

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 city skyline with a diagonal beam of light. The top-right quadrant depicts a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a three-masted sailing ship on wavy water. The bottom-right quadrant features a grizzly bear standing on its hind legs. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom contains the motto 'A NE FOR A' in a stylized font.

# **Agenda Item 3**

## **Minute**

Draft

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Minute of meeting of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 5 September 2017 at 9.30 am.**

**COUNCILLORS:**

David Alexander  
Gary Bouse  
Provost Tom Coleman  
Fiona Collie  
Paul Garner  
Dennis Goldie  
Gordon Hughes  
Adanna McCue  
Cecil Meiklejohn (Convener)  
Alan Nimmo  
John Patrick  
Robert Spears

**REPRESENTATIVES  
OF RELIGIOUS  
BODIES:**

Dr Brendan McGuckin  
Rev M Rollo  
Mrs M Tait

**CO-OPTES:**

Fiona Craig (Teacher Representative)  
Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)

**OFFICERS:**

Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer  
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning and Resources  
David Mackay, Head of Education  
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer  
Stuart Murray, Trainee Governance Assistant  
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services  
Karen Thomson, Childcare Provision Co-ordinator

**EE7. Apologies**

No apologies were intimated.

**EE8. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were intimated.

**EE9. Minute**

**Decision**

**The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 13 June 2017 was approved.**

## **EE10. Rolling Action Log**

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 13 June 2017 was provided.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive noted the rolling action log.**

## **EE11. Education Governance – Next Steps and Fair Funding**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services setting out the background to the Scottish Government's recently published Education Governance: Next Steps.

The report detailed the initial governance changes in Scottish education which referred to the establishment of regional improvement collaboratives; the additional powers delegated to Headteachers, and the redefined role for local government.

The report also referred to the Scottish Government's consultation on Fair Funding to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education with responses being sought by 13 October 2017. The consultation document was attached to the report at appendix 2.

Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Hughes moved that:-

The Education Executive agrees:

1. to note the changes that will be made to the governance of education in Scotland;
2. to note that the Scottish Government have launched a consultation entitled "Fair Funding to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education";
3. that officers deliver a briefing session for all elected Members on education governance and fairer funding;
4. that officers prepare a response to the Fair Funding consultation for consideration by Members prior to submission to the Scottish Government in October 2017;
5. that Falkirk Council be part of a Regional Partnership with Clackmannanshire Council, Stirling Council and West Lothian Council, and
6. that the matter be determined by the Education Executive.

As an amendment, Councillor Nimmo, seconded by Councillor Goldie, moved that the matter be referred to Falkirk Council for determination.

At this point, Councillor Patrick gave notice of a further amendment.

In terms of Standing Order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 12 members and 3 religious representatives present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (12) – Provost Coleman; Councillors Alexander, Bouse, Collie, Garner, Hughes, McCue, Meiklejohn and Spears; Dr McGuckin (Religious Representative), Rev Rollo (Religious Representative) and Mrs Tait (Religious Representative).

For the amendment (3) – Councillors Goldie, Nimmo and Patrick.

Accordingly, the motion was carried and became the substantive motion.

Councillor Patrick then moved his further amendment, seconded by Councillor Nimmo that Clause 5 be referred to Falkirk Council for determination.

Following discussion, Councillor Meiklejohn with the consent of her seconder, Councillor Hughes agreed to amend Clause 5 of the substantive motion as follows:-

5. that Falkirk Council continues to explore being part of a Regional Partnership with Clackmannanshire Council, Stirling Council and West Lothian Council.

Thereafter, Councillor Patrick with the consent of the Convener, and his seconder, Councillor Nimmo agreed to withdraw his further amendment.

## **Decision**

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

- 1. to note the changes that will be made to the governance of education in Scotland;**
- 2. to note that the Scottish Government have launched a consultation entitled “Fair Funding to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education”;**
- 3. that officers deliver a briefing session for all elected Members on education governance and fairer funding;**
- 4. that officers prepare a response to the Fair Funding consultation for consideration by Members prior to submission to the Scottish Government in October 2017;**
- 5. that Falkirk Council continues to explore being part of a Regional Partnership with Clackmannanshire Council, Stirling Council and West Lothian Council, and**

**6. that the matter be determined by the Education Executive.**

**EE12. Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) – Expansion to 1140 Hours by 2020 Update Progress Report**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on progress Children's Services have made on the planning and stepped implementation of an Early Years Expansion Plan, which is due to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 29 September 2017.

Information was provided on how Children's Services plan to increase the early learning and childcare workforce in order to meet future service demands, while supporting the current workforce to further develop their skills and practices. Work was also progressing on the deployment of registered childminders to ensure that families, whose access to services can be restricted due to various reasons, receive their full entitlement.

Infrastructure expansion plans are being progressed as part of the Council's Strategic Property Review to ensure that investment in assets provide solutions for early years provision.

The report also detailed the proposed changes to the existing early years admissions policy which would allow the majority of 3 year olds to have earlier access to an early years place.

**Decision**

**The Education Executive:-**

- (1) noted the content of the report;**
- (2) agreed the strategic approach to increase early years capacity within the private and voluntary sector as detailed in section 4.1 of the report;**
- (3) agreed the proposed increase in Modern Apprenticeships as detailed in section 4.2 of the report;**
- (4) agreed the recruitment of five Principal Early Years Officers (PEYO's) as detailed in section 4.2 of the report;**
- (5) agreed that the Director of Children's Services progresses the deployment of childminders and report on progress with this to a future Education Executive as detailed in 4.5 of the report;**
- (6) agreed that £120,000 is allocated to expand partnerships with private and voluntary sector nurseries as detailed in 4.6 of the report;**

- (7) agreed the increased hourly rate paid to partner nurseries from 2017/18 as detailed in 4.6 of the report;**
- (8) agreed that the quality standard criteria for private/voluntary sector nursery partnership is adopted as outlined in section 4.6 of the report, and**
- (9) agreed to the proposed changes in the Council's Early Years Admissions Policy as outlined in section 4.8 of the report.**

### **EE13. National Improvement Framework (NIF) – Education Plan**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services setting out the new arrangements regarding the National Improvement Framework (NIF) and seeking approval for its submission to the Scottish Government. The Council's first draft NIF was appended to the report.

The report set out the purpose of the NIF and outlined the vision, key priorities and expectations of Children's Services in raising educational attainment and achievement for all children and young people within Falkirk Council.

The NIF was structured around the current four key priorities and the 6 key drivers of improvement, identified as instrumental in achieving these. The drivers will be used to provide a focus and structure for gathering evidence which can be analysed to identify strengths and areas where further development is required.

There is a requirement for Children's Services to submit a NIF to the Scottish Government by 31 August each year.

#### **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed:-**

- (1) the National Improvement Framework Plan (NIF), and**
- (2) that the Director bring back a report evaluating its impact in September 2018.**

### **EE14. Specialist Education for Additional Support Needs in Primary and Secondary Schools**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services detailing proposals to expand provision for Additional Support Needs (ASN) in primary and secondary schools.

The report referred to a review of ASN undertaken between 2015-2017 which identified a growing number of children and young people with additional support needs in all areas. National and local pupil census data was also provided which indicates a rise in the number of children with ASD and ASN.

Information was provided on the current specialist provision within Falkirk Council establishments for pupils with ASN and ASD. Accommodation expansion to these was not feasible due to the nature of the schools sites, and in order to maintain a balance between mainstream and specialist provision school numbers.

Three primary and two secondary schools had been identified, which have the physical space to accommodate expanded provision to meet the needs of children and young people with specialist needs.

The Education Executive was advised that due to the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, it would not be possible to report to the November meeting. The report on the outcome of the consultation would be considered at the January meeting.

## **Decision**

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

- (1) a statutory public consultation on opening specialist classes in 3 mainstream primary schools and 2 mainstream secondary schools which do not have social and communication difficulties and Autism provision. The specific schools are detailed in paragraph 4.2 and 4.4 of the report;**
- (2) the consultation document detailed in appendix 1 of the report;**
- (3) that the Director of Children's Services prepares a report for the January 2018 Education Executive which will summarise the outcomes from the consultation and make recommendations for the Education Executive to consider and agree next steps.**

## **EE15. SQA Attainment in Falkirk Secondary Schools (2017)**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing information on the initial publication of Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) attainment within Falkirk Council secondary schools in 2017.

The report, at this stage, provided information obtained solely from the Council's management information system (SEEMIS) and details only A-C passes or A-D awards at various levels of the National Qualifications. Figures will be updated later in the session by the Scottish Government's Insight information system. This will be refreshed in February 2018 to include outcomes for school leavers', national and comparator authority figures.

Details of future changes by the Scottish Government to the way in which young people are assessed in National Qualifications were provided.

Information was also provided on the actions and strategies which would be implemented to further improve attainment levels and performance.

## **Decision**

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

- (1) noted the SQA attainment of Falkirk Council secondary schools;**
- (2) noted the probable impact, in 2017/18, of changes to National Qualifications on school presentation policies, and on reported attainment at National 5, and**
- (3) agreed that a future report will be presented to the November Education Executive to take account of updated and additional SQA and other attainment data.**