

MINUTES of MEETING of COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

6. ARGYLL

1. noted the terms of the draft consultation response, as prepared by Officers and set out in full at Appendix 1 of the report; and
2. agreed that Officers now formally submit that response to the Scottish Government, on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Education dated 5 May 2023, submitted)

9. DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE - 2022-2023

Developing the Young Workforce .

under the 2010 Act.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Education dated 16 May 2023 and Proposal Paper . Luig Primary School dated June 2023, submitted)

Margaret Anderson, Church Representative, left the meeting at this point.

1. that initial steps had been taken to progress this work with colleagues in both Education and Commercial Services; and
2. that a further report would be tabled at the Community Services Committee prior to the end of the current year.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Education and Commercial Services dated 25 May 2023, submitted)

13.

15. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2023 - 2024

The Community Services Committee work plan for 2023-2024 was before the Committee for information.

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the work plan.

(Reference: Community Services Committee Work Plan 2023-2024, submitted)

16. NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 13

The following Notice of Motion under Standing Order 13 was before the Community Services Committee for consideration .

The Seat Belts on School Transport (Scotland) Act 2017 requires that each passenger seat in vehicles used for dedicated school transportation must be equipped with a seatbelt. Public service buses that also provide school transport require seatbelts, dependent on age, with vehicles designed for urban use (urban buses) exempt from this.

This motion is made in light of the unique hazards of rural roads and the need to ensure the safety and well-being of schoolchildren, and to fulfil the council's responsibility to ensure safe routes to school in Argyll and Bute.

It is the motion of the Council, in relation to matters of this nature, is that the current arrangements are legally compliant and safe and that Argyll and Bute Council are compliant with all relevant legislation relating to the transporting of school children and the travelling public throughout Argyll and Bute with seatbelts fitted to all dedicated school transport vehicles.

Notwithstanding that advice, we believe that urban buses are not suitable for rural routes due to the unique characteristics of rural roads (winding bends, bumpy or uneven surfaces, poor lighting, often high speed limits and lack of seat belts and accessibility to medical care in case of an accident. These characteristics can become particularly challenging in poor weather conditions.

For example, as it currently stands, children as young as 4 on the Isle of Seil may be expected to travel on an urban bus with no seatbelts for over three miles from Cuan to get to school in Easdale. The windy island road is poorly lit and uneven, and the speed limit for this journey is the national speed limit 60mph.

The use of seat belts on all school transportation is crucial for the safety of children and ensuring safe routes to school.

The Committee is therefore asked to agree officers are requested to submit a paper to them which will identify and detail the costs associated with ensuring all buses commissioned by Argyll and Bute Council for the purposes of transporting children to and from school in Argyll and Bute are required to have seatbelts, and advising how such a requirement could be introduced.

Moved by Councillor Math Campbell-Sturgess, seconded by Councillor Dougie McFadzean

