

## **EE6. Early Learning and Childcare – 2020 Expansion Plan**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the work that has taken place to revise and re-profile Falkirk Council's Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion Plans.

The report set out an updated summary of the key demographic, financial and statistical information currently being projected and estimated as part of the ELC expansion programme.

Reference was made to a number of factors which required the initial ELC expansion plans to be revised. The revised financial timetable, reflecting the revised expansion plans was submitted to the Scottish Government.

In order to meet the projected demand and in light of recent Scottish Government guidance, delivery options have been revised to provide 5 different models, which are summarised in Appendix 1 to the report.

Information was provided in relation to workforce expansion, with growth in the ELC sector and within catering and cleaning services. Details on the expansion of school meal provision was also provided.

An update on the Scottish Government's timeframe for funding announcements in respect of revenue and capital financial resources from 2018/19 to 2020/21 was also provided. A summary of the agreed proposed projects for years 1 & 2 was set out in Appendix 2.

Details of the current and proposed amendments to the Council's ELC Admissions Policy (Criteria for Allocating Early Learning and Childcare Places) was appended as Appendix 4 to the report.

### **Decision**

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

- (1) agreed the Children's Services updated plans for Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion;**
- (2) noted the updated information used for financial planning and projections;**
- (3) agreed the proposals for 5 delivery models as outlined in Appendix 1(i) to the report;**
- (4) agreed that the Director of Children's Services can, once the 2018/19 capital funding is known, select and proceed with the expansion projects proposed for 2018/19 as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;**

- (5) agreed that the Director of Children's Services earmark £0.27m from the 2018/19 revenue funding to provide additional staffing resources within Support Teams;**
- (6) agreed that the Director of Children's Services continues to provide regular updates to the Education Executive on plans and progress with the ELC expansion project as they develop;**
- (7) requested a report on details of the future years revenue and capital funding once it is announced;**
- (8) agreed the changes to the ELC Admissions Policy as outlined in Appendix 4 to the report, and**
- (9) requested a report for the next meeting of the Education Executive on the provision of school meals during holiday periods for children who are entitled to free school meals.**