



Agenda Item 3

Minute

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Minute of meeting of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 29 January 2019 at 9.30 am.

COUNCILLORS: David Alexander
Robert Bissett
Fiona Collie
Joan Coombes
Dennis Goldie (Convener)
Nigel Harris
Cecil Meiklejohn
Laura Murtagh
Alan Nimmo
John Patrick

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF RELIGIOUS
BODIES:** Rev. Michael Rollo

CO-OPTEEs: Fiona Craig, Teacher Representative
Alice Dunn, Pupil Representative
Aaron Laurie, Pupil Representative
Karen Procek, Parent Representative

OFFICERS: Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning and Resources
Sara Lacey, Head of Social Work Children's Services
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive
David Mackay, Head of Education
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services

EE45. Apologies

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Flynn and McCue; Maureen Harkness, Religious Representative, and Nicola Jordan, Parent Representative.

EE46. Tributes to Maureen Tait

The Convener referred to the recent passing of Maureen Tait, the Church of Scotland representative, and reflected on Maureen's considerable contribution to education in the Falkirk area and to her involvement on the Education Executive. The Leader of the Council, Director of Children's Services and Rev. Rollo all spoke in memory of Maureen.

The Education Executive extended its condolences to Maureen's family.

EE47. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

EE48. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 6 November 2018 was approved.

EE49. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 6 November 2018 was provided. Item 449 – Implementing the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan in Falkirk’s Schools was subject of a report on the agenda and accordingly fell from the action log.

Decision

The Education Executive noted the rolling action log.

EE50. Implementing the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) In Schools

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children’s Services providing details on the outcomes from the development of school’s budget savings plans.

At its meeting on 6 November 2018 (ref EE40) the Education Executive had instructed the Director of Children’s Services to direct Headteachers to consult locally with parents, staff, pupils and other stakeholders on the savings options likely to be considered in order to achieve their (school level) proportionate share of the savings that have been attributed to Children’s Services in the MTFP.

The report set out the consultations undertaken, the feedback received and the outcome of the process which had identified various savings options to achieve the overall savings targets for both primary and secondary school sectors.

It was noted that during the consultation period, Headteachers had opted to work collegiately and pragmatically within their individual school sectors to discuss and consider the budget options available, before agreeing on their collective submissions.

Details of the total budget savings options for both sectors, and the estimated impact on staffing resources was detailed in appendix 1 to the report.

The options would now be incorporated within the overall Children's Services budget savings options and included within the Council's overall budget process.

Decision

The Education Executive noted:-

- (1) the consultation carried out by both Children's Services and primary and secondary schools, and**
- (2) that the budget options put forward by the primary and secondary school sectors would be included within the Council's overall budget process.**

EE51. Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative – Progress Report

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the work of the Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC) and the Scottish Government's Empowering Schools' agenda.

The report provided details on the outcome of Education Scotland's peer review process and the key actions for the RIC, which included the need to strengthen and develop its governance arrangements.

The Lead Officer had participated in a peer review process with colleagues from Education Scotland and from the West Partnership RIC at the end of September 2018. As an outcome of this process, key actions for each of the RICs were agreed. The two key actions for the FVWL RIC were:-

- to develop a Governance model that effectively reflected the principle of leading from the middle, collaboration and bottom up. The leadership and work stream groups would be responsible for developing the "offer" to schools and practitioners, with the reference and engagement groups developing the "ask". Engagement groups would comprise pupils, parents, practitioners and wider stakeholders
- that the Lead Officer would report on the progress to the Chief Executives and elected members via the relevant education committees of each council.

To strengthen the governance arrangements a Regional Board would be established comprising a senior elected member (Council Leader or Education Portfolio Holder/Education Spokesperson) from each local authority and the four Chief Executives. The Regional Board would monitor the progress and pace of the work of the RIC. The Governance Plan was provided at Appendix 1 to the report.

Progress made in progressing some key activities and actions was provided in a report "Achievements to Date" which was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

The RIC received a grant offer of £899,270 from the Scottish Government for the period 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019. The Grant would primarily be used to fund the secondment of staff to lead key areas of development work in various roles.

Decision

The Education Executive noted:-

- (1) the contents of the report;**
- (2) Appendix 1 which detailed the Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Governance Plan;**
- (3) Appendix 2 which provided further details of progress entitled "Achievements to Date";**
- (4) Appendix 3: Education Scotland report of December 2018 – "Thematic Inspection of Readiness for Empowerment"; and**
- (5) that further progress reports would be presented to the Education Executive twice per year.**

EE52. Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) – 2020 Expansion Plan Update

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) 2020 Expansion Plan.

The report set out details and feedback received from the consultation and assessment of the potential use of both Stenhousemuir and Kinglass Social Work Offices, and the nursery at Callendar Business Park. The proposals offered development opportunities to re-provision the early years' estate and allow an increase in capacity and improved facilities.

A summary of the Year 2 revised project implementation plans were set out in Appendix 1 to the report. This included details of proposals to accelerate 5 establishments earlier than previously planned, all within the resources available. It was envisaged that around 80 new posts would be created on completion of the work.

Information was provided on a number of larger and more challenging implementation projects scheduled for completion by August 2020, and the collegiate work which had been undertaken in relation to design, planning, location, and delivery models.

A summary of the capital and revenue funding associated with ensuring that all project plans were delivered on time and developed within the overall financial resource package, was provided. Officers were currently looking at the potential use of additional funding being used to help support providers in the private and third sector, including childminders, and how to utilise the funding to the best effect.

Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Murtagh, moved that the Education Executive note:-

- (1) the feedback from the consultation exercises and agree the three proposals as detailed in Section 4.1(i) to 4.1(iii) of the report; and in addition to declare the Stenhousemuir Social Work Office surplus to requirement subject to consultation with local members;
- (2) the update on Year 2 ELC Projects and agreed both the proposed accelerated projects and revised phased implementation plans as summarised in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (3) the progress on major projects as outlined in Section 4.3 and that the Director of Children's Services provide the Education Executive with a regular update on these;
- (4) the update on other associated workstreams contained in Sections 4.4 to 4.7 in the report, and
- (5) the additional revenue funding received (Section 6.2(i) and the update on the current years, 2018/19 financial position for revenue and capital funding as summarised in Sections 6. and 6.2 of the report.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Bissett, seconded by Councillor Nimmo moved that the Director of Children's Services revisit the proposed Early Years provision at Kinglass Social Work/Medical Practice instead of Kinneil Primary School and report back to the next meeting of the Education Executive, on the grounds of health and safety and security within the grounds of the property.

Having heard from officers that further consideration would be given to the concerns raised in relation to the viability of Kinglass Social Work Office, Councillor Bissett with the consent of his seconder, intimated that he wished to withdraw the amendment.

In terms of Standing Order 20.8, and with the unanimous consent of those present, the amendment was withdrawn.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed the motion.

EE53. Short Breaks Services Statement

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services seeking approval of the draft Falkirk Short Breaks Services Statement, which was appended to the report.

The Short Breaks Services Statement is a requirement of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 and set out information on the current arrangements for short breaks provision in the area.

The Statement was produced in line with statutory guidance and developed by a multi-agency group. Both adult and young carers were actively involved in the consultation and review of the Statement.

As the Statement applied to both Adult and Children's Services, approval was required from both the local authority and the Integration Joint Board (IJB). Approval was given by the IJB in December 2018.

Decision

The Education Executive approved the Short Breaks Services Statement.