

Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday 20 September 2022

Present:

Councillors Griffiths (Convener), Bandel (substituting for Councillor O'Neill), Burgess (items 2 to 20), Cowdy, Davidson (items 1 to 10), Heap (substituting for Councillor Burgess for item 1), Jones, Key, Kumar, Mattos Coelho, Osler (substituting for Councillor Davidson for items 11 to 20), Walker and Young.

Added Members for Education Items

Religious Representatives

Fiona Beveridge, Angela Campbell and Dr Ruhy Parris.

1. Gaelic Medium Education (GME) Update

An update was provided on the Gaelic Medium Education (GME) provision in Edinburgh. Further details on the present sites and other sites that could support the quality of education as set out in the educational benefits section of the previous report to Committee on 1 March 2022 were also submitted for consideration.

Members also considered the views and points raised set out in a written deputation from Comann nam Pàrant Dùn Èideann.

Motion

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To note the decision of Education, Children & Families Committee on 1 March 2022 not to begin a consultation on a Gaelic medium annex attached to the new Liberton High School and instead calling for further information on other options.
- 3) To note the information provided in this report on other options, however notes that a full options appraisal has not yet been carried out on any potential other site.
- 4) To note that, in the medium term, the opening of Darroch, the Gaelic medium annex, would relieve the current overcapacity at James Gillespie's High School, although further notes that more capacity at JGHS would be needed in the longer term.

- 5) To agree that it is important for the future of Gaelic in the capital, that an appropriate site was found for a Gaelic high school and also recognises the potential to co-locate the high school with a Gaelic cultural hub.
 - 6) To recognise the importance of having reasonable proximity and accessibility of a Gaelic high school with the Gaelic primary school at Taobh na Pairce in order to encourage families to remain in and join Gaelic Medium Education.
 - 7) To welcome proposals to develop further sites for GME primary schools across the city, noting the preference of many parents that these should be standalone GME primary schools rather than units within English medium schools, and calls for a report to identify where these could be located and how they would be funded.
 - 8) Therefore, to agree to further engagement with the Gaelic community through reconvening the Gaelic Implementation Group with the same representation as previously constituted in 2021-22 to discuss the current position and explore future proposals if alternative sites become available.
 - 9) To agree that the Gaelic Implementation Group should have its first meeting in advance of the next meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee scheduled for 15 November 2022.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment 1

- 1) That, given the information in reply to Councillor Booth's Question on GME at Full Council on 25 Aug 2022, the Education, Children and Families Committee regrets the lack of action and dialogue with stakeholders, in particular between the Convener and Comann nam Pàrant Dùn Èideann, and regrets that there are no plans for further engagement with the Gaelic community.
- 2) That the Education, Children and Families Committee:
 - 1.3.1 regrets the lack of appointment of a Gaelic Champion.
 - 1.3.2 regrets the lack of appointment of a Gaelic Implementation Group.
 - 1.3.3 is concerned about the spiralling costs of school construction and the impact of any further delay in building a secondary GME school in Edinburgh.
 - 1.3.4 is very concerned, in delaying a decision on the site for a new secondary GME school, about the potential impact on teaching and learning at the new Liberton High School campus caused by a disjointed construction programme there.

- 3) To call for further engagement with all stakeholders immediately and agree that a substantive programme for the building of a secondary GME school would be brought back to Committee in no later than 12 months, with an interim update report in 3 cycles.
- moved by Councillor Key, seconded by Councillor Kumar

Voting

For the motion: 11 votes

For the amendment: 3 votes

(For the motion – Councillors Bandel, Cowdy, Davidson, Griffiths, Heap, Jones, Walker and Young, Fiona Beveridge, Angela Campbell and Dr Ruhy Parris.

For the amendment – Councillors Key, Kumar and Mattos Coelho.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To note the decision of Education, Children & Families Committee on 1 March 2022 not to begin a consultation on a Gaelic medium annex attached to the new Liberton High School and instead calling for further information on other options.
- 3) To note the information provided in this report on other options, however notes that a full options appraisal has not yet been carried out on any potential other site.
- 4) To note that, in the medium term, the opening of Darroch, the Gaelic medium annex, would relieve the current overcapacity at James Gillespie's High School, although further notes that more capacity at JGHS would be needed in the longer term.
- 5) To agree that it is important for the future of Gaelic in the capital, that an appropriate site was found for a Gaelic high school and also recognises the potential to co-locate the high school with a Gaelic cultural hub.
- 6) To recognise the importance of having reasonable proximity and accessibility of a Gaelic high school with the Gaelic primary school at Taobh na Pairce in order to encourage families to remain in and join Gaelic Medium Education.
- 7) To welcome proposals to develop further sites for GME primary schools across the city, noting the preference of many parents that these should be standalone GME primary schools rather than units within English medium schools, and calls for a report to identify where these could be located and how they would be funded.

- 8) Therefore, to agree to further engagement with the Gaelic community through reconvening the Gaelic Implementation Group with the same representation as previously constituted in 2021-22 to discuss the current position and explore future proposals if alternative sites become available.
- 9) To agree that the Gaelic Implementation Group should have its first meeting in advance of the next meeting of the Education, Children and Families Committee scheduled for 15 November 2022.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 1 March 2022 (item 1); written deputation from Comman Nam Pàrant Dùn Èideann, submitted; report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Burgess made a non-financial declaration as his children attended the Gaelic Primary School, left the meeting and took no part in the decision on the matter.

Councillor Mattos Coelho made a transparency statement as her son attended Liberton High School.

2. Early Years Partner Provider – Hourly Rate for Funded Early Learning and Childcare

(a) Deputation – National Day Nursery Association Edinburgh Network

Members received verbal and written representations from the National Day Nursery Association Edinburgh Network raising concerns around the hourly rate increases for funded early learning and childcare proposed by the City of Edinburgh Council.

The NDNA also expressed the view that if the funding rate was only reviewed every three years then this would not take account of increases in costs such as inflation, real living wage and food costs.

The deputation urged the committee to consider the following proposals:

- 1) The hourly funding rate and meals needed to either be reviewed yearly or should automatically increase annually to reflect the rising costs such as inflation and the real living wage.
- 2) The rate should increase based on current fees paid by parents rather than on a predetermined rate (currently £5.42).
- 3) Eligible 2s’ funding needed to reflect the significantly higher staffing, space and operational costs. (22% more floor space and accrue 60% more staff costs).
- 4) To support and enable parental choice funding for statutory 1140 hours places should follow the child equally irrespective of type of provision parents decided to choose.

(b) Deputation – Scottish Private Nursery Association

Members received verbal and written representations from the Scottish Private Nursery Association (SPNA) regarding the hourly rate for funded early learning and childcare.

The deputation requested the committee to take into consideration the following points:

- While SPNA appreciated the proposed uplift in the rate, it didn't undo years of underfunding, nor did it recognise the true cost of providing care.
- None of the methods used, including that of the Ipsos Mori review, provided an accurate representation of the costs of provision of 1140 hours.
- All nurseries raised funds through other areas of their operation to subsidise their 1140 hours provision. Therefore, looking at just 1140 hours didn't give an accurate reflection.
- As recognised by COSLA, and noted by the Scottish Parliament, Council nurseries had a significantly lower cost base than PVI nurseries.
- Council also needed to recognise the PVI nursery sector within the City of Edinburgh provides more than just 1140 hours; it provided the vast majority of care for children who were outwith the 1140 hour programme.
- The low rate of funding for 1140 hours was putting the provision of all services at risk.
- SPNA would support Council if the issue was that they were not receiving enough funding from SG. However, no matter the cause of the low rate of funding, there was a significant risk of nursery closures or massive rate hikes which would have the impact either on families not being able to afford to send their children to nursery, or the nurseries just not being open.
- This would have a significant impact across the community which would require more services being provided by Council.

(c) Report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services

Under section 47(1) of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, education authorities were required to ensure that the statutory amount of funded early learning and childcare entitlement was made available for each eligible child.

A review of the hourly rate paid to providers in partnership with the local authority to deliver funded hours was completed in April 2022.

The outcome of the review was presented and recommended an increase in the hourly rate along with an increase in the payment to providers for the provision of a meal for children receiving funded hours.

Motion

- 1) To note the review of the hourly rate paid to partners to delivery funded early learning and childcare to 3 and 4 year olds and agree to increase the rate from £5.42 to £6.03 from 17 August 2022 to reflect the findings of the review.
 - 2) To note the increased cost of delivering funded hours to children under 3 years of age and agree an hourly rate of £6.48 for partners providing places for eligible 2 year olds.
 - 3) To note the review of the payment to partners for the delivery of a meal and agree to increase the payment from £3.00 per meal to £3.10 per meal.
 - 4) To agree to a review of the hourly rate for funded providers in no more than three years from the date of this report.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment

- 1) To note the review of the hourly rate paid to partners to delivery funded early learning and childcare to 3 and 4 year olds and agree to increase the rate from £5.42 to £6.03 from 17 August 2022 to reflect the findings of the review.
 - 2) To note the increased cost of delivering funded hours to children under 3 years of age and agree an hourly rate of £6.48 for partners providing places for eligible 2 year olds.
 - 3) To note the review of the payment to partners for the delivery of a meal and agree to increase the payment from £3.00 per meal to £3.10 per meal.
 - 4) To agree to a review of the hourly rate for funded providers on an annual basis from the date of this report.
 - 5) To agree to provide detailed reports on the Gross Early Learning Annual Budgets for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 to show how the Gross Early Learning Total Budget was allocated to the private, voluntary and independent sectors and the local authorities and how these allocations were calculated.
- moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Cowdy

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 review of the hourly rate paid to partners to delivery funded early learning and childcare to 3 and 4 year olds and agree to increase the rate from £5.42 to £6.03 from 17 August 2022 to reflect the findings of the review.
- 2) To note the increased cost of delivering funded hours to children under 3 years of age and agree an hourly rate of £6.48 for partners providing places for eligible 2 year olds.
- 3) To note the review of the payment to partners for the delivery of a meal and agree to increase the payment from £3.00 per meal to £3.10 per meal.
- 4) To agree to a review of the hourly rate for funded providers on an annual basis from the date of this report.
- 5) To agree to provide detailed reports on the Gross Early Learning Annual Budgets for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 to show how the Gross Early Learning Total Budget was allocated to the private, voluntary and independent sectors and the local authorities and how these allocations were calculated.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 7 December 2021 (item 6); written submissions from the National Day Nurseries Association Edinburgh Network and the Scottish Private Nursery Association, submitted; report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

3. Motion by Councillor Young – St Margaret’s RC Primary School – Catchment Review

(a) Deputation – St Margaret’s RC Primary School Parent Council

Very few pupils from St Margaret’s RC Primary School had gone on to secondary education at St Augustine’s RC High due to the distance and travel time involved with the majority choosing to attend Queensferry High.

The parent council had surveyed families at St Margaret’s RC Primary post-Covid to find out if there was a desire to look into the possibility of making the new RC High School currently under construction in Winchburgh (Sinclair Academy) as the RC catchment High School. 80% of families responded which represented 82% of the school roll the majority of which had expressed a preference for a catchment change to the new High School due in the main to ease of location and access.

The deputation asked the committee to consider commencing the statutory process for a catchment review.

(b) Motion by Councillor Young

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Young in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Committee notes that:

- St Margaret’s Primary School in South Queensferry is within the catchment for St Augustine’s Secondary School in the city centre. However, due to the distance and travel time (which during morning traffic can take 35-40mins each way), most P7 pupils go on to attend the local Queensferry High School instead of the denominational school.
- Sinclair Academy denominational school in Winchburgh, West Lothian, is significantly closer and would mean a round trip for parents of approx. 30mins and would give pupils more time to engage in extra-curricular activities, homework, or time with family.
- Edinburgh Council was approached by West Lothian Council during construction of Sinclair Academy, regarding the option to include West of Edinburgh in their catchment but this was not progressed.
- While non-catchment requests are considered by West Lothian, this offers no guarantee to St Margaret’s families and with the ongoing housing development in West Lothian, it may become more difficult to secure a place. This is of particular concern for families with more than one child if there is no guaranteed place for a sibling.
- Following representations to ward councillors and a meeting with council officers, it was agreed to carry out a survey of parents to determine preference for secondary school catchment. 80% of parents responded covering 82% of the pupils. The results of this survey show that over a third of parents wish their child to go on to a denominational secondary school, and another third are as yet undecided. 100% of these two categories of families wish to pursue a catchment change to Sinclair Academy.

Committee therefore agrees:

- That there is a clear indication from the parent body of St Margaret’s that they wish to explore a change of secondary school catchment.
- To instruct officers to enter into formal discussion with West Lothian Council on the option to realign the catchment and ascertain whether they are willing to accommodate this change.
- To ask officers to keep the Parent Council and ward councillors updated on these discussions and whether realignment can progress.

- To bring a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee in November on the outcome of discussion with West Lothian Council and if agreeable, setting out the next steps for the formal catchment consultation process.”
- moved by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Davidson.

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Young.

4. Minutes

Decision

- 1) To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 1 March 2022 as a correct record.
- 2) To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 3 May 2022 as a correct record.
- 3) To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 2 August 2022 as a correct record.

5. Work Programme

The Committee's work programme updated to September 2022 was presented.

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme, 20 September 2022, submitted)

6. Rolling Actions Log

The rolling actions log updated to September 2022 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:
 - Action 2 – Edinburgh Learns: Framework for Digital Learning
 - Action 3 – Children and Young People's Participation
 - Action 5 – Motion by Councillor Laidlaw – Thistle Foundation Children's Wellbeing Project
 - Action 8 – Equalities – Investigation into Allegations of Racism
 - Action 11A – Gaelic Medium Education in Edinburgh – Statutory Consultation
 - Action 11B – Update on Gaelic Medium Education Statutory Consultation
 - Action 13A – West Edinburgh High School
 - Action 13B – Learning Estate Infrastructure

- Action 14 – Business Bulletin – Strategic Overview of Early Years Childcare Provision
- Action 15A – Review Cuts to English as an Additional Language for Dalry Primary School
- Action 16 – Motion by Councillor Mary Campbell – Support for Teachers and School Staff
- Action 19 – Motion by Councillor Laidlaw – Scottish Government Health and Wellbeing Census
- Action 20 – Energy in Schools – Annual Report
- Action 21 – School Sports and Extracurricular Activities – Progress Report
- Action 24 – Motion by Councillor Gardiner – Currie Community High School

2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, 20 September 2022, submitted)

7. Business Bulletin

The business bulletin for September 2022 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, 20 September 2022, submitted)

8. Standards and Quality Report and Education Improvement Plan

The standards and quality report and education improvement plan were submitted. The report and plan were prepared annually following analysis of data and consultation with Edinburgh Learns Boards, head teachers and officers.

Overall, progress had been maintained despite the significant challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made during the last academic session despite the significant challenges relating to the pandemic.
- 2) To note the Education Improvement Plan targets which had been shared with schools, particularly those close the poverty related attainment gap.

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

9. Edinburgh Learns for Life: Equity

A summary of progress made through key strategic actions during 2021-22 was presented. The report also provided an update on the identified next steps to support children and young people in Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To request an update as early as possible to a future Committee on the work of the new Contracts and Commissioning Team.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 15 December 2020 (item 8); Report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

10. Youth and Children’s Work

Progress towards the creation of a new Youth and Children’s Work Strategy in Edinburgh was presented. An update on the position of youth and children’s work activity that had paused or been discontinued as a result of the pandemic was also presented.

Motion

- 1) To note the progress with re-starting in-person youth and children’s work services as pandemic restrictions eased.
 - 2) To note the strong partnership work underway to create a new Youth and Children’s Work Strategy in Edinburgh, which combined statutory and voluntary sector provision.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment

- 1) To note the progress with re-starting in-person youth and children’s work services as pandemic restrictions eased.
 - 2) To note the strong partnership work underway to create a new Youth and Children’s Work Strategy in Edinburgh, which combined statutory and voluntary sector provision.
 - 3) To request an annual report to the committee which detailed progress on the new strategy.
- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young

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 progress with re-starting in-person youth and children's work services as pandemic restrictions eased.
- 2) To note the strong partnership work underway to create a new Youth and Children's Work Strategy in Edinburgh, which combined statutory and voluntary sector provision.
- 3) To request an annual report to the committee which detailed progress on the new strategy.

(Reference – Policy and Sustainability Committee 20 August 2020 (item 9); report by the Executive Director of Children's Services, submitted)

11. Quality Improvement and Scrutiny

A summary was provided of the review and scrutiny activity undertaken by Education Scotland and the Council's Quality Improvement & Curriculum Service during the Covid pandemic (2020-21 and 2021-22) and as schools progressed through the recovery phase.

The majority of activity had been conducted virtually until the end of session 2021-22 when the lifting of restrictions made it possible to restart face-to-face activities.

The findings of the inspection for each of the key themes had been published in national reports accessed in the background reading section of the Executive Director's report.

Motion

- 1) To note the purpose and learning points from Education Scotland review activity.
 - 2) To note the progress made by schools as evidenced through external and internal follow-through activity.
 - 3) To note the continued hard work of teams across departments within the City of Edinburgh, staff in schools and partners, to support children and young people as part of the Covid-19 response.
 - 4) To agree the next steps as set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.4 of the report.
 - 5) To agree that updates on the work detailed in the report be presented to Committee as required.
- moved by councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment

- 1) To note the purpose and learning points from Education Scotland review activity.
- 2) To note the progress made by schools as evidenced through external and internal follow-through activity.

- 3) To note the continued hard work of teams across departments within the City of Edinburgh, staff in schools and partners, to support children and young people as part of the Covid-19 response.
 - 4) To agree the next steps as set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.4 of the report.
 - 5) To agree that updates on the work detailed in the report be presented to Committee as required.
 - 6) To agree to provide a copy of all recent QICS school reports to members of the committee and relevant ward councillors.
 - 7) To request an update on 5.3 (support to Gracemount High School) at the December Education, Children & Families Committee.
 - 8) To request an update on any new inspection visits that take place during September to December at the December committee.
 - 9) To agree to provide a report to this committee (at the next scheduled date) on any school that receives a less than satisfactory rating for any individual score, to allow for detailed discussion and scrutiny.
- moved by Councillor Donaldson, seconded by Councillor Young

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 purpose and learning points from Education Scotland review activity.
- 2) To note the progress made by schools as evidenced through external and internal follow-through activity.
- 3) To note the continued hard work of teams across departments within the City of Edinburgh, staff in schools and partners, to support children and young people as part of the Covid-19 response.
- 4) To agree the next steps as set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.4 of the report.
- 5) To agree that updates on the work detailed in the report be presented to Committee as required.
- 6) To agree to provide a copy of all recent QICS school reports to members of the committee and relevant ward councillors.
- 7) To request an update on 5.3 (support to Gracemount High School) at the December Education, Children & Families Committee.
- 8) To request an update on any new inspection visits that take place during September to December at the December committee.

- 9) To agree to provide a report to this committee (at the next scheduled date) on any school that receives a less than satisfactory rating for any individual score, to allow for detailed discussion and scrutiny.

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

12. Learning Estate Update – Engagement Planning

An update was provided on the key engagement processes underway and those in development to inform the delivery of new school infrastructure.

A process in the West of the city of pre-engagement activity with Stakeholder Reference Groups had helped shape and focus plans for wider public engagement in this area.

Information was also submitted on the model for engaging with communities to be utilised in other areas of the city, highlighting the need for engagement with the school communities who may be affected by the roll-out of the EnerPHit programme.

Decision

To note the engagement processes underway and those in development to inform the delivery of new school infrastructure.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 1 March 2022 (item 8); report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Young made a transparency statement as the parent of children attending one of the schools affected by the West Edinburgh High School proposals.

13. School Meals Report

An update was submitted on progress made by the catering service in improving the outcomes of pupils across Edinburgh and partnership working across the service.

Information was also provided on the significant operational and financial challenges ahead for the catering service and mitigations in place.

Motion

- 1) To note the update on school meals in regard to Universal Free School Meal uptake.
- 2) To note the challenges that the service faced with rising costs and inflationary pressures.
- 3) To note the significant progress of capital upgrades across the city and the positive impact this has had on the school meal service.

- 4) To acknowledge the work of officers to develop a sustainable service for future growth.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment

To approve the recommendations in the report and add:

- 1) To welcome the Scottish Government announcement in its Programme for Government 2022/23 of £64m of continued investment to extend universal provision of free school meals during term time (already available to those in Primaries 1 to 3) to children in Primary 4 and Primary 5 and alternative holiday meals provision for eligible children as long as it comes with full funding on a recurring basis.
 - 2) To welcome the Scottish Government announcement in its Programme for Government 2022/23 that it would, subject to agreement with COSLA, begin to roll out the provision of universal free school meals to Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils.
- moved by Councillor Key, seconded by Councillor Kumar

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 update on school meals in regard to Universal Free School Meal uptake.
- 2) To note the challenges that the service faced with rising costs and inflationary pressures.
- 3) To note the significant progress of capital upgrades across the city and the positive impact this has had on the school meal service.
- 4) To acknowledge the work of officers to develop a sustainable service for future growth.
- 5) To welcome the Scottish Government announcement in its Programme for Government 2022/23 of £64m of continued investment to extend universal provision of free school meals during term time (already available to those in Primaries 1 to 3) to children in Primary 4 and Primary 5 and alternative holiday meals provision for eligible children as long as it comes with full funding on a recurring basis.
- 6) To welcome the Scottish Government announcement in its Programme for Government 2022/23 that it would, subject to agreement with COSLA, begin to roll out the provision of universal free school meals to Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils.

(References – Education, Children & Families Committee 10 December 2019 (item 1); report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

14. Revenue Monitoring 2022-23 – Month Three Position

The projected month three revenue monitoring position for Education and Children’s Services, based on analysis of actual income and expenditure to end of June 2022 and projections for the remainder of the year was presented.

A review of pressures and savings within the budget indicated a projected net pressure of £2.5m after assumed corporate provisions for continuing COVID impacts on the service.

Work was ongoing to identify mitigating measures to manage financial risks and take timely remedial action where any further adverse variances became apparent.

Decision

- 1) To note the estimated net residual budget pressure of £2.5m at month three.
- 2) To note that a further update would be provided to Committee later in the year on the month six position.

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

15. Empowered Learning Programme

An update was provided on the Empowered Learning programme which underpinned digital learning across all aspects of learning and teaching extending from early years through primary, secondary and special needs sectors.

Decision

To note the report and the progress made to date.

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

16. Attainment in the Senior Phase 2020-21

A summary was provided of key outcomes relating to attainment in the City of Edinburgh Council’s secondary schools for the senior phase (S4 to S6) for the academic session 2020-21.

The Quality Improvement and Curriculum Service (QICS) offered a high level of intensive support and challenge to those schools where attainment was of particular concern. This would involve coaching support in context for the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team, from the Quality Improvement and Education Officer (QIEO) assigned to the school, alongside support from the Edinburgh Learns Team to train teaching and support staff.

An action plan and timeline for improvement would be agreed and a Senior Education Manager would meet regularly with the Head Teacher to review progress.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress and areas for improvement in educational attainment in the senior phase in city of Edinburgh secondary schools during session 2020-21.
- 2) To agree to receive further annual reports on attainment and improvements in performance in the senior phase.
- 3) To note the continued hard work of young people, staff, parents and carers to support the successful delivery of qualifications in session 2020-21 during the global Covid-19 pandemic.

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

17. Response to the National Improvement Framework Consultation on Measures

The response from officers to the Scottish Government consultation on the National Improvement Framework for Education was presented. Views were sought on enhanced data collection for improvement and the key measures to assess progress towards closing the poverty related attainment gap.

The response was generally supportive of the aims and direction of the framework and most of the suggested changes. Action was needed to find more accurate ways of measuring the poverty-related attainment gap due to current limitations with the use of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) within education. The measures used within the NIF should be as inclusive as possible in terms of recognising wider achievement and alternative pathways.

Decision

- 1) To note the response to the consultation.
- 2) To agree to receive regular updates on progress in relation to the updated measures once these had been published.

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

18. Internal Audit – Overdue Findings and Key Performance Indicators as at 26 January 2022 – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had referred a report on internal audit overdue findings and key performance indicators to this Committee for scrutiny of any relevant overdue management actions.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To agree that any significantly overdue findings should be logged separately for committee consideration on a recurring basis.

(Reference – referral report by the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee
8 March 2022, submitted)

19. Motion by Councillor Burgess – Outdoor Learning for Edinburgh Schools

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Burgess in terms of Standing Order 17:

“This Committee:

- 1) Recognises that Learning for Sustainability is a core part of the General Teaching Council for Scotland’s (GTCS) professional standards and that ‘Outdoor Learning’ is one of the three core strands of Learning for Sustainability, alongside Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development Education.
- 2) Understands that the outdoor environment offers motivating, exciting, different, relevant and easily accessible contexts for children to learn and develop.
- 3) Welcomes the programme of residential and excursions for Edinburgh schools and the report on this to committee in August 2021.
- 4) Recognises the other opportunities to integrate onsite and local outdoor learning into the core curriculum and the school day.
- 5) Therefore, requests an update report on outdoor learning in Edinburgh schools including in particular:
 - i) How outdoor learning is delivered day-to-day in Edinburgh schools;
 - ii) The coverage and frequency of provision of outdoor learning across all schools, particularly primary schools;
 - iii) How schools and teachers are supported to provide outdoor learning;
 - iv) Plans for further development of outdoor learning.”

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Bandel

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burgess.

20. Currie Community High School – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

The Committee in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a report on the award of contract for the construction of the replacement Currie Community High School to this Committee for information.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – referral report by the Finance and Resources Committee 8 September 2022, submitted)