

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Minute of meeting of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 6 September 2016 at 9.30 am.**

**COUNCILLORS:** David Alexander  
Jim Blackwood  
Dennis Goldie  
Linda Gow  
Craig Martin (Convener)  
Dr Craig R Martin  
Malcolm Nicol  
Alan Nimmo  
Robert Spears

**REPRESENTATIVES  
OF RELIGIOUS  
BODIES:** Margaret Coutts

**CO-OPTEES:** Mike Ablett (Parent Representative)  
Jonathan Barclay (Pupil Representative)  
Helena Barton (Pupil Representative)  
Fiona Craig (Teacher Representative)  
Martin Craigen (Parent Representative)  
Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)

**OFFICERS:** Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer  
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning & Resources  
David Mackay, Head of Education  
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer  
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services

**EE8. Minute's Silence**

The Convener referred to the recent passing of former Councillor Joe Lemetti and that of George Boyle, a former Education Committee Church Representative. He paid tribute to both Mr Lemetti and Mr Boyle. The Education Executive observed a minute's silence in their memory.

**EE9. Convener's Remark**

The Convener welcomed David Mackay to his first meeting of the Education Executive as Head of Education.

#### **EE10. Apologies**

Apologies were intimated on behalf Councillors Coleman and Mahoney; and Rev M Rollo.

#### **EE11. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

#### **EE12. Minute**

##### **Decision**

**The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 7 June 2016 was approved.**

#### **EE13. Delivering Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education – A Delivery Plan for Scotland**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the Scottish Government's delivery plan for Scottish education which was published in late June. The plan set out how the Scottish Government intends to deliver excellence and equity in education for children in Scotland.

The delivery plan would have considerable implications for the way in which education is delivered. The plan contained a number of actions which are focused around three key priorities, namely:

- closing the attainment gap
- ensuring we have a curriculum which delivers for our children and teachers, and
- empowering our teachers, schools and communities to deliver for children and young people

The report also highlighted the Scottish Government's launch of a Governance Review alongside the Programme for Government which will take place in September 2016.

Councillor Nimmo, seconded by Councillor C Martin, moved that:-

The Education Executive agrees:

- (1) to note the publication of the plan, and

- (2) to request that the Director of Children's Services provides further reports on emerging issues associated with the national plan and its implementation in Falkirk.

Following discussion, Councillor Nimmo, with the consent of Councillor C Martin, as his seconder, adjusted the terms of his motion to include the following clause:-

- (3) that a letter be sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills advising that the Council has the gravest concerns regarding the proposals contained within the "Delivering Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education – a Delivery Plan for Scotland".

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Spears, moved the following amendment:-

To delete from clause 3 of the motion "the gravest concerns" and to substitute therefor "some concerns".

On a division 8 members voted for the motion and 2 for the amendment, with the voting as follows:-

For the motion (8) – Councillors Blackwood, D Goldie, Gow, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Nicol and Nimmo; and Margaret Coutts (Religious Representative).

For the amendment (2) – Councillors Alexander and Spears.

### **Decision**

#### **The Education Executive agreed the motion.**

Councillor Gow joined the meeting during consideration of the previous item.

## **EE14. The Scottish Attainment Challenge Schools Programme**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the Scottish Attainment Challenge Schools Programme (SAC) within Langlees Primary School and Falkirk High School.

The report set out the background to the Scottish Attainment Challenge initiative which aims to raise attainment of children and young persons living in deprived areas and close the equity gap.

The report summarised the roll out of the SAC which now includes individual secondary schools. Falkirk High School has been identified for attainment challenge funding, and a bid to secure an annual allocation over the next 5 years was recently submitted.

## **Decision**

### **The Education Executive agreed:-**

- (1) to note that additional funds have been allocated to Langlees Primary School and Falkirk High School, and**
- (2) to request that the Director of Children's Services provide the Education Executive with regular updates on the impact and learning arising from the Attainment Challenge in these schools.**

## **EE15. Initial Report on Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Attainment in Secondary Schools in 2015-16**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services setting out the initial Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) attainment within Falkirk Council secondary schools in 2016.

The report, at this stage, provided information obtained from the Council's management information system (SEEMIS) and details only A to C passes for pupils in S4-S6. Attainment figures would be updated later in the session by the Scottish Government Insight information system and would include post results outcomes, together with national and comparator authority figures.

The report also set out the future actions and strategies which were being implemented to further improve attainment levels and performance.

## **Decision**

### **The Education Executive agreed:-**

- (1) to note Falkirk Council secondary preliminary attainment results, and**
- (2) to request a further report following the publication of updated insight data in February 2017.**

Fiona Craig left the meeting after consideration of the previous item.

## **EE16. School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) (June 2016)**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an overview of the annual School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) and seeking approval for its submission to the Scottish Government.

The SEMP is reviewed and updated annually by Children's Services and submitted to the Scottish Government, together with the outcome of the annual core facts data which assesses the condition, suitability and sufficiency of each school property. This data provides the service with a basis for prioritising resources and investment in schools up to 5 years ahead.

Information on the major works carried out across the school estate during 2015/16 and the works planned for 2016/17 was contained within the SEMP, which was attached as an appendix to the report.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed:-**

- (1) to note the content of the annual update of the School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) as detailed in Appendix 1, and**
- (2) to submit the SEMP to the Scottish Government.**

Councillor Nicol left the meeting during consideration of the previous item.