

Motherwell, 7 February 2017 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor McNally, Convener; Councillor McGuigan, Vice-Convener; Provost Robertson; Councillors Baird, Bonnar, Curran, Docherty, Harmon, P. Hogg, Johnston, Kelly, Logue, Lyle, McAnulty, McGlinchey, McKendrick, McLaren, McPake, A. McVey, H. McVey, Morgan, Shevlin, Shields, Stevenson, Stocks, Sullivan, and Wallace; Mr. D. Hannan, and Mr. P. Cullen.

CHAIR

Councillor McNally (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Assistant Chief Executive (Education, Youth and Communities); Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment); Head of Resource Solutions; Acting Head of Education (Standards and Inclusion); Education Officer (Intervention and Inclusion); Community Learning and Inclusion Manager; Business Manager (Facility Support Services); Employability Services Team Manager; Continuous Improvement Manager, and Committee Officer.

APOLOGY

Mr J. Duffin.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN TERMS OF THE ETHICAL STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000

1. Declarations of interest were received from Members, details of which are set out below, and the Members concerned took no part in the consideration of the matters identified:-
 - Councillors Logue and Shields, in respect of paragraph 4, of an interest by virtue of their membership of the Board of North Lanarkshire Leisure Limited;
 - Councillor Morgan, in respect of paragraph 4, of an interest by virtue of his wife's employment;
 - Councillor Curran, in respect of paragraphs 7, 20 and 21, of an interest by virtue of being the Chair of the Board of Routes to Work, and
 - Provost Robertson, in respect of paragraph 13, of an interest by virtue of his membership of the Shotts Highland Games Organising Committee.

MINUTE OF THE EDUCATIONAL TRUST COMMITTEE

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Educational Trust Committee held on 7 November 2016.

Decided: that the Minute be approved and noted.

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2016 TO 6 JANUARY 2017

3. There was submitted a report dated 20 January 2017 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Education, Youth and Communities) (1) containing a summary of the financial performance of Education, Youth and Communities for the period from 1 April 2016 to 6 January 2017; (2) outlining details of the projected outturn as at 31 March 2017; (3) providing explanations for the major outturn variances; (4) setting out (a) in Appendix 3 to the report, details of payments which had been made to other bodies during that period, and (b) in Appendix 4 to the report, details of earmarked and one-off resources; (5) indicating (a) that the savings value achieved in the current financial year was £10.668m, which equated to 79% of the budget savings previously approved by the Council at its meeting on 25 February 2016; (b) that the shortfall in savings was primarily linked to one-off timing delays during the year for the purpose of ensuring that the relevant employees and trade unions had been fully consulted during the implementation of the staff savings, and (c) that it was anticipated that the full savings value would be achieved in future years; (6) proposing that the Devolved School Management Scheme be amended whereby primary and additional support needs schools would each be allocated an additional £150 per annum to further support the role of Parent Councils in their local schools, the total cost of which would amount to £19,950 per annum, and (7) advising that the Service was taking a range of corrective management actions to ensure that expenditure was within the approved 2016/17 budget provision.

Decided:

- (1) that the Devolved School Management Scheme be amended whereby primary and additional support needs schools would each be allocated an additional £150 per annum to further support the role of Parent Councils in their local schools, as detailed in the report, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

Councillors Logue and Shields, by virtue of their membership of the Board of North Lanarkshire Leisure Limited, and Councillor Morgan, by virtue of his wife's employment, having declared an interest prior to consideration of the following item, took no part in its determination.

EDUCATION, YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2016 TO 6 JANUARY 2017

4. There was submitted a report dated 20 January 2016 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Education, Youth and Communities) (1) providing details of the financial performance of the 2016/17 Education, Youth and Communities Capital Programme for the period from 1 April 2016 to 6 January 2017; (2) advising that the current Capital Programme budget was £21.497m, a movement of £12.547m on the budget which had previously been approved by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 16 February 2016; (3) summarising, in Appendix A to the report, details of the capital monitoring position for each major budget category; (4) indicating that, as a result of the transfer of operational responsibility for the Kilbowie Outdoor Education Centre from North Lanarkshire Leisure (NLL) to the Council, the budget for the Centre within the Programme had been transferred from the NLL budget heading to the Pre-Planned Preventative Maintenance budget heading; (5) intimating that, following the Mid-Year Review process, the year-end expenditure forecast was £21.254m which equated to 98.9% of the budget; (6) setting out details of significant variances within each programme category, and (7) recommending virements totalling £0.242m, details of which were set out in the report and in Appendix B to the report.

Decided:

- (1) that it be noted that the budget for the Kilbowie Outdoor Centre within the programme had been transferred from the NLL budget heading to the Pre-Planned Preventative Maintenance budget heading;

- (2) that the virement proposals totalling £0.242m, as detailed in the report and in Appendix B to the report, be approved, and
- (3) that the report be otherwise noted.

DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE

(1) SKILLS FOR LEARNING, LIFE AND WORK STRATEGY AND DELIVERY PLAN 2015-20

5. There was submitted a report dated 10 January 2017 by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) (1) presenting, in the Appendix to the report, the Skills for Learning, Life and Work Strategy and Delivery Plan 2015-20; (2) advising that the Delivery Plan, which was primarily driven by the principles enshrined in "Getting It Right For Every Child", also took account of the values inherent in the Curriculum for Excellence initiative and built on the ongoing work around "Opportunities for All" and the Council's Employment Strategy; (3) intimating that the aim of the Delivery Plan was to support young people in North Lanarkshire to realise their full potential in sustainable, long term employment; (4) setting out, in table 1 of the report, the nine strategic priorities which had been devised to achieve this outcome, each of which was linked to a specific Council Business Plan theme, and (5) indicating that progress reports on the implementation of the Delivery Plan would be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the Skills for Learning, Life and Work Strategy and Delivery Plan 2015-20, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be approved, and
- (2) that it be noted that the progress of the implementation of the Delivery Plan would be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

(2) ACHIEVING POSITIVE DESTINATIONS FOR WINTER SCHOOL LEAVERS

6. There was submitted a report dated 9 January 2017 by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) (1) advising that a Conference had been held during the period from 29 November to 2 December 2016 for the purpose of introducing targeted winter leavers from all North Lanarkshire's secondary and additional support needs schools to a wide variety of post-school destinations from across a wide range of services and sectors; (2) intimating that the Conference had been led by the Education, Skills and Youth Employment Team, with support from Routes to Work Limited; Skills Development Scotland; Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire; New College Lanarkshire, and a range of employers; (3) indicating that, as a direct result of the Conference, (a) at least 25% of the attendees had secured a positive destination into full time employment, college or a training course; 15% had been granted job interviews, and 26% had opted to return to school, and (b) the Council's Modern Apprenticeship Programme had subsequently received a high level of applications; (4) informing that a Conference would be held in May 2017 and would target summer leavers, and (5) seeking approval of the approach which had been taken by the Service to allow school leavers to learn about labour market intelligence and post-school pathways, and to receive tuition on interview skills and job applications.

Decided: that the approach which had been taken by the Service to allow school leavers to learn about labour market intelligence and post-school pathways, and to receive tuition on interview skills and job applications, as outlined in the report, be approved.

Councillor Curran, by virtue of being Chair to Routes to Work Limited, having declared an interest in the following item of business, took no part in its determination.

CRAIGNEUK EMPLOYABILITY RESOURCE, WISHAW

7. There was submitted a report dated 11 January 2017 by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) (1) advising that Routes to Work Limited was currently in negotiations with NL Properties for the long term lease of the former Craigneuk Library, Wishaw for use as an enhanced employability resource within the local community; (2) intimating that the lease would be subject to the building being fit for purpose for the new use, and (3) indicating (a) that a number of alterations and repairs had been identified to ensure that the building was fit for purpose, the cost of which would be met from existing budgets, and (b) that, in addition, window replacement works and the installation of external shutters were required at an estimated cost of £40,000, the cost of which would be met from the 2017/18 Education, Youth and Communities Wind and Watertight Capital Budget.

Decided:

- (1) that the repairs necessary to ensure that the former Craigneuk Library, Wishaw would be fit for purpose as an employability resource for the local community, as detailed in the report, be approved, and
- (2) that the report be otherwise noted.

ACCESS ROAD TO THE FORMER COLTNESS COMMUNITY CENTRE BUILDING, COLTNESS ROAD, WISHAW - LAND SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS

8. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 2017 by the Head of Resource Solutions recommending that land comprising the access road to the former Coltness Community Centre, Coltness Road, Wishaw be declared surplus to the operational requirements of Education, Youth and Communities.

Decided:

- (1) that the access road to the former Coltness Community Centre, Coltness Road, Wishaw, as shown in the Appendix to the report, be declared surplus to the operational requirements of Education, Youth and Communities, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Regeneration and Infrastructure) Sub-Committee for consideration.

CASHLESS CATERING PAYMENT SOLUTION MAINTENANCE 2017-2021

9. There was submitted a report dated 19 January 2017 by the Head of Resource Solutions (1) advising of a need to enter into a contract for cashless catering payment solution maintenance in respect of North Lanarkshire schools for a four year period, commencing on 1 March 2017; (2) intimating that, following consideration of the available options in terms of procurement methodology, it had been determined that the most appropriate route to award the contract was through the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation Online Payment and Engagement Solutions and Cashless Catering Systems Framework for Lot 2 – Cashless Catering Systems; (3) indicating (a) that in response to an invitation to quote under the Framework, one tender had been received, that being from Cunningham Cash Registers Limited, t/a CRB Cunninghams; (b) that, following consultation with the Company regarding the terms of the tender and pricing schedule, it was considered that the tender met the requirements of the Council, and (c) that the estimated total contract value was £1.2m, including a fixed cost of £672,517.93 for support and maintenance, with the remainder of the budget being available for

additional hardware, at the option of the Council, and (4) recommending that the contract be awarded to Cunningham Cash Registers Limited, with effect from 1 March 2017.

Decided: that Cunningham Cash Registers Limited, t/a CRB Cunninghams, be awarded the contract for cashless payment solution maintenance in respect of North Lanarkshire schools for a four year period, commencing on 1 March 2017, as detailed in the report.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS 2017-20

10. There was submitted a report dated 9 January 2017 by the Head of Resource Solutions seeking authorisation, on behalf of the Council, to invite tenders for the provision of school transport for pupils with additional support needs for the period from August 2017 to June 2020.

Decided: that the Head of Resource Solutions be authorised, on behalf of the Council, to invite tenders for the provision of school transport for pupils with additional support needs for the period from August 2017 to June 2020.

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COURSES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

11. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 9 February 2016, when the Committee had authorised the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) to invite tenders from external providers for inclusion in a Framework Agreement for the provision of vocational education courses for young people across all secondary schools and educational establishments for a period of three years, with an option to extend the contract at the end of the period for a further year, there was submitted a report dated 30 January 2017 by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) (1) advising that the procurement of the Framework Agreement for the provision of vocational education courses had been conducted in accordance with the Scottish Procurement Regulations and had been advertised in the Official Journal for the European Union; (2) intimating that tenders had been received from seven providers for inclusion in the Framework Agreement, one of which had subsequently withdrawn from the process; (3) indicating that, following evaluation of the tenders on a 25% price and 75% quality basis, it had been determined that the remaining six providers be included in the Framework Agreement, those being (a) the Springboard Charity and Springboard UK; (b) First Steps Future Training Limited; (c) Forward Training Partnership Limited; (d) the Lanarkshire Catering School; (e) Cullisvale Services Limited, t/a the Scottish Training Foundation, and (f) the Lagta Group Training, and (4) informing that, given that the Framework contract arrangements had to be in place as soon as possible to support young people in the additional support needs education sector, steps had been taken to appoint all six providers to the Framework Agreement for the period from October 2016 to June 2019.

Decided: that the action taken by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) in the appointment of six providers to the Framework Agreement for the provision of vocational education courses for young people across all secondary schools and educational establishments for the period from October 2016 to June 2019, as detailed in the report, be homologated.

EUROPEAN UNION FUNDED EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMMES – PROCUREMENT OF THIRD SECTOR SERVICES TO SUPPORT DELIVERY OF THE PROSPECTS FOR YOU PROGRAMME

12. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 November 2016, when the Committee had noted (1) that the Council had secured European Union (EU) funding to support the delivery of two employability programmes, namely:- the Prospects for You Programme, and the Prospects for Youth Programme, and (2) that the Scottish Government had made it clear that,

as a condition of offering grant, it wished to see the Third Sector engaged in every employability pipeline in Scotland, there was submitted a report dated 11 January 2017 by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) (a) seeking authorisation to commence the process of procuring the services of the Third Sector in the delivery of the Prospects for You Programme which was targeted at those unemployed residents who were further from the labour market and who may have a variety of barriers to securing employment, and (b) advising (A) that delivery of the Programme would end in December 2018, and (B) that additional EU grant was available for spend on the procurement of Third Sector services.

Decided: that the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) be authorised to procure the services of the Third Sector in the delivery of the Prospects for You Programme until December 2018, as detailed in the report.

Provost Robertson, by virtue of his membership of the Shotts Highland Games Organising Committee, having declared an interest in the matter prior to consideration of this item, took no part in its determination.

SHOTTS HIGHLAND GAMES ASSOCIATION – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

13. There was submitted a report dated 11 January 2017 by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) (1) advising that an application for financial assistance had been received from the Shotts Highland Games Association to support the staging of Pipe Band Competitions at the 2017 Highland Games in Shotts, and (2) recommending that the Association be awarded financial assistance in the sum of £5,000.

Decided: that financial assistance in the sum of £5,000 be awarded to the Shotts Highland Games Association to support the staging of Pipe Band Competitions at the 2017 Highland Games in Shotts.

CLUBSPORTNL - SERVICE SPECIFICATION AGREEMENT 2017/18 AND FUNDING AWARD

14. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the Special meeting of this Committee held on 22 March 2016, when the Committee had approved the Service Level Agreement between the Council and clubsportnl for the provision of a range of services to support the voluntary sports sector within North Lanarkshire, and the associated funding of £14,000 for 2016/17, there was submitted a report dated 9 January 2017 by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) (1) recommending that the 2016/17 Service Specification Agreement between the Council and clubsportnl be continued for a further year, at the same funding level of £14,000; (2) providing details therein of the services to be provided by clubsportnl, and (3) advising that these services would be monitored by the Service on an annual basis.

Decided:

- (1) that the 2016/17 Service Specification Agreement between the Council and clubsportnl for the provision of a range of services to support the voluntary sport sector within North Lanarkshire be continued for a further year, and
- (2) that funding of £14,000 be allocated to clubsportnl for 2017/18.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE PROVISION

15. There was submitted a report dated 23 January 2017 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Education, Youth and Communities) (1) providing details therein of progress made in relation to the expansion of
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Early Learning and Child Care in North Lanarkshire to meet the requirements under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 for the provision of 600 hours of free childcare for eligible two year old children, and three and four year old children; (2) advising (a) that the Scottish Government's report on the Summary of Statistics for Schools in Scotland, which was published in December 2016, had shown that the uptake in child care provision in North Lanarkshire was higher than the national average; (b) that the Council had reported a 100% uptake in registrations for three and four year old children at the Census in December 2016, and (c) that although the uptake in childcare for eligible two year old children at a national level had been slower than expected, it was anticipated, for the reasons detailed therein, that this situation would improve; (3) intimating (a) that the Scottish Government had issued a consultation document entitled "A Blue Print for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland", and (b) that it was anticipated that the outcome of the report would provide the basis for the Service to finalise its plans to develop and expand current provision to ensure that there would be a range of services to enable children to access free early learning and childcare for 1,140 hours per annum by 2020; (4) indicating (a) that design briefs were currently being developed for a new build family learning centre in the Forgewood area of Wishaw, and (b) that a bid had been submitted to the Scottish Government, Early Learning and Childcare Capital Project in respect of proposals for the refurbishment of the Mossend Senior Citizen Club to create nursery provision, and (5) outlining the financial implications of further expanding early learning and childcare provision.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in relation to the expansion programme for early learning and childcare provision to meet the requirements of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 for the provision of 600 hours of free childcare for eligible two year old children be noted;
- (2) that the significant challenges to be met by the Council in further expanding early learning and childcare provision in North Lanarkshire, as outlined in the report, be noted, and
- (3) that the progress to date in the preparation for the proposed increase in entitlement to free early learning and childcare to 1,140 hours per annum, as outlined in the report, be noted.

"EMPOWERING TEACHERS, PARENTS AND COMMUNITIES TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY" - RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT GOVERNANCE REVIEW

16. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 November 2016, when it had been agreed that a short term Member/Officer Working Group be established with authority to oversee and finalise, by 6 January 2017, the formulation of a response, on behalf of the Council, to the Scottish Government on its Governance Review of education in Scotland in the form of a consultation questionnaire entitled "Empowering Teachers, Parents and Communities to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education", there was submitted a report dated 13 January 2017 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Education, Youth and Communities) (1) intimating that the Member/Officer Working Group had met on three occasions to discuss the formulation of the Council's response to the Scottish Government's consultation questionnaire on its proposals to change the governance of education in Scotland, and had heard evidence from teaching staff from primary, secondary and additional support needs schools in relation to the proposals; (2) advising that, although there had been a degree of consensus of opinion amongst members of the Working Group in relation to the formulation of the response to the questionnaire, there had been a difference of viewpoint in relation to the Scottish Government's proposals for (a) the direct allocation of funding to schools, and (b) the creation of regional boards, and (3) setting out, in the Appendix to the report, the response which had been submitted to the Scottish Government.

Decided: that the response which had been submitted to the Scottish Government by 6 January 2017, on behalf of the Council, in relation to its consultation questionnaire entitled "Empowering Teachers, Parents and Communities to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education", as set out in the Appendix to the report, be noted.

ACHIEVEMENT OF CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE LEVELS 2015/16

17. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 2017 by the Acting Head of Education (Standards and Inclusion) (1) providing details therein of the key findings in relation to data which had been collected by the Scottish Government in June 2016 from schools on the success of pupils in achieving the expected Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) level for stages P1, P4 and P7 in primary schools, and stage S3 in secondary schools for 2015/16; (2) advising that the data collected was based on the judgement of teachers on the progress of pupils at that time; (3) intimating that in December 2016 the Scottish Government had published summary data for local authorities and schools based on these school submissions, and (4) indicating (a) that the position in relation to the achievement of CfE levels in North Lanarkshire had reflected the national position, as a whole, for each curriculum area; (b) that a higher proportion of pupils living in the least deprived areas had achieved the CfE level relevant to their stage compared to pupils living in the most deprived areas; (c) that the attainment gap in North Lanarkshire was narrower in "literacy" and "numeracy" compared to the national position for most stages, and (d) that the average performance of schools in North Lanarkshire was ahead of the average performance of 'family' local authorities, those being:- Dundee City; East Ayrshire; Eilean Siar (Outer Hebrides); Glasgow City; Inverclyde; North Ayrshire and West Dunbartonshire.

Decided: that the report be noted.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTAINMENT REVIEWS 2016

18. There was submitted a report dated 24 January 2017 by the Acting Head of Education (Standards and Inclusion) (1) advising that each year, following the publication of the Scottish Qualifications Authority examination results, the Service scheduled a series of visits to the 23 secondary schools in North Lanarkshire to review attainment and achievement in each educational establishment; (2) indicating that these reviews involved discussion of (a) a dataset for each school which had been prepared by the Service on the attainment of young people in the national diet of examinations which took place in the summer prior to the schedule of visits, and (b) a set of challenge questions which had been developed for each school based on the attainment profile of the school; (3) providing a summary therein of the main findings of the reviews which had been carried out in December 2016, and (4) indicating that the individual school and overall authority summary of the outcomes of the 23 reviews would be analysed to further inform the work to be undertaken by the Continuous Improvement Officers in providing targeted support for secondary schools.

Decided: that the report be noted.

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR SCHOOLS IN SCOTLAND - DECEMBER 2016

19. There was submitted a report dated 18 January 2017 by the Assistant Chief Executive (Education, Youth and Communities) (1) intimating that in December 2016 the Scottish Government had published its Annual Report on Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland; (2) advising that the Annual Report brought together a wide range of information on school education and early learning and childcare provision, and covered: pupils, teachers, children in early learning and childcare, and school buildings; (3) setting out, in the Appendix to the report, a graphic representation of the national figures; (4) indicating that the statistics for North Lanarkshire schools had shown (a) an overall increase in teacher numbers by 56 FTE; (b) a reduction in the pupil/teacher ratio from 14.4 in 2015 to 14.1 in 2016; (c) that the uptake for early learning and childcare for eligible two year old children and three and four year old children was higher than the national average, and (d) an improved position in relation to the average class size for P1-P3 pupils; (5) informing that, although the Annual Report did not include individual local authority figures for the recording of details of pupils with additional support needs, the Council's data had shown that 15.6% of the school population in North Lanarkshire had an identified additional support need, and (6) stating that, although the percentage number of pupils recorded as having additional support needs was still below the national average, steps had been taken to significantly improve the situation since the publication of the 2015 Pupil Census data.

Councillor McNally, seconded by Councillor Kelly, moved that the report be noted.

Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Stevenson, moved, as an amendment, that the following aspects of the report be noted with concern (1) additional support needs in North Lanarkshire, and (2) the pupil/teacher ratio in North Lanarkshire.

On a vote being taken, 8 members voted for the amendment and 14 members voted for the motion which, accordingly, was declared carried.

Decided: that the report be noted.

Councillor Curran, by virtue of being the Chair of Routes to Work Limited, having declared an interest in the following two items, took no part in their determination.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE EMPLOYABILITY SERVICES

20. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 2017 by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) (1) providing details therein of baseline information on (a) the range of provision of employability services within North Lanarkshire, and the service providers; (b) the labour market in North Lanarkshire; (c) the ongoing changes in current provision; (d) the Council's employability services and performance, and (e) future challenges and opportunities; (2) advising that, given the forthcoming devolution of employability services to the Scottish Government and its planned introduction of a three to five year £32m per annum programme in April 2018, it was anticipated that there would be opportunities to secure funding for employability services in North Lanarkshire, and (3) intimating that the funding environment for employability services, post European Union funding, would be the key challenge moving forward.

Decided: that the report be noted.

WORK ABLE SCOTLAND 2017/18

21. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 November 2016, there was submitted a report dated 11 January 2017 by the Head of Education (Skills, Lifelong Learning and Youth Employment) (1) advising that on 30 December 2016 it had been announced that The Wise Group, a major social enterprise based in Glasgow and with a long track record of successful delivery of various community based employability programmes, had been the successful lead bidder for the 2017/18 interim Scottish Government Work Able Programme for the contract package area for Glasgow, Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire, (2) intimating that, as part of that bid, Routes to Work Limited, with the support of the Council, would deliver the interim Work Able Programme within North Lanarkshire, and (3) providing details therein on the bidding process for the Scottish Employability Support Service Programme 2018-20.

Decided:

- (1) that the successful outcome of the tender process for the interim Work Able Scotland Programme for 2017/18, as outlined in the report, be noted, and
- (2) that the information on the bidding process for the Scottish Employability Support Service Programme 2018-20, as outlined in the report, be noted.

NON - DOMESTIC ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT UNIT FRAMEWORKS

22. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 2017 by the Head of Resource Solutions (1) advising of the national Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency Works and Services (NDEE) Framework which had been developed by the Scottish Government for the delivery of the retrofit of energy efficiency works to existing non-domestic public buildings or grounds for the period from 1 March 2016 to 29 February 2020; (2) intimating that the Framework was managed by Scottish Procurement, and had been developed to help public sector bodies progress their energy efficiency projects within their estates in order to meet the legislative requirements in relation to 2020 emission targets; (3) informing that the Framework provided a list of 12 pre-selected Energy Efficiency Framework Contractors that the public sector could call-off to retrofit energy efficiency works, details of which were set out in Appendix 2 to the report; (4) indicating that each project may be eligible for Scottish Government funding, up to a maximum of £50,000; (5) setting out in Appendix 1 to the report, the proposed phase one energy management project list from the 2017/18 Education Capital Plan, and (6) outlining details of the benefits of using the NDEE Framework.

Decided: that the utilisation of the national Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework to expedite the advancement of energy management projects from the 2017/18 Education Capital Plan, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be noted.

NOTIFICATION OF CONTRACT AWARDS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 27 OCTOBER 2016 TO 20 JANUARY 2017

23. There was submitted a report dated 20 January 2017 by the Head of Business for Legal and Democratic Solutions providing, in the Appendix to the report, details of contracts which had been awarded by him, on the authority of the appropriate Chief Officer, in accordance with the Council's General Contract Standing Orders, for works over £50,000 but less than £500,000 in value during the period from 27 October 2016 to 20 January 2017.

Decided: that the report be noted.