

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2014 at 9.30 AM.**

**COUNCILLORS:**

Jim Blackwood  
Dennis Goldie  
Gerry Goldie  
Linda Gow  
Adrian Mahoney  
Craig Martin (Convener)  
Dr Craig R Martin  
Alan Nimmo  
Robert Spears

**REPRESENTATIVES  
OF RELIGIOUS  
BODIES:**

Hector Cairns  
Margaret Coutts  
Rev Michael Rollo

**CO-OPTEES:**

Fiona Craig (Teacher Representative)  
Martin Craigen (Parent Representative)  
Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)

**OFFICERS:**

Nick Balchin, Principal Educational Psychologist  
Elaine Costello, Integration Support Manager  
Nigel Fletcher, joint acting Director of Education  
Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer  
Rose Mary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer  
Gary Greenhorn, joint acting Director of Education  
Mark Meechan, Community Learning & Development Manager  
Anne Pearson, Curriculum Support Manager  
Elliot Roy, Graduate Trainee  
Richard Teed, Senior Forward Planning Officer

**EE26. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Nicol and Ross Nixon (Pupil Representative).

**EE27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

## **EE28. MINUTE**

### **Decision**

**The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 9 September 2014 was approved.**

## **EE29. REPORT BACK FROM CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO CHANGE ADMISSIONS POLICY**

The Education Executive considered a report by the joint acting Director of Education detailing the outcome of the formal public consultation exercise which had been undertaken in accordance with the regulations set out by the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010.

The Education Executive had agreed in April 2014 (ref EE6) to carry out a consultation on the proposal to make changes to the Falkirk Council Admissions Policy and that the results of the consultation be reported back to the Education Executive, with appropriate recommendations.

The report set out, in detail, a summary and analysis of the outcome of the consultation and highlighted the Council's responses to the main issues raised. The report also outlined the proposed transitional arrangements to assist families to continue with the education they had chosen for their children without financial and geographical disadvantage.

Councillor Nimmo, seconded by Councillor Martin moved that:-

- (1) the response to the consultation be noted;
- (2) the proposed changes to the Admissions Policy as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be agreed, and
- (3) that the transitional arrangements for non-RC baptised pupils that have older siblings already enrolled at the same denominational primary school be introduced to cover primary 1 enrolments in August 2015 and August 2016.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed the motion.**

## **EE30. REVIEW OF INCLUSION AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

The Education Executive considered a report by the joint acting Director of Education which sought approval to adopt a new approach to inclusive education within Falkirk schools. This proposal would require an extensive review of current provision, as well as a programme of consultation and workforce development.

The report set out the key aims of the review, the key principles of an inclusive education, together with the statutory duty placed on Councils to make provision for additional support needs of all children for whose education it is responsible. Information was also provided on how Education Services proposed to undertake the review of inclusion and additional support needs.

This followed a presentation from the Council's Principal Educational Psychologist which outlined proposals for redesigning the current provision in order to better meet the needs of children and young people in Falkirk, and improve their outcomes.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive noted the report and agreed:-**

- (1) the key principles of Inclusive Education as outlined in Section 2 of the report;**
- (2) that Education Services progress the Review of Inclusion and Additional Support Needs as outlined in Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the report, and**
- (3) that the joint acting Director of Education Services brings a further update report to a future meeting of the Education Executive showing the progress made.**

Councillor D Goldie left the meeting after conclusion of the previous item.

### **EE31. FALKIRK COUNCIL 1+2 LANGUAGES STRATEGY**

The Education Executive considered a report by the joint acting Director of Education presenting the Council's draft 1+2 Languages Strategy for approval and submission to the Scottish Government.

The Council was required by the Scottish Government to develop its own strategy with regard to the implementation of 1 + 2 Languages. The report detailed the "ring fenced funding" from the Scottish Government and how this had been utilised for session 2013/14 and 2014/15 to allow the strategy to be taken forward.

The meeting adjourned at 10.40 a.m. as Councillor Spears had taken ill during the debate. The meeting reconvened at 10.50 a.m., with all members present as per the sederunt with the exception of Councillors Spears.

At 11.00 a.m., members and officers stood to observe a 2 minute silence to mark Remembrance Day.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed the draft 1+2 Languages Strategy, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report for submission to the Scottish Government.**

**EE32. COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013: GUIDANCE AND REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

The Education Executive considered a report by the joint acting Director of Education which summarised the key issues set out in Guidance in relation to the Community Learning and Development (CLD) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, together with an overview of how actions would be taken forward.

The Regulations place two obligations on the Council, which are (i) to ensure that the need for CLD provision within the Council area is assessed, and (ii) to publish a 3 year plan by 1 September 2015 setting out what CLD provision the Council will make, how it will co-ordinate provision with other providers, what action the other providers intend to take during the period of the plan and what needs will be unmet. It also sets out 4 key policy goals for CLD and recommends developing a 3 year plan which addresses these key policy goals.

The report also detailed how Education Services plan to take forward the 4 key policy goals and proposed that Falkirk Community Learning and Development Partnership take the lead, whilst working with partners and learners, in developing the 3 year plan.

**Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed:-**

- (1) to note the key policy goals as set out in the Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and the new Guidance (as detailed in Section 2.1 of the report);**
- (2) to endorse the plan, as detailed in Section 3 of the report, to take forward the development of the 3 year plan, and**
- (3) to receive a further update report detailing the progress made in developing the plan in due course.**

**EE33. VALEDICTORY REMARKS**

The Convener stated that Nigel Fletcher, acting joint Director of Education, would be retiring in December and today was his final Education Executive. He thanked Mr Fletcher on behalf of the Education Executive and the Council for his contribution to the work of Education Services, and commended his commitment to education services in the area throughout his career and wished him well in his retirement. The Executive also heard from Councillor Nimmo, portfolio holder for Education, who thanked Mr Fletcher for his years of service not only as an officer, but latterly as acting Director of Education and wished him a long and happy retirement. Other members of the Executive also expressed their thanks and good wishes to Mr Fletcher.

Mr Fletcher thanked members for their kind words and support shown over the years.