

**MINUTES of MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER,
KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD
on FRIDAY, 7 APRIL 2017**

Present: Councillor Len Scoullar (Chair)

Councillor John Armour	Councillor Donald MacMillan
Councillor Gordon Blair	Councillor Roderick McCuish
Councillor Rory Colville	Councillor Alex McNaughton
Councillor Robin Currie	Councillor James McQueen
Councillor Vivien Dance	Councillor Aileen Morton
Councillor Mary-Jean Devon	Councillor Ellen Morton
Councillor George Freeman	Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Councillor Kieron Green	Councillor Douglas Philand
Councillor David Kinniburgh	Councillor Elaine Robertson
Councillor Alistair MacDougall	Councillor Isobel Strong
Councillor Neil MacIntyre	Councillor Sandy Taylor
Councillor Robert G MacIntyre	Councillor Richard Trail
Councillor Iain Stewart MacLean	Councillor Dick Walsh

Attending: Cleland Sneddon, Chief Executive
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director of Customer Services
Ann Marie Knowles, Acting Executive Director of Community Services
Pippa Milne, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Services
Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law
Kirsty Flanagan, Head of Strategic Finance

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated by Councillors Breslin, Corry, Horn, Kelly, RE MacIntyre, McKenzie, Marshall and Robb.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

3. STRATEGIC INSPECTION OF THE EDUCATION FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

The Provost advised that this was a requisitioned meeting in terms of Council Standing Order 1.3.2 which had been called for by sufficient Members of the Council.

The Council recommendations of the Community Services Committee of 6 April were tabled at the meeting.

The Provost invited Members to move a motion or amendment in support of the business before the Council.

Motion

The Council:

1. Notes the terms of the Education Scotland inspection report and the reports from the Acting Executive Director of Community Services;
2. Notes the recommendations contained within the Education Scotland published report and further notes the progress made by the Education Service to respond to the inspection report findings at this stage (see Community Services Committee 6th April 2017, agenda report 3(d), Appendix 1, INEA Action Plan);
3. Notes the positive aspects of education provision in Argyll and Bute identified within the Education Scotland report, including:
 - the attendance rates across primary, special and secondary schools are above the national averages;
 - the achievement of children and young people across Argyll and Bute Council reflects a broad range of national and award bearing wider achievement qualifications;
 - that over 2000 young people enhanced their achievement portfolio last session and this has contributed well to securing positive, sustained destinations for young people when they leave school;
 - that a large number of Skills for Work qualifications are available across the authority in key skills which have the potential to grow the local economy and enhance services, for example in early education and childcare, hospitality, engineering and rural skills;
 - the 2014/2015 council Standards and Quality report documents clearly the range of wider achievement courses and awards gained by young people;
 - that over 1500 young people last session achieved across a broad range of awards including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, John Muir, Saltire Awards and Youth Achievement Awards;
 - that in almost all early learning and childcare (ELC) settings, most children achieve their expected developmental milestones;
 - that at the secondary stages, young people's attainment in National Qualifications has recently improved in a few key measures;
 - the number of young people securing a positive destination on leaving school has increased over the period 2011-2016 , and overall the proportion of young people moving on to a positive destination has been above comparable and national averages;
 - the proportion of young people moving into employment on leaving school is well above comparable and national averages and has been consistently so for the last five years;
 - that a significant amount of work has been carried out to support Looked After Children;
 - that Argyll and Bute Council has the fifth highest rate for young people aged 16-24 to achieve a positive destination (employment; training; higher and further education) according to the Scottish Government's Participation Measure which relates to outcomes for learners;
4. Notes the serious concerns raised by Council Officers arising from the recent inspection and also their actions to address those concerns, specifically regarding the process and conduct of the inspection;

5. Notes the actions taken by the Authority in preparing a new Education Vision and Strategy in response to the National Improvement Framework, the steps already taken by the Education Service to improve outcomes for all learners and the draft INEA action plan which take full account of the conclusions of the INEA inspection concluded in September 2016;
6. Agrees that the draft action plan (appended to this minute) will be further developed and implemented in response to the main points for action arising from the inspection report, incorporating feedback from the Special Community Services Committee meeting of 6th April 2017;
7. Requests the Acting Executive Director of Community Services to bring further reports on the progress in addressing the main points for action to future meetings of the relevant Committee, and;
8. Requests the Chief Executive to put in place arrangements for the new Council to formalise the senior staffing structure within the service and to create a future permanency within the senior management arrangements for Community Services.

Moved by Councillor Rory Colville, seconded by Councillor Donnie MacMillan.

Amendment

The Council:

- i. Notes the terms of the Education Scotland Report (Strategic Inspection of the Education Function)
- ii. Notes the information provided by Officers in support of the Council consideration of the Inspection Report
- iii. Notes the recommendation set out in the Education Scotland report and the reported actions taken by senior staff since the inspection
- iv. Asks the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee (or such other scrutiny committee in the term of the new Council) to examine the report and its findings with a view to
 - reporting on lessons to be learned from the inspection and the issues raised in the Inspection Report, particularly those relating to the strategic leadership and direction which can be shared across the Council
 - reporting on the best arrangements for the Strategic Leadership and Management of the Education Authority
- v. Agrees to withdraw the formal complaint made to Education Scotland.

Moved by Councillor Sandy Taylor, seconded by Councillor Isobel Strong.

Councillor Iain Stewart MacLean joined the meeting at this point.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon left the meeting at this point.

The requisite number of Members required the vote to be taken by calling roll and Members voted as follows:-

Motion

Councillor Colville
Councillor Currie
Councillor Green
Councillor Kinniburgh
Councillor McCuish
Councillor MacDougall
Councillor N MacIntyre
Councillor RG MacIntyre
Councillor MacMillan
Councillor McNaughton
Councillor McQueen
Councillor A Morton
Councillor E Morton
Councillor Mulvaney
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Scoullar
Councillor Walsh

Amendment

Councillor Armour
Councillor Blair
Councillor Dance
Councillor Freeman
Councillor MacLean
Councillor Philand
Councillor Strong
Councillor Taylor
Councillor Trail

Decision

The Motion received 17 and the Amendment received 9 votes and the Council resolved accordingly.

(Ref: Recommendations from the Community Services Committee of 6 April, tabled)