residential Estate Update, report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services
 - Action 28 – Business Bulletin – Outdoor Learning Update, report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services
 - Action 35 - Gaelic Implementation Steering Group
 - Action 38 - Emergency motion by Councillor Young – Ferryhill Primary School, report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services. Officers to distribute an update on this item.
- 2) To agree to keep the following actions recommended for closure open:
- Action 6 – Attainment in the Broad General Education in Edinburgh Primary and Secondary Schools 2021-22
 - Action 7 – Motion by Councillor Davidson – Internet Safety
 - Action 18 – Learning Estate Update – 2022 Based School Roll Projections and Secondary Capacity Review
- 3) Officers to ensure that briefing notes are shared with all members including parent representatives where appropriate.
- 4) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, September 2023, submitted)

4. Deputations & Presentations

The following deputations and presentations were made to the committee members on 5 September 2023:

a) Presentation from Kirkliston Primary School – Clean Plates Campaign

The presentation from the Kirkliston Primary School was heard. A pupil presented the Clean Plates Campaign which was implemented in school to

reduce food waste. Catering staff were disposing of 6 bags of food waste daily. The cost-of-living crisis was another reason to reduce food waste. The impact on agriculture and environment was noted. The pupil had asked the Headteacher to conduct a survey in her school and presented her findings to the committee based on over 300 responses. The main finding was that most children do not like food served in school. The pupil asked committee members to involve children and catering staff in planning healthy balanced meals to keep plates clean. In high school the pupils had got menu choices, and it means that children know what they are getting so they will enjoy it more and waste less food.

(see item 16 below)

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Young made a transparency statement as the pupil who presented is her daughter.

b) Presentation from Prestonfield Primary School – Jamie Oliver Good Food Award

The Prestonfield Primary School presentation was given by the Headteacher, an Early Years Officer and a parent. The Headteacher expressed a need to establish the community links and parental engagement to reduce the poverty related attainment gap. As a part of the strategy to meet the needs of learners the Family Cooking initiative was designed, and this resulted in winning the National Early Years Jamie Oliver Good Food Award. The presentation expressed concern about inflation as children were coming to nursery hungry and they wanted to do something inclusive, so they invited families to work together. The presentation considered the need to learn healthy habits in early year education. Staff had gone the extra mile to make this programme work. The programme helped to introduce children to food in a positive manner as they cooked together, and some children never experienced this at home. This also helped children to learn more about safety and cooking environment.

c) Presentation from James Gillespie's High School – Gaelic Medium Education

Three members of school staff and four S5 pupils from Higher Gaelic class presented. The presentation considered that it is often perceived the roots of Gaelic belongs to the Highlands and advised the importance of learning this language in Edinburgh too. The staff commitment and hard work to embrace Gaelic medium education was praised. The school's recent award was recognised. The presentation considered the broad offer across different courses which had an impact on Gaelic education and resulted in this award. The young people felt it was an important language and

recognised opportunities at university. The presentation considered job opportunities in singing and teaching.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Burgess made a transparency statement as his children attend Gaelic Medium Education.

d) Volunteering Matters (in relation to item 11.1 on the agenda - Connected Communities Edinburgh 2024-27 Grants Programme)

Volunteering Matters (and other third sector organisations) were concerned about the decision to prevent any Third Sector organisation with an annual income of £2 million or more, the opportunity to bid for funding through the City of Edinburgh Council, 2024-2027 Connected Communities Fund.

Volunteering matters were affected by this decision, at a time when they were delivering high impact programmes across the city, directly reaching and supporting people and communities that had already been identified by Council members as most in need (SIMD 1 and 2, single parent families and BME), and who had been identified as priorities.

Some of the other charities impacted deliver equally vital services, some very specialist, where there are no viable alternatives available with that expertise within the city. This decision risks restricting the reach and impact of the council's investment. We feel it is vital the investment should be about the individuals and communities you seek to deliver outcomes for, not on an arbitrary value of the size of an organisation's income delivering those outcomes.

Together with the other charities impacted by this decision, the deputation requested that this income cap be removed from the eligibility criteria.

(see item 18 below)

5. Business Bulletin

The Business Bulletin for 5 September 2023 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the updates in the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To request a briefing note on Early Years' Change Programme
- 3) To note that a timetable of meetings will be put in place for the Gaelic Implementation Steering Group meetings.
- 4) To note that a briefing note will be circulated on the Holiday Hub Provision.
- 5) To provide members with an update on maintenance costs associated with defibrillators in schools.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, 5 September 2023, submitted)

6. Quality Improvement and Scrutiny Update

Information was provided on a range of Education Scotland (HMI) scrutiny and local authority reviews. The main finding continued to be the need to improve the variability in leadership capacity and teachers, and to provide differentiated learning to meet learners' needs. The Quality Improvement Service would continue to challenge underperformance and promote good practice. Coaching in context would be increased in schools requiring more support and there will be enhanced roles for successful Headteachers to support their peers through the Associate Headteacher scheme. The Edinburgh Learns Teaching and Learning team would continue to work with on a targeted and universal programme of professional learning delivering the Teachers' Charter. Support sessions would be provided to ensure effective tracking and monitoring of attendance, attainment, and pupils' achievements. This would include professional learning which deepens teachers' understanding of national standards to ensure accuracy in professional judgements about progress in learning. All work would be supported by the Education Scotland Attainment Adviser and Equity Lead Officers.

Decision

- 1) To note the strengths and areas for improvement identified through Education Scotland and QICS scrutiny activity.
- 2) To agree next steps at 5.1 – 5.4:
 - QICS will continue to undertake the planned calendar of activity related to Inspection follow-through and supported self-evaluation visits which will be reported to Education, Children & Families Committee.
 - QICS will continue to respond to learning from ongoing inspection and internal review processes providing universal, targeted and intensive levels of support. Learning themes will be shared with all Head Teachers to inform improvement.
 - QICS to review the Capacity and Risk Register to ensure accuracy of information and to inform proportionate levels of support and to plan future review activity to ensure Equity and Excellence.
 - QICS to ensure that all actions for improvement are implemented by schools within agreed timescales.
- 3) Officers to ensure that reports on individual schools will be shared with ward members.

(Reference – Quality Improvement and Scrutiny Update, report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services, submitted.)

7. Learning Estate Update: Statutory Consultations required for St Catherine's RC Primary School, a new Primary School in Queensferry and a new Kirkliston High School

Information was provided to seek an approval to progress three separate statutory consultations. These consultations would propose a new site for a replacement St Catherine's RC Primary School, a new primary school in Queensferry and a new secondary school in Kirkliston. All three had been the subject of various informal engagement processes, with the outcomes of recent engagement in Kirkliston and Gracemount reported in the Learning Estate Update. Changes to the school estate are governed by the Schools (Scotland) (Consultation) Act 2014 as amended and all three consultations would be conducted according to the requirements of the Act. The outcomes of the consultations would be reported back to Committee in January 2024.

Motion

- 1) To note the summary of responses from informal engagement in Kirkliston on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre as the site for a new Kirkliston High School;
- 2) To note the summary of responses from informal engagement in Gracemount on potential sites for replacement of the St Catherine's RC Primary School building
- 3) To approve that delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services to issue three separate statutory consultation papers, according to the requirements of the Schools (Scotland) (Consultation) Act 2014 as amended, proposing the following:
 - The relocation of St Catherine's RC Primary School to a new site;
 - The establishment of a new primary school at Builyeon Road in Queensferry with associated catchment changes; and
 - The establishment of a new secondary school in Kirkliston at the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site with associated catchment changes.

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

Amendment

- 1) To agree that, in furthering the proposals for the Kirkliston High School, officers should:
 - a) ensure that pupils at a new high school have complete access to the full curriculum.
 - b) deliver proper solutions with respect to parking facilities for high school staff, and mitigation of other transport issues identified in the transport assessment, prior to the opening of a new high school.

c) maintain and, where possible, expand the leisure facilities and services which are available to the local community.

- moved by Councillor Davison, seconded by Councillor Younie

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the summary of responses from informal engagement in Kirkliston on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre as the site for a new Kirkliston High School.
- 2) To note the summary of responses from informal engagement in Gracemount on potential sites for replacement of the St Catherine's RC Primary School building
- 3) To approve that delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services to issue three separate statutory consultation papers, according to the requirements of the Schools (Scotland) (Consultation) Act 2014 as amended, proposing the following:
 - The relocation of St Catherine's RC Primary School to a new site
 - The establishment of a new primary school at Builyeon Road in Queensferry with associated catchment changes
 - The establishment of a new secondary school in Kirkliston at the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site with associated catchment changes.
- 4) To agree that, in furthering the proposals for the Kirkliston High School, officers should:
 - a) ensure that pupils at a new high school have complete access to the full curriculum.
 - b) deliver proper solutions with respect to parking facilities for high school staff, and mitigation of other transport issues identified in the transport assessment, prior to the opening of a new high school.
 - c) maintain and, where possible, expand the leisure facilities and services which are available to the local community.

(References – Learning Estate Update: Statutory Consultations required for St Catherine's RC Primary School, a new Primary School in Queensferry and a new Kirkliston High School report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Young declared a non-financial interest as the catchment area of the proposed Kirkliston High School affects her children and left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

Angela Campbell made a transparency statement as she is the RC religious representative.

Louise Collingwood made a transparency statement as the Chair of Kirkliston Parent Association.

8. Standards & Quality Report and Education Improvement Plan

A summary was provided on the statutory Standards and Quality Report and Education Improvement Plan 2023 which are prepared annually, following analysis of data, consultation with Edinburgh Learns Boards, Headteachers and officers. The report identified notable improvements in performance.

The attainment of learners living in SIMD Quintile 5 had also continued to rise and the range of courses and awards expanded to offer more personalised learning pathways.

Decision

To approve the following motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the progress made during the last academic session.
- 2) To note the Education Improvement Plan targets which have been shared with schools, particularly those to Close the Poverty Related Attainment Gap.
- 3) To agree next step at 5.1:
“The Education Improvement Plan (Appendix 2) sets out the next phase of implementation to meet the objectives of the National Improvement Framework and the Council Business Plan”.
- 4) Officers to provide information relating to the level of provision of musical instrument tuition across the school estate.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services, submitted.)

9. Learning for Sustainability

This report detailed the work carried out in schools to develop Learning for Sustainability. It also responded to a Motion by Councillor Burgess requesting a report on how Learning for Sustainability including the climate and nature emergencies can be developed and enhanced.

Motion

- 1) To note the response to the seven action points from the motion on Learning for Sustainability.
- 2) To note the Standards and Quality Report which evaluates the work carried out in Session 2022-2023 and the newly created Action Plan for Session 2023-2024.

-moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

Amendment

- 1) To understand that the provision of teacher-time in schools for session 2023-24 has been funded through budget flexibility, therefore requests that this provision is included as a specific line in the draft council budget so that political groups can decide on future funding.

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor O'Neill

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note response to the seven action points from the motion on Learning for Sustainability.
- 2) To note the Standards and Quality Report which evaluates the work carried out in Session 2022-2023 and the newly created Action Plan for Session 2023-2024.
- 3) To understand that the provision of teacher-time in schools for session 2023-24 has been funded through budget flexibility, therefore requests that this provision is included as a specific line in the draft council budget so that political groups can decide on future funding.

(References – Learning for Sustainability, report by the Executive Director of Children, Education & Justice Services, submitted.)

10. Community Access to Secondary Schools – Transfer of management of non-sport lets to Edinburgh Leisure

This report provided an update for Committee on the transfer of management of community access to non-sport spaces in secondary schools to Edinburgh Leisure.

Motion

- 1) To approve the transfer of the management of non-sport lets in all secondary schools to Edinburgh Leisure.

- 2) To delegate responsibility to officers to agree the timeline for the phased transfer of the service with Edinburgh Leisure.
- 3) To request an annual report detailing the performance of sport and non-sport let's within secondary schools.

-moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

Amendment 1

- 1) To approve the transfer of the management of non-sports lets in the 8 secondary schools identified in this report.
- 2) To delegate responsibility to officers to agree timeline for the phased transfer of the 8 identified schools to Edinburgh Leisure.
- 3) To request an update report in 6 months detailing level of access by community groups and performance of sport and non-sport lets within secondary schools.
- 4) To request an annual report detailing the performance of sport and non-sport lets within secondary schools.
- 5) To agree to defer decision to transfer management of non-sports lets in all secondary schools to Edinburgh Leisure following scrutiny of annual report in 1.1.4.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Hyslop

Amendment 2

- 1) To ensure that any transfer of management to Edinburgh Leisure does not include delegated control over the setting of hire fees, which should continue to be set as part of the Council's annual budget.
- 2) To consider if the decision at Full Council for a move to paying the living wage for Edinburgh Leisure staff, will have any financial impact of this report and ask Officers to provide an update at the November Education Committee.

-moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), amendment 1 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion and amendment 2 was accepted as addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To approve the transfer of the management of non-sport lets in all secondary schools to Edinburgh Leisure.
- 2) To delegate responsibility to officers to agree the timeline for the phased transfer of the service with Edinburgh Leisure.

- 3) To request an annual report detailing the performance of sport and non-sport let's within secondary schools.
- 4) To approve the transfer of the management of non-sports lets in the secondary schools identified in this report.
- 5) To delegate responsibility to officers to agree timeline for the phased transfer of the 8 identified schools to Edinburgh Leisure.
- 6) Request an update report in 6 months detailing level of access by community groups and performance of sport and non-sport lets within secondary schools.
- 7) To ensure that any transfer of management to Edinburgh Leisure does not include delegated control over the setting of hire fees, which should continue to be set as part of the Council's annual budget.
- 8) To consider if the decision at Full Council for a move to paying the living wage for Edinburgh Leisure staff, will have any financial impact of this report and ask Officers to provide an update at the November Education Committee.

(References – Community Access to Secondary Schools – Transfer of management of non-sport lets to Edinburgh Leisure, report by the Executive Director of Children, Education & Justice Services, submitted.)

11. Children's Services Improvement Plan Update

The report informed on progress that has been made in all areas of the improvement plan. In some areas there had been delay and this primarily related to delay in getting key staff into post.

Motion

- 1) To note the positive progress made against the Children's Services Improvement Plan.
- 2) To scrutinise those areas where progress is slower than planned and ensure effective mitigations are in place.

-Moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

Amendment

- 1) To request that committee continues to be updated on the Children's Services Improvement Plan at least every six months.

-moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor O'Neill

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendums to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the positive progress made against the Children's Services Improvement Plan.
- 2) To scrutinise those areas where progress is slower than planned and ensure effective mitigations are in place.
- 3) To request that committee continues to be updated on the Children's Services Improvement Plan at least every six months.
- 4) To note that the regular updates will be provided at every meeting.

(References – Children's Services Improvement Plan Update, report by the Executive Director of Children, Education & Justice Services, submitted.)

12. Edinburgh Secure Services and Residential Estate Update

This report provided the details of the continuous improvements from the last report that went to the Education, Children and Families Committee in April 2023.

Decision

To note the positive progress in the report and agree to further updates to Education, Children and Families Committee.

(References – Edinburgh Secure Services and Residential Estate Update, report by the Executive Director of Children, Education & Justice Services, submitted)

13. Revenue Monitoring 2023/24 – month three report

This report provided an information on the projected month three revenue monitoring position for Children, Education and Justice Services, based on review of expenditure and income to end of June 2023, and projections for the remainder of the year.

Decision

- 1) To note the estimated net residual budget pressure of £5.5m at month three.
- 2) A further update report will be provided to Committee later in the year on the month six position.

(References – Revenue Monitoring 2023/24 – month three report, report by the Executive Director of Children, Education & Justice Services, submitted)

14. Active Schools Thematic Review Findings

The report provided an overview of the findings of Active Schools Thematic Review which took place in May 2023. The findings from the review validated many identified

strengths and confirmed areas for improvement. Actions would be reflected in the Active Schools Annual Plan for session 2023-24.

The report identified that the Active Schools in Edinburgh is meeting the objectives set by sportscotland by encouraging more children to be more active, more often, particularly in areas of deprivation.

Motion

- 1) To note the strengths and areas for improvement identified through validated self-evaluation activity.
- 2) To agree next steps at 5.1-5.4:
 - Revise and update the Active Schools Plan during session 2023-24.
 - Ensure the actions of the validated self-evaluation are reflected in the Active Schools Annual Report, included expected outcomes for session 2023-24.
 - Take forward actions from the Active Schools Integrated Impact assessment, see Appendix 2.

- Publish and share the Wider Achievement Framework for schools

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

Amendment

- 1) To agree that the revised Active Schools Plan is presented to committee before the end of session 2023-24.

-moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor O'Neill

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the strengths and areas for improvement identified through validated self-evaluation activity.
- 2) To agree next steps at 5.1-5.4:
 - Revise and update the Active Schools Plan during session 2023-24.
 - Ensure the actions of the validated self-evaluation are reflected in the Active Schools Annual Report, included expected outcomes for session 2023-24.
 - Take forward actions from the Active Schools Integrated Impact assessment, see Appendix 2.
 - Publish and share the Wider Achievement Framework for schools

- 3) To agree that the revised Active Schools Plan is presented to committee before the end of session 2023-24.
- 4) To note that the officers will provide more details on registration system to the next committee meeting
- 5) To issue a briefing note about the active schools offer in each school.

(References – Active Schools Thematic Review Findings, report by the Executive Director of Children, Education & Justice Services, submitted)

15. Free Food Provision in Schools - Response to motion by Councillor Davidson

The report responded to a motion approved by Committee on 6 June 2023 by Councillor Davidson on Free Food Provision in Schools. The motion requested a report in one cycle outlining the current challenges with the procurement process and what solutions could make the food easier to obtain.

Decision

- 1) To note that officers will provide more details on monitoring purchase cards.
- 2) To note the update on food provision in schools.
- 3) To note the challenges that the Council faces with rising costs and inflationary pressures.
- 4) To work underway to tackle food waste in schools.

(References – Free Food Provision in Schools - Response to motion by Councillor Davidson, report by the Executive Director of Children, Education & Justice Services, submitted)

16. Motion by Councillor Griffiths - Prestonfield Nursery's Family Cooking Project Wins Award

Motion by Councillor Griffiths about Prestonfield Nursery's Family Cooking Project Wins Award was presented to committee members.

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham:

Committee:

- 1) Congratulates Prestonfield Nursery on winning the Early Years Award in Jamie Oliver's inaugural Good School Food Awards 2023;
- 2) Notes Prestonfield Nursery's Family Cooking Project which started in February, has been a great success and an excellent initiative that

encourages both children and parents to cook a hot meal with simple, healthy, affordable ingredients;

- 3) Recognises that this project promotes and enhances healthy lifestyles, parental engagement and helps close the poverty gap;
- 4) Applauds the initiative for raising awareness of the importance of a health lifestyle and links in with Health Scotland's "Setting the Table", Nutritional Guidance and Food Standards for Early Years Childcare Providers in Scotland;
- 5) Thanks Prestonfield Nursery for attending the Education, Children and Families Committee on 5 September 2023 to showcase their fantastic work;
- 6) Wishes them all the best going forward with the initiative and any future projects.

17. Emergency Motion by Councillor Griffiths – RAAC in Schools and Emergency Motion by Councillor Young – RAAC in Schools – Funding and Progress

A composite motion was proposed by Councillor Griffiths:

Motion

1) Council to note:

- a. The presence of RAAC in schools across Scotland and that, To date, reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) has been identified in schools in Edinburgh.
- b. That surveys continue across the school estate, with the potential of further RAAC being identified.
- c. That mitigation measures are putting huge pressure on schools, with learners being displaced, and large parts of some schools being inaccessible for many months to come.
- d. At present, all costs associated with RAAC are unplanned and unbudgeted, including rehousing of pupils, building works and other associated costs, which are creating additional financial pressure on the Council.
- e. That the Department for Education in the UK Government's commitment to pay for emergency mitigation work and funding for longer term refurbishment or rebuilding project to rectify the RAAC issue for over 600 schools in England.
- f. Since no additional funding has been provided by the Scottish Government yet, this may result in cuts to other vital areas of council spending to meet the pressure.

2) Committee therefore agrees to:

1. Commends the extensive work of officers in finding alternative temporary provision, and to parents/carers and young people for their understanding and support
2. Calls for the Convener /Council Leader to urgently write to Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills & COSLA to request their intervention, support and resources to ensure a plan to respond to RAAC can be delivered with the appropriate resources and requesting funding to be made available to carry out these urgent and necessary safety repairs.
3. Calls for the Convener /Council Leader to urgently write to the UK Government to strongly lobby for any UK spending to rectify RAAC in English schools to result in Barnett consequential to be passed to the Scottish Government.
4. Asks that action be taken to ensure that all schools/council buildings with RAAC in Edinburgh are properly identified and requests an urgent briefing note to all elected members within the next week on the number of schools and other council buildings in Edinburgh affected by reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) and detailing what action is being taken to resolve the issue in affected schools and council buildings.
5. asks that regular updates are provided to the committee, through the business bulletin, detailing the actions being taken to mitigate the presence of RAAC, the impact those measures are having on school operations and the financial impact of works.

-moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Kumar

Amendment

1) Council to note:

- a. The presence of RAAC in schools across Scotland and that, To date, reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) has been identified in schools in Edinburgh.
- b. That surveys continue across the school estate, with the potential of further RAAC being identified.
- c. That mitigation measures are putting huge pressure on schools, with learners being displaced, and large parts of some schools being inaccessible for many months to come.
- d. At present, all costs associated with RAAC are unplanned and unbudgeted, including rehousing of pupils, building works and other associated costs, which are creating additional financial pressure on the Council.
- e. That the Department for Education in the UK Government's commitment to pay for emergency mitigation work and funding for longer term refurbishment

or rebuilding project to rectify the RAAC issue for over 600 schools in England.

f. Since no additional funding has been provided by the Scottish Government yet, this may result in cuts to other vital areas of council spending to meet the pressure.

2) Committee therefore agrees to:

1. Commends the extensive work of officers in finding alternative temporary provision, and to parents/carers and young people for their understanding and support

2. Calls for the Convener /Council Leader to urgently write to Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills & COSLA to request their intervention, support and resources to ensure a plan to respond to RAAC can be delivered with the appropriate resources and requesting funding to be made available to carry out these urgent and necessary safety repairs.

3. Asks that action be taken to ensure that all schools/council buildings with RAAC in Edinburgh are properly identified and requests an urgent briefing note to all elected members within the next week on the number of schools and other council buildings in Edinburgh affected by reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) and detailing what action is being taken to resolve the issue in affected schools and council buildings.

4. asks that regular updates are provided to the committee, through the business bulletin, detailing the actions being taken to mitigate the presence of RAAC, the impact those measures are having on school operations and the financial impact of works.

-moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Mitchell

Vote

For a motion: - 9 votes

Against For an amendment: - 2 votes

(For the motion: Councillors: Griffiths, Burgess, Davidson, Graham, Kumar, O'Neill and Young

For the amendment: Mitchell and Jones.)

Decision

To approve the following motion by Councillor Griffiths:

1) Council to note:

a. The presence of RAAC in schools across Scotland and that, To date, reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) has been identified in schools in Edinburgh.

b. That surveys continue across the school estate, with the potential of further RAAC being identified.

c. That mitigation measures are putting huge pressure on schools, with learners being displaced, and large parts of some schools being inaccessible for many months to come.

d. At present, all costs associated with RAAC are unplanned and unbudgeted, including rehousing of pupils, building works and other associated costs, which are creating additional financial pressure on the Council.

e. That the Department for Education in the UK Government's commitment to pay for emergency mitigation work and funding for longer term refurbishment or rebuilding project to rectify the RAAC issue for over 600 schools in England.

f. Since no additional funding has been provided by the Scottish Government yet, this may result in cuts to other vital areas of council spending to meet the pressure.

2) Committee therefore to:

1. Commends the extensive work of officers in finding alternative temporary provision, and to parents/carers and young people for their understanding and support

2. Calls for the Convener /Council Leader to urgently write to Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills & COSLA to request their intervention, support and resources to ensure a plan to respond to RAAC can be delivered with the appropriate resources and requesting funding to be made available to carry out these urgent and necessary safety repairs.

3. Calls for the Convener /Council Leader to urgently write to the UK Government to strongly lobby for any UK spending to rectify RAAC in English schools to result in Barnett consequential to be passed to the Scottish Government.

4. Asks that action be taken to ensure that all schools/council buildings with RAAC in Edinburgh are properly identified and requests an urgent briefing note to all elected members within the next week on the number of schools and other council buildings in Edinburgh affected by reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) and detailing what action is being taken to resolve the issue in affected schools and council buildings.

5. asks that regular updates are provided to the committee, through the business bulletin, detailing the actions being taken to mitigate the presence of RAAC, the impact those measures are having on school operations and the financial impact of works.

18. Connected Communities Edinburgh 2024-27 – Grants Programme and Motion by Councillor Kumar - Connected Communities Edinburgh 2024-27 – Grants Programme

This report provided detail on the refreshed Connected Communities Edinburgh Grants Programme. This information has been shared with Elected Members in two briefing sessions. It had also been shared with the Community and Voluntary Sector over three engagement events which were led jointly with LAYC and EVOC. The report sought approval to deliver the new 2024 - 27 grants programme according to the process and timeline set out.

Resolution to Consider in Private

The Committee, was requested under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude the public from the meeting for this item of business on the grounds that they would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

Committee agreed to consider the item in public.

Motion

- 1) To note the work done to date, including the Briefing Sessions delivered to Elected Members and the Community and Voluntary Sector, in partnership with LAYC (Lothian Association of Youth Clubs) and EVOC (Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council).
 - 2) Note the cross-party support and approval granted by Elected Members on 22 August 2023.
 - 3) Notes a special meeting of Education Children and Families Committee will be scheduled for award recommendations at the beginning of December.
 - 4) Approve the refinements made to the 2024-27 Grants Programme.
 - 5) Approve the process to determine successful grant applicants.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Graham

Amendment 1

The following motion by Councillor Kumar was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17.2 and verbally adjusted in terms of Standing Order 22(5):

- 1) Committee notes that at the Education Children and Families APM councillors were told that the criteria for the third-party grants fund had been agreed during the previous council term and that the committee paper would be circulated.
- 2) Notes that the paper has not been circulated and no record found.
- 3) Agrees that the third-party grants application process cannot open until councillors have agreed the criteria for the fund, and although it looks like that

report did not go to a previous committee, even if it had, it would be right for councillors in this term to scrutinise the criteria ahead of the grants opening.

- 4) Agrees to receive a report [in one cycle/at a special meeting] setting out the criteria for the third-party grants programme for councillor approval.
- 5) Agrees that the third-party grants fund be opened only once approval has been given by committee.
- 6) Agrees that existing grants must be extended while this process is followed to allow for proper committee oversight.
- 7) In accordance with Standing Order 31(1) to refer the decision to Council.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Hyslop

Amendment 2

- 1) Committee notes that at the Education Children and Families APM councillors were told that the criteria for the third-party grants fund had been agreed during the previous council term and that the committee paper would be circulated.
- 2) Notes that the paper has not been circulated and no record found.
- 3) Notes that Committee Members were invited to attend a briefing on 22nd March, during that meeting no concerns were raised regarding the criteria under which the scheme was proceeding.
- 4) Notes that extensive work has taken place in conjunction with LAYC and EVOC on designing a process to be inclusive and supportive to third sector organisations.
- 5) Furthermore, extensive briefing work has taken place with sector organisations who expect applications to open later in September.
- 6) Therefore, resolves that whilst Committee expresses concerns about the governance issues surrounding the initial criteria setting process, agrees that the scheme should proceed on the current timetable to provide stability and reassurance for third sector recipients and applicants”.

- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young

Vote

To refer the decision to Council: - 5 votes

To not refer the decision to Council: - 6 votes

(For the referral to council: Councillors: Kumar, Hyslop, O’Neill, Burgess, Glasgow

Against the referral to council: Griffiths, Graham, Davidson, Young, Mitchell and Jones)

Decision

In accordance with Standing Order 31(1), the decision was referred to Council.