

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2014 at 9.30 AM.

COUNCILLORS:

Jim Blackwood
Dennis Goldie
Gerry Goldie
Linda Gow
Adrian Mahoney
Craig Martin
Dr Craig R Martin
Malcolm Nicol
Alan Nimmo

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF RELIGIOUS
BODIES:**

Hector Cairns
Margaret Coutts
Rev Michael Rollo

CO-OPTEES:

Martin Craigen (Parent Representative)
Marnie McKay (Pupil Representative)
Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)

OFFICERS:

Shona Barton, Committee Services Officer
Danny Cairney, Accountancy Services Manager
Elaine Costello, Acting Head of Service (Individual and Additional Support)
Nigel Fletcher, Joint Acting Director of Education
Gary Greenhorn, Joint Acting Director of Education
Eileen Hutton, Childcare Provision Co-ordinator
Frank McChord, Local Community Planning Officer
Kenny McNeill, Acting Head of Service (Support, Resources and Infrastructure)
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
Maureen Petrie, Principal Officer - Adult Learning

EE9. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Fiona Craig.

EE10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Dr Craig R Martin declared a financial interest in item EE14 as he would financially benefit from the changes in childcare hours and considered that this required him to recuse himself from consideration of the item having regard to the objective test in the Code of Conduct.

EE11. OPENING REMARKS

Councillor Martin advised the Education Executive of the news that 11 senior pupils from Denny High School have attained an HNC in Dance which had been undertaken with links to Forth Valley College. It was noted that this was the first time in Scotland that senior pupils had left school with an HNC. The Education Executive passed on their congratulations to the pupils and to the staff at Denny High School for this achievement.

EE12. MINUTE

Decision

The minutes of meeting of the Education Executive held on 29 April 2014 were approved.

EE13. EDUCATION EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIP

The Education Executive considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer (a) advising that Ms Jude Ainsley, one of the current parent representatives on the Education Executive has indicated that she no longer wishes to continue with the role, and (b) confirming that Mr Mike Ablett has been nominated by the Parents Focus Group as a non-voting member of the Education Executive.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note that Ms Ainsley has indicated that she no longer wishes to continue in her role as a parent representative, and**
- (2) to confirm the appointment of Mr Ablett as nominated by the Parents Focus Group.**

In accordance with his declaration of interest, Councillor Dr C R Martin left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

Councillor G Goldie entered the meeting during discussion of the following item of business.

EE14. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPANSION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE TO 600 HOURS PER ANNUM

The Education Executive considered a report by the Joint Acting Director of Education which provided an update on (a) plans for Phase 1 of the implementation strategy for the expansion of early learning and childcare to 600 hours per annum from August 2014, and (b) the plans to introduce Phase 2 of the implementation strategy as it affects 2 year olds from workless or job seeking households from August 2014.

The report provided an update on the implementation strategy for Phase 1 and outlined the work being undertaken to support the introduction of Phase 2. The report noted that the draft Statutory Guidance has been prepared, in relation to the early learning and childcare elements of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, and that the response to the guidance will be co-ordinated by the Children's Commission. Information was also provided on the workforce planning and development and the likely financial and resource implications along with a copy of the revised Early Learning and Childcare Admissions Policy for approval..

Decision

The Education Executive:-

(1) noted:-

- (a) the Phase 1 implementation update;**
- (b) the workforce planning and development implications set out in section 7;**
- (c) that the response to the statutory consultation will be co-ordinated by the Children's Commission, and**
- (d) the resource implications as detailed in section 8.2 of the report.**

(2) agreed:-

- (a) the revised Early Learning and Childcare Admissions Policy;**
- (b) the proposed implementation of Phase 2 as set out in section 5 of the report;**
- (c) the next steps / way forward as set out in section 10 of the report, and**
- (d) that a further report updating progress on Phase 1 and Phase 2 is brought to the Education Executive early next session.**

Councillor Dr C R Martin re-entered the meeting following conclusion of foregoing item of business.

EE15. NURTURING SCHOOLS

The Education Executive considered a report by the Joint Acting Director of Education which provided an update on the progress made with the nurture classes pilot (Year 2) and the development of nurturing approaches across establishments in Falkirk.

The report provided an outline of the background to the nurture classes which included the strategic aims of the classes and how the nurture classes operate in Falkirk. The report also highlighted the evaluation and outcomes of the pilot and outlined the plans for the next stages of implementation.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and the positive impact achieved;**
- (2) to receive regular updates on the ongoing impact and evaluation of the nurture approach, via the Education Executive or the Information Bulletin, and**
- (3) to approve the continuation of the development of the nurturing approach in early years establishments and schools within the given budget resources.**

Councillor D Goldie left the meeting during discussion of the foregoing item of business.

EE16. SHARED HEADTEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Education Executive considered a report by the Joint Acting Director of Education which outlined a proposal that would allow for the consideration and implementation of shared headships and joint management arrangements for primary schools in certain circumstances.

The Council had agreed a policy in June 2008 which allowed shared headships to be established for small primary schools that had not been successful in recruiting a headteacher as a first option. The report outlined the proposal which would allow the Education Authority to secure the appointment of a shared headteacher for more than one primary school where circumstances would allow. Information was also provided on examples of joint management arrangements.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed to approve the proposal that allows the Joint Acting Directors of Education to consider and implement the shared headships and joint management arrangements for primary schools in accordance with the steps outlined in section 2.1 of the report.

Councillor D Goldie re-entered the meeting during discussion of the foregoing item of business.

EE17. LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING

The Education Executive considered a report by the Joint Acting Director of Education which provided an update on (a) the legislative duties on the involvement of local communities in the community planning process; (b) how the Council currently supports local community planning across the Falkirk area, and (c) the plans to undertake a review of local community planning.

The report provided an overview of local community planning within the Falkirk area and outlined the current approach to supporting local community planning. Also attached as appendices to the report were copies of the two recently produced Local Community Action Plans in respect of Whitecross and Maddiston/Rumford. The report also contained a summary of the key findings from both of these Action Plans.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted:-**
 - (a) the progress the Local Community Planning team has made;**
 - (b) the development of the Community Action Plans referenced at section 4 and welcomed their progression by local communities;**
 - (c) the published Local Community Action Plans in respect of Whitecross and Maddiston/Rumford (attached as appendices 1 and 2 to the report), and**
 - (d) that the Local Community Planning Officers will take forward the Local Community Action Plans as outlined in section 9 of the report.**
- (2) agreed that a report of the findings of the group reviewing local community planning (as outlined in section 6 of the report) is brought back to a future meeting.**

EE18. CLOSING REMARKS

Councillor C Martin advised that this was the last meeting which Marnie McKay, Pupil Representative would attend as she was leaving school and moving on to further education. On behalf of the Education Executive he thanked Marnie for her valuable contribution to the meetings and also commended her for the work that she undertakes in the local community and at Larbert High School.