

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 29 MARCH 2016 at 9.30 AM.

COUNCILLORS:

David Alexander
Jim Blackwood
Thomas Coleman
Dennis Goldie
Linda Gow
Adrian Mahoney
Craig Martin (Convener)
Dr Craig R Martin
Alan Nimmo
Robert Spears

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF RELIGIOUS
BODIES:**

Hector Cairns
Margaret Coutts
Michael Rollo

CO-OPTEES:

Mike Ablett (Parent Representative)
Jonathan Barclay (Pupil Representative)
Helena Barton (Pupil Representative)
Martin Craigen (Parent Representative)

OFFICERS:

Jack Aitken, Design Co-Ordinator
Tony Bragg, Team Manager: Performance Management
Andrew Facherty, Additional Support for Learning Manager
Jack Frawley, Committee Services Officer
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning and Resources
Alan Livingstone, Property Manager
Stephen Miller, Head Teacher, Denny High School
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
Richard Teed, Senior Forward Planning Officer

ALSO ATTENDING:

Gary Bushnell, Chief Executive, hub East Central Scotland
Constable Ian Taylor, Police Scotland

EE42. APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillor G Goldie, Fiona Craig and Margaret Smith.

EE43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

EE44. MINUTE

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 2 February 2016 was approved.

Councillor D Goldie entered the meeting during consideration of the following item.

EE45. NEW ASN SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the new ASN secondary school project including details of the Hubco Stage 2 report and seeking approval for the Stage 2 report and to proceed to financial close.

The report advised that the Hubco Stage 1 report had been considered by Council on 7 October 2015, where approval had been given to progress to Stage 2. A summary of the information contained within the Stage 2 report was provided. The Stage 2 report confirmed that the final maximum cost to the Council would be £17,554,357 which is £13,643 below the agreed budget for construction costs and is within the "affordability cap" set by the Scottish Future's Trust. The Executive Summary was appended to the report.

Jack Aitken and Richard Teed provided the Education Executive with a presentation which provided members with further information on the new ASN secondary school.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed to:-

- (1) approve the Hubco Stage 2 report;**
- (2) authorise the Chief Executive or her nominee to conclude final discussions and negotiations with Hubco and take all decisions required to take the project forward to Financial Close, and**
- (3) authorise the Chief Executive or the Chief Governance Officer to sign the contractual documentation with Hubco including the Design and Build Development Agreement.**

EE46. SCHOOL/CAMPUS BASED POLICE OFFICERS

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services seeking approval to extend the provision of school or campus based Police Officers to each Falkirk Council secondary school.

School based Police Officers had been located at Larbert High School from 2007/08 and at Denny High School from 2008/09 as part of a pilot project. On 21 August 2012 the former Education Committee agreed to extend the provision to three further secondary schools; Braes, Falkirk and Grangemouth. Benefits which arise from the provision of school based Police Officers had been recognised through academic research by Ipsos MORI and through the recent review of Children's Services in Falkirk. Details of these benefits were provided as an appendix to the report.

The report also provided information relating to the objectives, role and outcomes of school based Police Officers along with the financial implications of the proposal to increase provision across all eight secondary schools. Funding for the proposal would be met by Police Scotland and Children's Services, with Children's Services funding two of the eight posts at a total cost of c£84,000. This cost would be met from each school's devolved budget and from the Children's Services revenue budget.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to extend provision of school based Police Officers as outlined in Section 3 of the report at an additional cost to Children's Services of c£49,000 per annum, and**
- (2) that the Director of Children's Services review the operation and outcomes from the deployment of a Police Officer in all 8 secondary schools, in conjunction with the Head Teachers at the end of the 2015/16 term.**

EE47. ATTAINMENT (5-18) IN FALKIRK COUNCIL'S SCHOOLS

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing information on:

- i) standardised test results for Reading and Mathematics in Falkirk Council schools in 2015 from Primary 1 to Secondary 2, based specifically on testing in P1, P3, P5, P7 and S2, with comparisons in performance over time;
- ii) SQA examination attainment of school leavers at the end of session 2014/15;

- iii) the impact of strategies to date to raise attainment across primary and secondary schools, including the Council's Literacy and Numeracy strategies, and
- iv) ongoing work as part of the Council's commitment to continuous improvement.

The report provided statistical information relating to attainment. This included performance in: broad general education; the senior phase, and literacy and numeracy. The actions planned to improve attainment were detailed along with information on the strategies to improve performance in secondary schools.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) **noted the analysis of the Standardised Tests in Falkirk Council's primary and secondary schools, and the attainment in the Senior Phase of secondary schools, and**
- (2) **requested that the Director of Children's Services implement the strategies already in place which were intended to further improve performance in:**
 - (i) **Literacy and Numeracy in Falkirk Council schools and nurseries, and**
 - (ii) **the Senior Phase of secondary schools.**

EE48. INCREASING CAPACITY IN SPECIALIST PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE AND COMPLEX NEEDS

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the challenges faced by Children's Services in relation to the growing number of primary aged children requiring specialised adaptations to their curriculum, high levels of personal care and careful control of the physical environment. The report set out proposals to address the challenges in the short term and to address future capacity challenges across the early years and school estates.

Information was provided on the current capacity and rolls within primary ASN support bases. The total capacity provided by facilities at The Base, TimeZone and Thistle Wing was 78 places. The pupil roll for 2015/16 was 79. There was a net increase of 19 pupils from 2015/16 to 2016/17 who required specialised support to best meet their needs.

The Service proposed that to increase capacity in time for the school session beginning in August 2016 that two initiatives were introduced:

- i) expanding the ASN base provision at Maddiston Primary School (TimeZone), and
- ii) creation of a new facility, utilising existing unused space at Carrongrange School.

It was estimated that an additional four FTE Teacher posts and eight FTE Support for Learning Assistant posts would be required to meet the increased level of demand. The cost for 2016/17 was estimated to be £175,000.

To relocate an existing modular classroom from Weedingshall to Maddiston Primary School and undertake the necessary internal alterations within classrooms at Carrongrange a cost of c£100,000 would be incurred. This would be met from the Children's Services Capital Budget (school demographic pressures) and utilisation of planning gain monies available for use at Maddiston Primary School. Work would be carried out during the summer of 2016.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted the pressures Children's Services faces in meeting the educational and social needs of rising numbers of children with severe and complex additional support needs;**
- (2) agreed the proposals put forward by Children's Services to meet the needs of those children in August 2016, and**
- (3) requested that the Director of Children's Services bring further reports to Education Executive that consider:**
 - options associated with meeting the long term needs of pupils with severe and complex ASN**
 - options to address primary school capacity issues, and**
 - options to address secondary school capacity issues.**