

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a sailing ship on the water. The top-right quadrant shows a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a beaver. The bottom-right quadrant shows a grizzly bear. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. Below the shield is a banner with the motto "A NE FOR A".

AGENDA ITEM

3

Minute

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Minute of meeting of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 31 January 2017 at 9.30 am.

COUNCILLORS:

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

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF RELIGIOUS
BODIES:**

Margaret Coutts
Rev Michael Rollo

CO-OPTEES:

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

OFFICERS:

Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer
David Mackay, Head of Education
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services

EE30. Minute's Silence

The convener referred to the recent death of Tam Dalyell, the former MP for West Lothian and later Linlithgow who had, prior to going into politics, taught at Bo'ness Academy. Councillors Coleman and Mahoney also paid tribute to him. The Education Executive observed a minute's silence in his memory.

EE31. Apologies

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors G Goldie and Nicol, and Jonathan Barclay (Pupil Representative).

EE32. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

EE33. Minutes

Decision

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 8 November 2016 and the Special meeting of the Education Executive held on 10 January 2017 were approved.

EE34. 2017 National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan for Scottish Education

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing details of the National Improvement Framework (NIF) and Improvement Plan for Scottish Education which was published by the Scottish Government on 13 December 2016.

The aim of the NIF and the improvement plan is to provide clarity and explanation on how the Scottish Government will secure educational improvement for children and young people across Scotland, in one publication. The Scottish Government has confirmed that implementation of the NIF is to be phased in over a 3 year period. The NIF and Improvement plan, together with the 3 year implementation programme are appended to the report.

The report summarised the four key NIF priorities and the 6 key drivers identified as instrumental in achieving these. The drivers will be used to inform the evidence and data gathered at school, local and national level to help determine how well Scottish education is improving.

The Education (Scotland) Act 2016 places a statutory duty on local authorities to secure improvement in school education in a way which achieves the key priorities set out in the NIF. From 2017, there is a requirement to report on all aspects of the NIF at both school and local authority level. The Service had commenced a review on its approach to improvement planning and reporting to ensure the key NIF priorities are achieved in line with its statutory duty.

The report also referred to the Scottish Government's Interventions for Equity publication, which is the initial framework to support the Scottish Attainment Challenge.

Attainment Advisors have been appointed by the Scottish Government to support local authorities in taking forward the raising attainment/closing the gap agenda. Falkirk has been allocated an Advisor for 70 days who will work with the Council's Attainment Challenge Schools, Langlees Primary and Falkirk High Schools. Children's Services will continue to evaluate the impact of this support and improvement strategies on raising attainment.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed -

- (1) to note the Education Division of Children's Services will review its approach to improvement planning and reporting to reflect the revised National Improvement Priorities and key drivers for improvements, as well as current local priorities, and**
- (2) that further reports be brought to the Education Executive as and when appropriate to update on progress made with the implementation of the revised National Improvement Framework.**

EE35. Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels 2015/17

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing results from the Scottish Government teacher judgement survey of attainment in Curriculum for Excellence levels in specific year stages both in primary and secondary schools.

The survey had been carried out in June 2016 in stages P1, P4, P7 and S3, with results being published in December 2016. Teachers were asked to confirm the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) level achieved by each pupil at these stages in reading, writing, listening & talking and numeracy. The results for each Council were set out in appendix 1 to the report.

Due to the lack of moderation at a national level, the Scottish Government has published the data as experimental. In order to address this, Quality Assurance and Moderation Support Officers (QAMSOs) have been appointed from each authority and are currently undergoing training in understanding the CfE level benchmarks, which will be rolled out to classroom teachers prior to this year's survey.

The report set out the work by Children's Services in supporting schools with their analysis of attainment by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMDI) decile to ensure that schools will reduce the attainment gap and to share experience gained from the two Attainment Challenge schools.

The report also set out Children's Services priorities in continuing to promote literacy and numeracy and how these will be driven.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the performance of Falkirk Council schools in relation to that of Scotland as a whole;**

- (2) to note Children's Services intention to continue to make literacy and numeracy key priorities, and**
- (3) that the Director of Children's Services report to the Education Executive on the attainment gap in Falkirk schools in March 2017.**

Councillor Spears left the meeting during discussion of this item.