

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the Coat of Arms of the City of Edinburgh. The crest includes a crown with four thistles, a shield divided into four quarters (a saltire, a stag's head, a ship, and an eagle), and a motto scroll at the bottom.

Agenda Item 3

Minutes

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Minute of meeting of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 8 November 2016 at 9.30 am.

COUNCILLORS: David Alexander
Jim Blackwood
Tom Coleman
Dennis Goldie
Gerry Goldie
Linda Gow
Adrian Mahoney
Alan Nimmo (Convener)
Robert Spears

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF RELIGIOUS
BODIES:** Margaret Coutts
Rev Michael Rollo

CO-OPTES: Jonathan Barclay (Pupil Representative)
Martin Craigen (Parent Representative)
Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)

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

EE17. Chair

In the absence of the Convener, Councillor Martin, it was agreed that Councillor Nimmo would take the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

EE18. Opening Remarks

Members of the Education Executive offered their condolences to Councillor Martin and Councillor Dr Martin on their recent bereavement.

The Convener advised that the recently completed extension to Antonine Primary School had won an award for the Best Commercial Building of the Year from the Stirling Society of Architects. He also advised that the Care Inspectorate Report for Kinneil Primary School Nursery had recently been published and had graded the facility "very good" in its quality of care; environment; staffing, and management and leadership.

EE19. Apologies

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Craig Martin and Dr Craig R Martin; Mike Ablett (Parent Representative), and Fiona Craig (Teacher Representative).

EE20. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

EE21. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 6 September 2016 was approved.

EE22. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing a decision which had been implemented following the previous meeting on 6 September 2016 was provided.

Decision

The Executive noted the rolling action log.

EE23. New ASN Secondary School: Report on Feedback from Naming Consultation and Project Update

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services updating on progress of the new build project and the outcome of the recent consultation on the preferred name for the new ASN secondary school.

Construction on the new secondary school is underway with the building expected to be wind and water tight by January, with an anticipated completion date in July 2017.

Following the consultation carried out between 26 September and 7 October 2016, the responses received from parents, staff and pupils indicated that "Carrongrange High School" was the preferred choice. Details of the consultation were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted the progress on the new build project, and**
- (2) agreed that the new school will be named “Carrongrange High School” in accordance with the preference expressed by parents, pupils and staff.**

EE24. Early Learning and Childcare

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing details on the outcome of a recent consultation exercise to assess views on the introduction of 600 hours early years provision. The report also set out the impact and future challenges for Children's Services to the Scottish Government's plans to expand this provision to 1140 hours per annum.

Provision was made in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 that the amount of free early learning and child care be increased from 475 to 600 hours per annum for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds. The Act also placed a duty on local authorities to consult with parents and service users once the increased provision has been introduced.

This provision has now been established in the Falkirk area and the required consultation exercise was undertaken during March and April 2016. It concluded that the majority of service users were pleased with the current service being offered. A detailed summary of responses was appended to the report.

Information was also provided on the Scottish Government's consultation document “A Blueprint for 2020 – The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland”. The expansion proposals include increasing the amount of childcare provision to 1140 hours per annum and giving parents increased flexibility. These proposals will have significant financial, planning and infrastructure challenges for Children's Services however work is currently ongoing to assess the additional infrastructure and financial resources required.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed to:-

- (1) note the responses from the consultation exercise;**

- (2) **note the Children's Services' responses to the feedback from the consultation exercise and the challenges to be faced in the future regarding the Scottish Government's plans to expand early learning and childcare provision to 1140 hours per annum by 2020, and**
- (3) **instruct the Director of Children's Services to bring a further report to Education Executive which provides –**
- **an update on the financial position and infrastructure challenges**
 - **options for consideration around offering parents increased flexible choices of early years provision as further details and information are known regarding the Scottish Government's plans to expand provision within the early years sector.**

Councillor G Goldie left the meeting during discussion of the previous item.

EE25. Tackling Bureaucracy, Response to Education Scotland Review

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services setting out education Scotland's assessment of Falkirk Council's approach to tackling bureaucracy within schools, together with the action plan to address the areas highlighted for improvement.

Education Scotland was asked by the Scottish Government to undertake a review of the demands placed on schools by local authorities in relation to Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), with particular focus on their arrangements for curriculum, planning, assessment and reporting. The review was undertaken as part of the Government's "Delivery Plan", designed to eliminate unnecessary workload demands associated with the implementation of CfE.

The review took place in August 2016 and included HM Inspectors meeting a variety of education officers, teaching staff and representatives of teachers' associations. Inspectors looked at arrangements, expectations and associated workload requirements for CfE, as well as any guidance and support provided by the authority to help minimise bureaucracy in schools.

HM Inspectors highlighted three areas for improvement which are detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. Children's Services, in response to the review, produced an action plan to address these areas. The action plan is attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the Education Scotland evidence template and the identified aspects for improvement as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and**
- (2) the Children's Services Action Plan which seeks to address the areas highlighted for improvement.**