

SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This paper provides the Committee with an update on the refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) which is supported by funding through the Attainment Scotland Fund, the aims of which are to address the challenges of the poverty-related attainment gap.
- 1.2 The Attainment Scotland Fund is made up of a number of funding

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The refreshed Scottish Attainment Challenge, launched in March 2022, does not introduce a new policy but rather builds on the existing policy that has been in place since 2015. The main aim of the policy is to support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate progress in closing the poverty related attainment gap.
- 2.2 *Use education to improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty, with a focus on tackling the poverty related attainment gap*
- 2.3 A new requirement by the Scottish Government as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge is to use education to improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty, with a focus on tackling the poverty related attainment gap. This is supported by the Scottish Government's guidance [Framework for Recovery and Accelerating Progress](#). This includes 5 stretch aims. The Education Service has taken in developing these stretch aims and the current draft stretch aims.
- 2.4 £1 billion of funding has been committed by the Scottish Government over the current parliamentary term to support the realisation of this policy. This is delivered through a number of funding streams including; Strategic Equity Funding, Pupil Equity Funding and Care Experienced Children and Young People funding.
- 2.5 This paper provides the Committee with updated information on the continued intention of the Scottish Government, as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge, to disperse £1,366,800 in Pupil Equity Funding and £142,162 in Strategic Equity Funding for the 2022-23 session.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee notes:

- a) The update on 2022 Scottish Government Pupil Equity and Strategic Equity Funding.
- b) The provision of strategic guidance at Scottish Government and Authority levels to support the implementation of the Pupil Equity Funding and Strategic Equity Funding.
- c) The draft stretch aims developed as required by the Scottish Attainment Challenge.
- d) That further updates on the Scottish Attainment Challenge will be presented to

- 6.2 Financial . Potential financial implications given the limited nature of funding in ensuring the avoidance of ongoing liabilities or redundancy costs which are unfunded.
- 6.3 Legal . The Council requires to meet their statutory duties as prescribed in the Local Authorities (Financial Provisions) (Scotland) Act, 2000
- 6.4 HR . Potential HR implications given the time limited nature of the funding in ensuring the avoidance of ongoing HR liabilities or redundancy costs which are unfunded.
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
 - 6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics . The Scottish Attainment Challenge is aimed at reducing inequalities.
 - 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty -
 - 6.5.3 Islands - none
- 6.6 Climate Change - none
- 6.7 Risk . Potential reputational risk to the Council by failing to deliver the statutory requirements of the revisions arising within the Local Authorities (Financial Provisions) (Scotland) Act, 2000 etc., Act 2000.
- 6.8 Customer Service . none

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30th June 2022

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 . Pupil Equity Fund allocations 2022-23

Appendix 2 . Argyll and Bute Draft Stretch Aims 2022-23