

Minutes

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday 31 January 2023

Present:

Councillors Griffiths (Convener), Burgess, Cowdy, Davidson, Jones, Key, Kumar, Mattos Coelho, O'Neill (items 1 to 7 and items 15 to 21), Walker and Young.

Added Members for Education Items

Religious Representatives

Fiona Beveridge, Angela Campbell and Dr Ruhy Parris.

Secondary Sector Parent/Carer Representative

Alexander Ramage (non-voting).

1. Motion by Councillor Young – Queensferry/Kirkliston High School Consultation

a) Deputation – Kirkliston Primary School Association

The deputation expressed their concerns around the options being consulted upon to ensure they were heard in a timely manner, highlighting the areas where more information was required before making a decision which would have a potentially decades-long impact on the community.

The Kirkliston Primary School Association had been engaging with parents and council officials about potential options for Kirkliston secondary provision since 2016 when it became apparent that, due to housing development in the catchment, Queensferry High School would not have capacity to meet demand.

The deputation urged the Committee to support the motion by Councillor Young to ensure a deeper understanding of the status and practicalities of available options was achieved quicker and therefore helping to avoid further delays in progress and ensure the best decision was reached for future Kirkliston children as soon as possible.

b) Motion by Councillor Young – Queensferry/Kirkliston High School Consultation

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

“Committee notes:

- a. The consultation on whether to extend Queensferry High School (QHS) or build a new Kirkliston High School (KHS), has recently closed on 16th January
- b. Over 850 responses have been received which officers are now reviewing
- c. A report will be presented to the March 2023 meeting of the Education, Children & Families (ECF) committee on the outcome of the consultation and next steps
- d. A deputation by the Kirkliston Parents Association (KPSA) is due to attend the January 2023 committee meeting
- e. In the consultation submission by the KPSA several questions are asked - the answers to which may be useful to members as they consider the deputation and in advance of making any decisions in March

Committee therefore requests a member bulletin to all members of the ECF committee, by 28th February, providing answers to the KPSA submission, as detailed below:

Extension of Queensferry High School

1. Is a school of such a significant size appropriate for the location – significant impact on the surrounding area (parking, traffic, potential for anti-social behaviour, adequacy of indoor and outdoor space for sport, recreation, dining etc)?
2. What possible solutions there are for transporting children there safely given surrounding roads are narrow and residential?
3. What pre-planning advice has been sought from Planning and Roads departments?
4. Are the benefits of a larger school (as mentioned in the consultation paper) substantiated by performance in other schools greater than 1,800 in Scotland?

A new Kirkliston High School (KHS)

5. What realistic sites have been identified for a KHS, taking into account practical factors such as flood risk/high pressure gas line, and what interest shown by landowners in selling the sites?
6. Is there an opportunity for a KHS to share non-core subject choice with QHS ensuring all ends of academic spectrum are catered for?

7. Are there any other primary schools which could potentially be included in this catchment?

Taking a long-term view beyond the 2030 city plan, how realistic is it that there will be no further housing in and around Queensferry or Kirkliston over the next 10-20 years?

- moved by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Davidson

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Young.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Young made a transparency statement as her children attended school in the affected catchment area.

2. Gorgie Farm – Response to Emergency Motion by Councillor Day

a) Deputation – Save Gorgie Farm Forever Campaign

The deputation advised that the Campaign had been formed by the people of the local community most affected by the closure of Gorgie Farm.

The farm represented an important part of the lives of so many people across the city both the volunteers who worked there and the people of the local community who depended on the area as its only major green space.

The deputation urged the Council and its officers to come up with a solution to reopen Gorgie City Farm as quickly as possible and that whatever solution was found this took into consideration previous staff and, where possible, to bring the same people back in.

b) Report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services

An update was provided on the current situation and ongoing discussions to support a new sustainable model for Gorgie Farm which was fit for the future.

Councillors Mackenzie and Heap were heard as local Ward members and expressed their concerns at the closure of the Farm. They urged the Committee to take whatever steps necessary to ensure that the Farm could be reopened on a free to enter basis recognising the importance of the social and community benefits the Farm offered to people across the city.

Decision

- 1) To note the update as requested in the emergency motion by the Administration at the Policy and Sustainability Committee on the current situation and any ongoing discussion/opportunities to support a new sustainable model for Gorgie Farm which was fit for the future.

- 2) To note that the SNP addendum requested Committee to commit to an ongoing Farm and its social and community benefit on the existing site.
- 3) To delegate power to the Chief Executive to TUPE two full-time equivalent staff, subject to consideration of the costs of running the facility, who would take responsibility for the essential upkeep of the Farm, the care of the animals, maintaining the links with volunteers and public until a new operator was in place.
- 4) To agree that the remaining discretionary grant fund should be utilised to cover any additional costs until the staff could be TUPEd to a new operator, subject to confirmation that the costs could be covered by the funding within the discretionary grant fund and that legal checks were in place.
- 5) To welcome and endorse the progress in securing a third sector operator for Gorgie Farm.
- 6) To recognise the importance of social and community benefits provided by the Farm.
- 7) To recognise the importance of the Farm being free to access.
- 8) To request that regular updates be provided to Group Leaders and Spokespersons and Local Ward Councillors.
- 9) To request a report back to the March Committee on progress.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee 17 January 2023 (item 7); report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

3. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Education, Children and Families Committee of 15 November 2022 as a correct record.

4. Rolling Actions Log

The rolling actions log updated to January 2023 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close Action 20 – Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Annual Report 2021-22.
- 2) Action 1 – Funding for Excursions for Educational Purposes - to agree that a briefing note be provided for members on the current situation regarding school trips abroad.

- 3) Action 8 – Motion by Councillor Perry – Support for Teachers and School Staff – to note that a report would be submitted to the March Committee meeting.
- 4) Action 10 – Appointment of Religious Representatives to the Education, Children and Families Committee – to note that a consultant had been appointed to review the issue of voting rights for religious representatives with an anticipated completion date of end March 2023.
- 5) Action 11 – Early Years Partner Provider – Hourly Rate for Funded Early Learning and Childcare – to note that a report would be submitted to the March Committee meeting.
- 6) Action 12 – Motion by Councillor Young – West Edinburgh High School – to provide a response to Kirkliston Primary School Association with an update on the consultation and practical next steps.
- 7) Action 19 – Getting it Right for Every Child – Inclusion in City of Edinburgh Schools – to circulate the briefing note to members as referred to in decision 2) of this action.
- 8) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, 31 January 2023, submitted)

5. Work Programme

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

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme, 31 January 2023, submitted)

6. Business Bulletin

The business bulletin for January 2023 was submitted.

Decision

- 1) To note the updates in the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To note that a briefing on vaping in schools would be issued to all Head Teachers.
- 3) To include a glossary of terms and acronyms in future Business Bulletins.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, 15 November 2022, submitted)

7. Edinburgh Secure Services and Residential Estate Update

Information was provided on progress on the key milestones towards improving the quality of provision in residential and secure establishments, both City of Edinburgh Council and contracted services as set out in the Edinburgh Secure Services and Residential Consolidated Improvement Plan.

Decision

- 1) To note the positive progress in the report and agree to further updates to the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 2) To request that the report back to Committee in March should include information on the ongoing work with Kibble and Aberlour Children's Charity.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 15 November 2022 (item 17); report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, submitted)

8. Technology in Education

An update was provided on the steps taken to resolve performance issues experienced across the Learning and Teaching IT estate and of the ongoing programmes of work to enhance and stabilise the technology offering in educational settings.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress in the performance of technology in education and the work being undertaken on this as part of the stability plan.
- 2) To note that a planned audit of Empowered Learning would take place in the first quarter of 2023 as part of the 2022/23 Audit Plan.

(References – Act of Council No. of 27 October 2022; Education, Children and Families Committee 15 November 2022 (item 4); report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted)

9. Third Party Revenue Grants Programme Extension

Approval was sought to extend the current Education and Children's Services grant awards from 1 September 2023 to 31 March 2024.

The extension would allow for much-needed financial stability and future planning and would benefit children, young people and families and particularly for those individuals most impacted by Covid-19, the rising cost of living and mental health concerns.

Information was also provided on the future activity required to publish a new programme that was aligned to Council priorities.

Motion

To approve the extension of the Communities and Families 2020-2023 Grants Programme for seven months up to 31 March 2024 with a total value of £2,224,308 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services.

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment 1

- 1) To approve the extension of the Communities and Families 2020-2023 Grants Programme for seven months up to 31 March 2024 with a total value of £2,224,308 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services.
- 2) To agree the next steps set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.4 of the report.
- 3) To agree that officers engage with organisations and stakeholders to encourage diverse representation and applications from all communities including Black and Minority Ethnic (BME), SIMD 1 and 2 areas, single parent families and other priority and underserved groups.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Mattos Coelho

Amendment 2

- 1) To approve the extension of the Communities and Families 2020-2023 Grants Programme for seven months up to 31 March 2024 with a total value of £2,224,308 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services.
- 2) To request that the approval for the Third Party Revenue Grants Framework is brought to the Education, Children and Families Committee no later than September 2023 in order to maximise financial certainty for third sector partners.

- moved by Councillor Davidson, seconded by Councillor Young

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addendums to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Griffiths:

- 1) To approve the extension of the Communities and Families 2020-2023 Grants Programme for seven months up to 31 March 2024 with a total value of £2,224,308 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services.
- 2) To agree the next steps set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.4 of the report.
- 3) To agree that officers engage with organisations and stakeholders to encourage diverse representation and applications from all communities including Black and Minority Ethnic (BME), SIMD 1 and 2 areas, single parent families and other priority and underserved groups.

- 4) To request that the approval for the Third-Party Revenue Grants Framework is brought to the Education, Children and Families Committee no later than September 2023 in order to maximise financial certainty for third sector partners.

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

10. Schools Admissions and Appeals Update

Approval was sought for an action plan to take forward improvement in the schools admissions and appeals process. The development of the plan had considered best practice from other local authorities and focussed on the following four key areas:

- Better information available to parents and carers to enable them to plan and be realistic about school choices
- Changes to the process to reserving more places for catchment children and changing the way waiting lists were used
- Improving the process, especially the paperwork, to support more consistency
- Better training and support to appeal committees and also recruitment of panel members to the appeal committee.

Decision

- 1) To agree the proposed Improvement Plan.
- 2) To note that the Convener would write to the appropriate body to request that the retirement age of 70 for Placing in Schools Committee members should be removed.
- 3) To note that the School Rolls Projections report would be brought forward to the March Committee.

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

11. Early Years Thematic Review on Quality

A summary was provided of the thematic review which had been undertaken focusing on quality and the impact of leadership changes within Early Learning and Childcare across local authority settings in Edinburgh.

Through a combination of staff focus groups and surveys, mixed impacts were found regarding workforce, staffing and quality of experiences for children. However, staff had indicated that the impact on quality what been more strongly influenced by the Covid pandemic.

Decision

- 1) To note the purpose and learning points from the Early Years Thematic review on quality activity.
- 2) To note the impact of the changes that both the expansion of Early Years funded entitlement and workforce changes had had on quality within local authority early learning and childcare settings as identified through the review.
- 3) To agree the next steps set out in section 5.1 of the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 7 December 2021 (item 6); report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, submitted)

12. Quality Improvement and Scrutiny Update

An update was provided of the self-evaluation of schools and the scrutiny undertaken by Education Scotland since the previous Quality Improvement and Scrutiny report to Committee in November 2022.

The following schools had been inspected by Education Scotland:

- Currie Primary School and Nursery Class
- Juniper Green Primary School and Nursery Class
- Edinburgh Secure Services (Howdenhall and St Katharine's)

Follow-through visits to the following schools had taken place to establish the level of progress on areas of improvement identified during previous inspections:

- Echline Primary School
- Longstone Primary School
- Prestonfield Primary School

Supported self-evaluation processes had been undertaken at the following schools:

- Forrester High School
- James Gillespie's High School

Motion

- 1) To note the progress, strengths and areas for improvement identified through self-evaluation and scrutiny activity.
 - 2) To agree the next steps set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3 of the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment

- 1) To note the progress, strengths and areas for improvement identified through self-evaluation and scrutiny activity.
 - 2) To agree the next steps set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3 of the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services.
 - 3) To note that the Education, Children and Families Committee was particularly concerned with the Education Scotland inspection results at Edinburgh Secure Services and to call for a separate report within one cycle outlining an improvement plan that would ensure a satisfactory follow-up inspection.
- moved by Councillor Key, seconded by Councillor Mattos Coelho

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, strengths and areas for improvement identified through self-evaluation and scrutiny activity.
- 2) To agree the next steps set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3 of the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services.
- 3) To note that the Education, Children and Families Committee was particularly concerned with the Education Scotland inspection results at Edinburgh Secure Services and to call for a separate report within one cycle outlining an improvement plan that would ensure a satisfactory follow-up inspection.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 15 November 2022 (item 8); report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, submitted)

13. Improvement in School Attendance

In response to the motion by Councillor Jones on absenteeism in schools, information was provided on the attendance tracked by the local authority and schools by SIMD demographic and by low attendance (below 85%).

Details were also provided of the supports in place for learners to improve although it was acknowledged that more improvement was required particularly post-Covid.

Decision

- 1) To note the interim response to the two action points from the motion on attendance at the Council meeting in October 2022.
- 2) To note that a full committee report to review progress on the Attendance Thematic Review 2022 would be shared with the Education, Children and Families Committee in March 2023.

- 3) To request a further report be brought to the March Committee specifically relating to the group of children who had presented with less than 85% of attendance post-Covid and children on long-term absence and information on tailored catch-up plans for these groups of children.

(References – Act of Council No. 26 of October 2022; report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

14. Teams Around the Learning Communities

Information was provided on the proposal to develop place-based approaches to providing integrated services that removed duplication, provided best value by aligning spend to outcomes and had clear lines of accountability and governance.

It was proposed to develop proof of concept cases in the Liberton and Craigroyston learning communities to ensure that Head Teachers planned interventions in collaboration with local communities and existing Council and third sector services.

It was anticipated that outcomes for improving attainment, attendance, health and wellbeing and pathways would be improved, particularly to address the impacts of poverty.

Decision

- 1) To approve proof of concept case studies in the Liberton and Craigroyston learning communities.
- 2) To agree that a follow-up report on the proof of concept case studies be provided for Committee before the end of 2023.

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

15. Outdoor Learning Update

In response to a motion by Councillor Burgess, an update was provided on the range of learning experiences undertaken outdoors and how it was delivered day to day in Edinburgh schools.

Schools and settings would continue to use self-evaluation and improvement planning to develop outdoor learning further and realise the renewed City Vision using the new Outdoor Learning school improvement toolkit.

Motion

- 1) To note the update on outdoor learning, particularly regarding the four key parts of the motion.
- 2) To note and support the Council’s vision for outdoor learning as set out in Appendix 3, Table 4 of the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services.

3) To note and support the ongoing rationale and benefits of the Council operating its own centres.

- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment

1) To note the update on outdoor learning, particularly regarding the four key parts of the motion.

2) To note and support the Council's vision for outdoor learning as set out in Appendix 3, Table 4 of the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services.

3) To note and support the ongoing rationale and benefits of the Council operating its own centres.

4) To welcome the update report on Outdoor Learning in Edinburgh and renewing of the vision for Outdoor Learning that:

- outdoor learning was used as a context for learning and integral to learning for sustainability
- children and young people have the opportunity to participate in a range of progressive and creative outdoor learning experiences which were clearly part of the curriculum (onsite, local offsite, extended and residential)
- outdoor learning experiences were regular, frequent, enjoyable and challenging across the school.

5) To further welcome that schools were requested to include 'Learning for Sustainability' which included Outdoor Learning in their latest School Quality Improvement Plans'.

6) To note, in respect of the renewed vision for outdoor learning, that 11% of primary schools had self-assessed that they had 'highly effective practice' and that 39% were 'starting the journey'.

7) To note that the aim of the forthcoming 'Outdoor Learning Schools' Self-Evaluation Toolkit' for primary schools was to support whole-school improvement and provide key information that would help the Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) and other officers in supporting Outdoor Learning and tracking progress towards the renewed vision, and understands that there was the possibility of extending this approach to secondary schools in the future.

8) To note the intention to launch a renewed training offer for teachers to build capacity across Outdoor Learning by August 2023.

9) To note that participation in residential visits to the Council's own outdoor learning centres was around 90% of pupils from 90% of schools and welcomed the ongoing work to encourage even more primary schools and children to participate in residential visits to the Council's outdoor learning centres.

- 10) To request that this committee be updated before Summer 2023 recess on the forthcoming Strategic Action Plan for Outdoor Learning, the school improvement self-evaluation toolkit for outdoor learning in primary schools and development of the external resource of lesson ideas and good practice for session 2023/34.

- 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 the update on outdoor learning, particularly regarding the four key parts of the motion.
- 2) To note and support the Council's vision for outdoor learning as set out in Appendix 3, Table 4 of the report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services.
- 3) To note and support the ongoing rationale and benefits of the Council operating its own centres.
- 4) To welcome the update report on Outdoor Learning in Edinburgh and renewing of the vision for Outdoor Learning that:
 - outdoor learning was used as a context for learning and integral to learning for sustainability
 - children and young people have the opportunity to participate in a range of progressive and creative outdoor learning experiences which were clearly part of the curriculum (onsite, local offsite, extended and residential)
 - outdoor learning experiences were regular, frequent, enjoyable and challenging across the school.
- 5) To further welcome that schools were requested to include 'Learning for Sustainability' which included Outdoor Learning in their latest School Quality Improvement Plans'.
- 6) To note, in respect of the renewed vision for outdoor learning, that 11% of primary schools had self-assessed that they had 'highly effective practice' and that 39% were 'starting the journey'.
- 7) To note that the aim of the forthcoming 'Outdoor Learning Schools' Self-Evaluation Toolkit' for primary schools was to support whole-school improvement and provide key information that would help the Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) and other officers in supporting Outdoor Learning and tracking progress towards the renewed vision, and understands that there was the possibility of extending this approach to secondary schools in the future.
- 8) To note the intention to launch a renewed training offer for teachers to build capacity across Outdoor Learning by August 2023.

- 9) To note that participation in residential visits to the Council's own outdoor learning centres was around 90% of pupils from 90% of schools and welcomed the ongoing work to encourage even more primary schools and children to participate in residential visits to the Council's outdoor learning centres.
- 10) To request that this committee be updated before Summer 2023 recess on the forthcoming Strategic Action Plan for Outdoor Learning, the school improvement self-evaluation toolkit for outdoor learning in primary schools and development of the external resource of lesson ideas and good practice for session 2023/34.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 20 September 2022 (item 19); report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, submitted)

16. Bikeability in Primary Schools

Motion

- 1) To note the update and the progress made on the delivery of Bikeability in Primary Schools.
 - 2) To note the challenges faced by some schools and the various solutions available to overcome them.
 - 3) To agree to receive a further progress update at the end of the academic year.
- moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Walker

Amendment

- 1) To note the update and the progress made on the delivery of Bikeability in Primary Schools.
- 2) To note the challenges faced by some schools and the various solutions available to overcome them.
- 3) To agree to receive a further progress update at the end of the academic year.
- 4) To note that only about half of primary schools deliver level 2 Bikeability and the barriers to schools delivering Bikeability outlined in the report.
- 5) To endorse the intention to re-establish the Active Travel Working Group.
- 6) To welcome the appointment of a dedicated part-time cycling officer who has obtained funding to support their work.

- 7) To further welcome the intention to work with primary schools who had not been delivering Bikeability, particularly from lower SIMD areas, to identify solutions and to report back to the first meeting of the Committee after Summer 2023 recess on progress, including an update on the work with third party organisations.

- 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 the update and the progress made on the delivery of Bikeability in Primary Schools.
- 2) To note the challenges faced by some schools and the various solutions available to overcome them.
- 3) To agree to receive a further progress update at the end of the academic year.
- 4) To note that only about half of primary schools deliver level 2 Bikeability and the barriers to schools delivering Bikeability outlined in the report.
- 5) To endorse the intention to re-establish the Active Travel Working Group.
- 6) To welcome the appointment of a dedicated part-time cycling officer who has obtained funding to support their work.
- 7) To further welcome the intention to work with primary schools who had not been delivering Bikeability, particularly from lower SIMD areas, to identify solutions and to report back to the first meeting of the Committee after Summer 2023 recess on progress, including an update on the work with third party organisations.

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

17. Renaming the Education and Children's Services Directorate

Approval was sought to rename the Education and Children's Services Directorate "Children, Education and Justice Services". The proposed name change would reflect the changes within the Directorate, put children at the forefront and be more inclusive.

Decision

- 1) To recommend that the Education and Children's Services Directorate be renamed "Children, Education and Justice Services".

- 2) To refer the recommendation to the Council meeting on 9 February 2023 for final approval.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 15 November 2022 (item 15); report by the Executive Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

18. Revenue Monitoring 2022/23 – Month Eight Position

The projected month eight revenue monitoring position for Education and Children’s services based on analysis of actual income and expenditure to end of October 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 £2.0m after assumed corporate provisions for continuing Covid impacts on the service. This represented a favourable movement of £2.0m from the position reported to Committee in November 2022.

Decision

To note the estimated net residual budget pressure of £2.0m at month eight.

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

19. End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Report 2022 – referral from the Policy and Sustainability Committee

The Policy and Sustainability Committee had referred the End Poverty in Edinburgh Annual Report 2022 to this Committee for further scrutiny on actions relating to child poverty with particular reference to the actions discussed in section 5.5 of Appendix 1 of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – Policy and Sustainability Committee 17 November 2022 (item 3); referral report from the Policy and Sustainability Committee, submitted)

20. Performance Update Report - referral from the Policy and Sustainability Committee

The Policy and Sustainability Committee had referred the Performance Update Report to relevant Executive Committees for scrutiny on Business Plan Key Performance Indicators where a red RAG status had been noted.

The report had been referred to this Committee in relation to “Increased Attainment for all and in particular for those most disadvantaged - %age of primary pupils with low attendance and %age of secondary pupils with low attendance.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – Policy and Sustainability Committee 17 November 2022 (item 10); referral report from the Policy and Sustainability Committee, submitted)

21. Motion by Councillor Burgess – Learning for Sustainability and the Climate Emergency

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

“This Committee:

- 1) Welcomes the Sustainability workshop held at Darroch annex in December with pupils, teachers, education officers, advisors and councillors from the Education Committee.
- 2) Recognises that the key role of schools and education are embedded in the Council’s plans to reach Net Zero by 2030.
- 3) Recognises the good work that is happening in Edinburgh schools on sustainability including, initiatives by schools such as Trinity primary, St.Thomas’, Boroughmuir and Holyrood high schools, the 1.5Max project and the Edinburgh Learns for Life Sustainability board, and further recognises from the workshop that there are significant opportunities to be more effective in learning for sustainability and rising to the challenge of how to engage all schools in an already busy curriculum.
- 4) Believes that given the ongoing climate and nature emergency and the importance of young people understanding and contributing to this transformational challenge that learning for sustainability is a key priority for education.
- 5) Understands that there are actions at a national level to further support and enhance learning for sustainability that this council could call for including:
 - Amendment of the National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan drivers and ensuring that sustainability is a key element in a refreshed national curriculum
 - Requirement for ‘How Good Is Our School?’ (HGIOS) inspections to specifically report on sustainability
 - Revision of GTCS training for new teachers, and refreshing sustainability training for existing teachers, following the 2018 United Nations IPCC ‘code red’ report
 - Set up a short life working group to consider and bring forward proposals to enhance learning for sustainability and net zero

- Develop a “whole school” approach to learning for sustainability that incorporates teaching, school fabric and emissions, transport, food and drink and the local environment and community
 - Create a sustainability and net zero project officer post to assist the QIEO and support development of learning for sustainability in schools
 - Ensure there is a teacher sustainability champion at every school and allow them at least one period of protected time to support learning for sustainability at their school.
- 6) Notes that there are also actions that could be taken at a council level including:
- Creating a full-time Quality and Improvement Education Officer for sustainability to enhance support and co-ordination of learning for sustainability in schools and the work of the sustainability board;
 - Including learning for sustainability and climate & nature emergencies in School Quality Improvement Plans
 - Climate and nature emergency training for all council teachers and staff
- 7) Therefore, given the above, calls for a report on how learning for sustainability including the climate and nature emergencies can be developed and enhanced.
- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor O’Neill

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burgess.