

## **Education Change Programme – Update on the Community Engagement**

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### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Community Services Committee agreed at its meeting on 10th June 2021 to embark on a wide ranging community engagement exercise to discuss and co-develop proposals for the future delivery of education in Argyll and Bute.
- 1.2 The consultation/engagement exercise includes a wide range of stakeholders with the findings being analysed and reported back to members to determine what the next steps should be.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee

- a) Notes the update provided in this report on the community engagement activity which is currently underway.
- b) Notes that a report will be presented to new members by autumn 2022 with the findings of the engagement on Education Change – school leadership transformation.

### **3.0 DETAIL**

- 3.1 The consultation/engagement programme commenced at start of November 2021 and has been planned to run through until February 2022.
- 3.2 The key groups being engaged include; Head teachers, teachers and school staff, pupils, Unions and Professional Associations; policy makers; media; Parent and Community Councils, and general public open drop-in sessions.
- 3.3 A range of formats will be used for the engagement to facilitate as open and meaningful a process as possible. The proposals will be supplied in presentation format and video format, providing a full explanation to community groups of how the model will work and the rationale for why it has been proposed and this will be assisted by a self-led toolkit. Support is available by request from education professionals to support the self-led toolkit and present the information to communities. Materials can also be translated into different languages if requested. Paper copies will also be available if electronic versions are not suitable. Feedback from all stakeholders will shape the final proposals before they are reported back to members.

- 3.4 Engagement with Trade Unions and professional associations will also be ongoing throughout the project.
- 3.5 As the process of engagement has commenced a number of comments have been received suggesting that an extension of the current 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022 deadline would allow more responses to be made and, after consultation with the Chair of the Committee, the period has been extended by 4 weeks to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022 on the basis this can be accommodated within the overall timeframe of reporting back to members by Autumn 2022.
- 3.6 Once the consultation/engagement has completed the Education Service will prepare a report with the findings in a structured format and to establish common themes of feedback amongst the different stakeholders who are engaged in this process. This will be available for presentation to members early in the life of the new Council, by autumn 2022.
- 3.7 Feedback from island communities will be separated for the purposes of an Island Community Impact Assessment as per the duty laid out in section 7 of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The consultation exercise is underway and is wide-ranging with stakeholders and communities across Argyll and Bute invited to participate.
- 4.2 Feedback from the consultation and next steps will be presented to members by autumn 2022

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Policy – the school leadership model fits with both national and local Education policy.
- 5.2 Financial – none at this time. Financial implications will be considered in the consultation findings and next steps report.
- 5.3 Legal – the proposals help to ensure the authority meets its statutory duties and inspections.
- 5.4 HR – Ongoing consultation and negotiations will take place with the Trade Unions.
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
  - 5.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics - a full equality impact assessment will take place if proposals are agreed by members.
  - 5.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – will be included in the consultation feedback
  - 5.5.3 Islands – An Island Community Impact Assessment as per the duty laid out in section 7 of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 will be prepared.
- 5.6 Climate Change - None
- 5.7 Risk – the risks identified during the consultation phase are failure to engage meaningfully with stakeholder groups and failure to meet timescales.
- 5.8 Customer Service - delivering improved service for our pupils is at the core of this proposal.

**Douglas Hendry, Executive Director with responsibility for Education**  
**Councillor Yvonne McNeilly – Policy Lead for Education**

19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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**6.0 APPENDICES** - Appendix 1 – consultation timeline