

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.