

Education Committee Meeting - Thursday, 11 June 2020 at 10.00am

Posted by RM64 - 05 Jun 2020 13:00

Department of Corporate and Community Services

Deputy Chief Executive: Caroline Innes BSc (Hons)

Council Headquarters, Eastwood Park, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire, G46 6UG

Phone: 0141 577 3000 Fax: 0141 577 3834

website: www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Date: 5 June 2020

When calling please ask for: Ron Leitch or Jennifer Graham, 0141 577 3016

E-mail:

This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

or

This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

TO: Councillors

P. O'Kane (Chair),

C. Merrick (Vice Chair),

C. Bamforth,

T. Buchanan,

D. Devlin,

C Gilbert,

A. Lafferty,

J. McLean and

G. Wallace;

Dr F. Angell, Ms D. Graham, Ms M McIntyre and Mr D Morris.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Education Committee will be held

on Thursday, 11 June 2020 at 10.00am.

The agenda of business is as listed below.

CAROLINE INNES INNES

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.

2. Declarations of Interest.

3. COVID-19 Local Phasing Delivery Plan – Report by Director of Education (copy attached, pages 3 - 14).

4. Progress on Developing the Curriculum in the Senior Phase in East Renfrewshire –

Report by Director of Education (copy attached, pages 15 - 18).

5. Early Learning and Childcare Provision from August 2020 – Report by Director of Education (copy attached, pages 19 - 30).

6. School Excursions Impacted by COVID-19 Pandemic – Report by Director of Education (copy attached, pages 31 - 36).

You can read the Papers for the meeting here -

www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=26376&p=0

You can read previous papers/minutes here -

www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2357&go=Go

=====

Re: Education Committee Meeting - Thursday, 11 June 2020 at 10.00am

Posted by RM64 - 05 Jun 2020 13:43

Video meeting?

No live access?

No Public Access ?

No recording?

Meeting held in secret ?

----- Original Message -----

To: "Daly, Eamonn";

Sent: Friday, 5 Jun, 2020 At 13:34

Subject: Re: RE:Public Access to future Council/Committee meetings

Hi Eamonn

The Agenda/papers have been published for the Education Committee Meeting due to take place on Thursday, 11 June 2020 at 10.00am.

As there is no venue, presume this is by video?

As requested below -

Would appreciate if you can give an update on public access to these upcoming Council/Committee meetings in June and if they will be available to view live and/or as a recording.

Keep well.

Thanks

----- Original Message -----

To: "Daly, Eamonn";

Sent: Monday, 1 Jun, 2020 At 14:23

Subject: RE:Public Access to future Council/Committee meetings

Hi Eamonn

I hope you keep well.

Thanks for below.

I'm glad that the Council has seen common sense and that you changed your mind regarding information not being available to East Renfrewshire Residents/Council Tax Payers until 19 June 2020.

Would appreciate if you can give an update on public access to the upcoming Council/Committee meetings in June and if they will be available to view live and/or as a recording.

Keep well.

Thanks

=====

Re: Education Committee Meeting - Thursday, 11 June 2020 at 10.00am

Posted by RM64 - 10 Jun 2020 09:20

Published Barrhead News On Line -

10/6/2020

News

49 mins ago

By Drew Sandelands Local Democracy Reporter

East Renfrewshire Council to approve expanded nursery placements from August

EDUCATION chiefs are set to approve the allocation of early learning and childcare places in East Renfrewshire when they meet tomorrow.

Councillors on the education committee are also asked to support the decision to continue with plans to deliver 1,140 hours for eligible two, three and four-year-old children from August, despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

They are expected to recognise that, while social distancing remains, “children and families will not be able to access this full amount, given the impact of Covid-19 on nursery attendance patterns.”

As a result of the pandemic, the Scottish Government removed the statutory duty on education authorities to make 1,140 hours – up from 600 – of early learning and childcare available to each eligible child from August this year.

A report to the committee, from Director of Education Mhairi Shaw, sets out how the council plans to progress with this policy.

East Renfrewshire Council had completed its recruitment process and is now working with education establishments to ensure candidates who were set to complete their qualifications in June can restart their training “as part of a remote learning model.”

However, the pandemic has halted construction work on a number of new, or extended, nurseries which would have been open by August. The council is working with all parties so work can begin once it is “appropriate and safe.”

Applications in early learning and childcare are spread across the school year, with a place provided for

children in East Renfrewshire from the day after their third birthday.

The report adds: “The Education Department is aware that families will have been depending on the offer of 1,140 hours from August 2020, both in terms of childcare needs and reducing family expenses.

“We are mindful that, during this period of unexpected financial stress and concern for many families, it is ever more important that they are able to plan ahead with knowledge of how their early learning and childcare needs will be met and without additional financial concerns.”

It adds: “Any national advice linked to social distancing will impact on operating capacity and attendance patterns for children and families; therefore it is highly unlikely that any family will receive their full allocation of 1,140 hours next school session, but they will receive more than the 600 hours to which they are entitled.”

Due to capacity issues, parents and children “will be allocated different models and potentially displaced to other settings and communities to access their early learning and childcare.”

All allocations for returning children, who had been informed of their 1,140-hour place, will be honoured but some settings may change.

All new applications for “term time experiences” will be honoured but the delivery model may change and all applications for “all year round experiences” will be honoured but the days requested may be altered.

When a chosen nursery cannot be offered, alternatives taking into account second and third choices and geography will be provided.

After analysing the applications, the council report states 12 per cent of applicants will be displaced to another nursery within their own community.

Allocation letters were sent out in the week beginning May 25, with parents and carers having two weeks to accept or decline.

When new facilities can open, parents will be able to choose a model which offers more flexibility and choice.

=====

Re: Education Committee Meeting - Thursday, 11 June 2020 at 10.00am

Posted by RM64 - 10 Jun 2020 09:29

Published Barrhead News On Line -

10/6/2020

News

50 mins ago

By Drew Sandelands Local Democracy Reporter

Parents in East Renfrewshire set for refund as school trips are scrapped

COUNCILLORS in East Renfrewshire are expected to back plans to provide full refunds to parents and carers for school trips cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

There were 45 trips scheduled by East Renfrewshire schools before the end of term but, on March 20, the Scottish Government advised excursions should be postponed indefinitely.

Around £365,000 had been collected from parents and carers and approximately £218,000 had been paid over to travel providers.

A report to councillors states: "Given the complexities of varying contractual terms and conditions and the understandable financial difficulties the travel industry now faces, it will take some time to finalise

either full refunds from travel providers or the settlement of any necessary insurance claims.”

Education chiefs will meet tomorrow morning and are asked to endorse a process to repay the money to ensure parents or carers “are not financially disadvantaged by any lengthy delays” and minimise any financial risk to the council.

The Emergencies Committee could then approve the process when it meets later that day.

P7 residentials can cost up to £350 per pupil, while some secondary school trips can cost up to £2,500 per pupil.

For each trip, if no payments have been made to travel providers and the council can confirm there are no contractual obligations around cancellation, then a full refund would be provided.

If the supplier confirms a full refund can be paid at a later date, then “a full refund can be made to parents/carers pending ERC receiving funds back from the supplier.”

If a provider gives “sufficient evidence” as to why a full refund cannot be provided, then an insurance claim would be submitted so a full refund can be made to parents and carers.

An insurance checklist has been provided to schools to ensure all necessary documentation is collated before a claim is submitted.

“Refunds to parents/carers in these circumstances would only be approved once the council’s insurance officer has confirmed satisfactory documentation has been provided by the relevant school,” the report adds.

The report suggests the council could only refund the money it currently holds, with further refunds made when travel companies return payments or insurance claims are settled.

But it suggests this alternative “would undoubtedly financially disadvantage parents/carers at an already challenging time for many.”

All school excursions are covered by a blanket East Renfrewshire Council travel insurance policy, which provides cover of up to £5,000 per person, up to a limit of £50,000 per trip.

“The advice from the council’s insurers is that the cancellation of such excursions, as a result of government advice against all but essential travel, would be a valid trigger for an insurance claim and there is no policy excess meaning full costs can be recovered.”

=====

Re: Education Committee Meeting - Thursday, 11 June 2020 at 10.00am

Posted by RM64 - 10 Jun 2020 09:33

There is NO Public Access to this Education Committee Meeting.

There will be NO video recording.

All you will eventually have is the minutes which are produced by the Council.

=====