

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2015 at 9.30 AM.

COUNCILLORS: David Alexander
Jim Blackwood
Adrian Mahoney
Craig Martin (Convener)
Dr Craig R Martin
Malcolm Nicol
Alan Nimmo

REPRESENTATIVES Hector Cairns
OF RELIGIOUS Margaret Coutts
BODIES: Michael Rollo

CO-OPTEES: Helena Barton (Pupil Representative)
Mike Ablett (Parent Representative)
Martin Craigen (Parent Representative)
Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)

OFFICERS: Danny Cairney, Accountancy Services Manager
Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning and Resources
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
Anne Pearson, Head of Education

EE29. APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Tom Coleman, Dennis Goldie, Gerry Goldie and Linda Gow, and Jonathan Barclay (Pupil Representative).

EE30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

EE31. MINUTES

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 8 September 2015 and the Special Meeting of the Education Executive held on 29 September 2015 were approved.

EE32. LEARNING TO ACHIEVE AWARDS 2015

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services detailing the background to the Learning to Achieve Awards (LTA) and which proposed that the scope of the awards be reviewed to recognise achievements from the whole remit of children's services in future. At present the LTA only recognise outstanding school, community and education-based projects.

The report highlighted the nine category award winners and the sponsorship details at this year's ceremony which had taken place within Graeme High School on 24 September 2015.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed to:-

- (1) note the success of the Learning to Achieve Awards event, and**
- (2) change the event next year to encompass the whole of Children's Services.**

EE33. EXTENSION OF FRANCHISE TO 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the recent legislative changes that had been made in Scotland which gives 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in both Scottish Parliamentary and Local Government elections.

The report sets out information and examples of how Children's Services and the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) were working with secondary schools in helping to promote and encourage young people to register to vote and become involved in the democratic process. Children's Services also provided specific activities to raise awareness amongst vulnerable pupils, particularly those with additional support needs and those who are looked after.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the report, and**
- (2) that the Director of Children's Services continues to work with schools and other parties to encourage young people to register to vote and to participate in the democratic process.**

EE34. THE SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services outlining the aims of the Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) and Children's Services' plans for school involvement in the related Schools Programme.

The main aims of the SAC and its associated Schools Programme are to focus and accelerate targeted improvements in literacy, numeracy and wellbeing in specific areas of Scotland which have been identified as having the highest concentration of primary aged pupils living in multiple deprivation.

Langlees Primary School has been identified as one of the 57 Scottish primary schools to be included in the Schools Programme, which was launched on 1 October 2015.

A funding package has been set up for the next four years (2015-2019) and it is expected that between £20k to £80k per annum will be allocated to those schools identified in the Schools Programme to help accelerate improvement and support innovation.

The report detailed a range of support available to education authorities in relation to the SAC, which included direct access to an Attainment Advisor, access to the national hub and inter-authority partnership working.

The report also set out the bid process and the range of strategies Children's Services will use to address the attainment gap and that the resources will be used more widely than in Langlees Primary School.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the aims of the new Scottish Attainment Challenge;**
- (2) that the Director of Children's Services develops and submits a bid to the Scottish Government as outlined in Section 6.1 of the report;**
- (3) that the Director of Children's Services develops a strategy designed to begin to address the attainment gap, and**
- (4) that an update report on progress be submitted to the Education Executive at a later date.**

EE35. PROPERTY ASSET SURPLUS TO OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: FORMER GRANGEMOUTH DAY NURSERY

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services seeking approval to declare the site at the former Grangemouth Day Nursery, surplus to Children's Services operational requirements and thereafter to proceed with the disposal of the site.

The site and current building has been vacant since August 2009 and is no longer required by Children's Services. At present, the premises are secure; however, the condition of the building is deteriorating and there is asbestos present in the roof area.

In light of the current risk assessment, the Director of Children's Services in conjunction with the relevant portfolio holder had, in the interest of public safety, agreed the demolition of the building.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed that:-

- (1) the site held on Children's Services account be declared surplus to operational requirements, and**
- (2) the Director of Development Services proceed with the sale/disposal of the site, once the existing building has been demolished.**