

Beancross Primary School and Nursery News

Primary 2/3

This term the class has been very busy learning about Health and Safety. We have focussed on hygiene and how to keep ourselves safe from strangers. The boys and girls are able to wash their hands thoroughly and know the important times when hand washing is necessary. 'Stranger Danger' has been a big focus this term too and the children have discussed what to do in different situations and know where safe places are when they need help; the children have made 'Stranger Danger' posters so that everyone is aware of what to do.

Primary 3 Focus Work

We have recently had a Science Focus Day and a Maths Focus Week. In Primary 3 we linked this and Cameron Dougall and Amber Wilson have given a report on our work.

Our Maths work on Time is linked to our



Science Focus. We learned about the Sun, Moon and Earth. The sun's position gives us day and night. There are 24 hours in a day. We learned about analogue time and made our own clocks.

We found out about the phases of the moon and the months of the year.

We made storyboards showing the seasons.

Everyone enjoyed our own Focus work and finding out what the other classes had done too at our assembly.

Primary 4A and Active Schools

To help P4A find out more about their local environment, Mr Aitken and Kate Wallace, the local Active Schools coordinator, challenged the class to an outdoor orienteering challenge. After doing some work in the classroom with maps and how to use a key to find things, we used the school playground to try and find different items hidden around the grounds. It was great fun working as part of a group to solve the challenge, explore our

outdoor environment and develop our map reading skills.

Primary 4/5

Recently, Sam in our class took part in a television programme called Coached off the Couch. The programme was made to encourage people to lead a healthy lifestyle. We have been investigating how to stay healthy and have discovered that children need 12 hours sleep and at least 60 minutes of exercise every day. Our class found out what activities were available in our area and we made leaflets to advertise them. Then we discussed the Eatwell plate and had great fun sorting foods into the correct food group.



Nursery

This term the Nursery boys and girls have been learning all about *People Who Help Us*. We have been very busy painting people in uniform like police officers, traffic wardens and fire fighters. We have been junk modelling to create fire engines, ambulances and police cars.

We have been very lucky and have had visits by the police, fire fighters and traffic wardens. When the fire fighters came we were able to sit at the front of the engine and we were using the hoses to hit targets.

When the traffic warden came she left a car that the children could wear as if they were driving the car; the children were able to role play crossing the road using traffic lights and zebra crossing. The children created a station so that they could help others to cross the road safely. The children have had lots of fun dressing up and pretending to be people who help us.

We created a hospital corner and the children enjoyed making each other better through role play.

Bothkennar Primary School News

At Bothkennar, everyone now is part of a committee. The five groups we have set up are: News, Social Media, Eco, Health and Respect Me. All pupils and staff were asked about which groups they would like. Application forms were then filled out for their chosen group. Pupils were also asked to give a second and third choice. Everyone took part in an interview with Mrs Hunter and Mrs Sneddon. There were so many strong and confident answers! Now, everyone meets with their group on a Friday to contribute towards making improvements for our school.

Active Schools helped us set up our Respect Me group by training members to be playground leaders. They now set up activities in the playground to make break and lunch times more enjoyable.

The Health Group carried out their research to find out what the most popular healthy foods were across the school. They used their data handling skills to help them decide what they should buy. Next, they used the internet to find out which supermarket would be the cheapest and most cost effective to buy our healthy snacks from. The Health Group then visited their chosen supermarket to purchase all of the goods they required. Back at school, the group worked out how much to sell items for using their costing. Healthy snacks are now organised and offered every day at break times by the health group.

Our News Group have been keeping a record of interesting activities or updates that have been happening in school to include in our monthly newsletter. They had their first article in our September newsletter to introduce themselves as well as the other four groups.

At the moment, the Eco Committee are carrying out an environmental to decide which areas we need to work on this year. They have been answering important questions around the ten topics and investigating our school grounds, thinking about any improvements we could make. We have also been thinking about how to improve our standards for litter in the playground, how to monitor and then reduce our energy consumption as well as waste and involving the community with our eco work. Each member has a job to carry out on 'Job Spot Friday'.

Our Social Media Group has been developing their ICT skills to allow them to upload items to our school website. They are currently in the process of setting up a Twitter account to enable us to have additional communication with parents and our community.

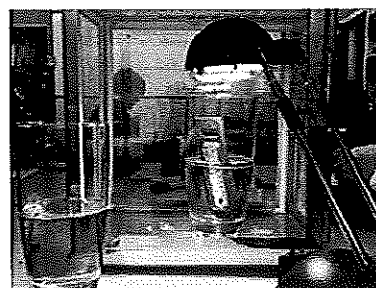
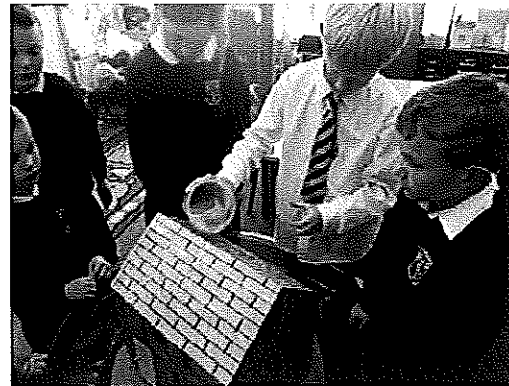
Class 1 have been learning about 'Houses and Homes'. Our KWL helped us to choose our big questions. Recently, we took a walk around our village, taking photos of all the different types of homes, learning to classify them into specific types.

We have been learning about different homes from the past, making models of these, as well as our own homes. A criterion was given specifying that our model houses had to; look like our own houses, be the same colour as our house, have transparent windows, 4 walls and a waterproof roof. Each child constructed and presented a model of their house to the rest of the class. Using a variety of materials, we have investigated what waterproof means. Children were invited to bring materials in to class that they wanted to test. As a class, we predicted which ones we thought would be waterproof. We designed the experiment together, discussing how we would be able to decide which materials were waterproof and from the investigation, we were able to witness the meaning of absorbent. Children's model houses were tested to find out if their roof was in fact waterproof. Some children wanted to improve their house to meet the criteria. For our Maths links, we found out the year our houses were built and placed them on a timeline, measured

our house as well as identifying the shapes used. Next, we are learning about insulating our houses and homes of the future.

The children in P5-7 have started a topic on renewable sources of energy this term. So far, we have been concentrating on why there is an urgent need to switch from an over-reliance on non-renewable sources of energy. Last Monday, we had a Science Day and the children performed an experiment that highlighted the Greenhouse Effect and Global Warming. We have been watching Al Gore's documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" and studying the potential catastrophe of allowing global warming to continue at such a pace. Pupils have been using what they have learned to write articles warning of the

environmental, health and economic consequences. Once we have studied the dangers of non-renewable, we will begin studying the range of renewable sources of energy.



Developing Capacity within the Grangemouth Cluster

Rannoch Nursery, Beancross PS, Bothkennar PS, Bowhouse PS, Moray PS, Grangemouth HS

The Grangemouth Cluster has been working closely together over the last year to develop capacity in their children, young people and adults. As we move into Session 2012/2013 we will continue to work together to achieve this goal further developing the projects already implemented and working on new initiatives to further improve outcomes for the children and young people within our establishments.

Grangemouth Cluster Nursery Classes and Rannoch Nursery

Grangemouth Cluster Transition 2011/12

Little Bear goes to School

„Little Bear goes to school“ was a transition project in Grangemouth nurseries to ensure that all children had a similar experience during the weeks leading up to starting in Primary 1. The work was based around the Little Bear stories and as such each Nursery had a resident Little Bear.



The children were asked to help Little Bear settle in to Nursery and then help to prepare him for going to school. They set about their challenge in the Nurseries by creating bear caves and helping Little Bear to stay clean and tidy.

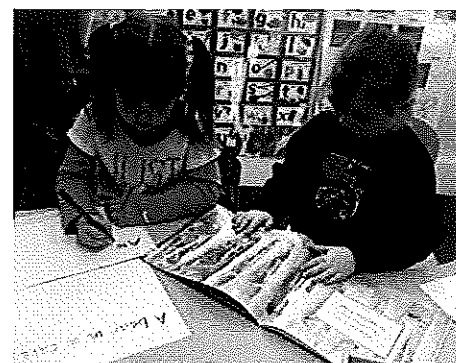
The children then used Little Bear's experiences to explore how we feel when we go to new places and meet new people. Little Bear joined the children to explore the school buildings and meet key people. All Nursery classes created transition books with photographs of key places and people which were then given to all children starting each school for Primary One.

Other activities which Little Bear joined in with included using school uniforms for dressing up and practising skills, getting changed for PE and having joint playtimes with some of current P1 to establish boundaries and get used to the routines.

The bear theme saw some children becoming interested in other stories such as „We're Going on a Bear Hunt“ with lots of learning opportunities as well.

On the first day of starting school, Little Bear was there in all the Primary One classes as a familiar face for the children.

The caves created in the Nursery classes were also moved in to Primary One along with some of the art work which the children had made. This gave children play opportunities with a familiar character and setting.



Children enjoyed the project and parent feedback was very positive.

„Transition was excellent this year, my daughter loved helping Little Bear to get ready to go to school. I think this helped her make the step from Nursery to primary One.“

„We took Little Bear out to the playground to show him where to play. He helped us to find out where things are in the classroom.“

The Beanie Skippers Club

In P7 we have continued to run our Beanie Skippers Club. We have reconsidered how we run our club and have decided to make a few changes this session.

We now run the club two lunchtimes a week. At this time we work in the Early Years playground. Mr Hartley made us a sign to use in the designated skipping area. Sixteen pupils from P1-3 can choose to line up and join in the club activities. It has been a challenge trying to prevent the new P1 pupils from running through the area! We have started by focusing on basic skills. We will introduce some easy rhymes and competitions.



We will be training some of our new P6 pupils to run the club with us this year. They will then take over

Developing Capacity within the Grangemouth Cluster cont'd

when they are in P7. Four of them will be able to attend a Young Skipping Leaders training session run by Active Schools. We will also deliver a powerpoint presentation about our Skipping Club to a Grangemouth Cluster Schools event this term.

Outdoor Learning at Bothkennar

An area of the curriculum on which the school was determined to focus last session was Outdoor Learning. During the previous year's Big Fit Walk, a



Using leaf guides to identify trees

number of pupils expressed enthusiasm for possible further visits to the local Skinflats Woods after we stumbled across a natural outdoor classroom area. We decided to make as much use of this patch of woodland as possible and planned a year-long project whereby pupils would visit the woods on a weekly basis and complete a wide range of interdisciplinary tasks in this time. We contacted the John Muir Trust to share our ideas and they agreed that this level of commitment to the discovery, exploration and conservation of an area of our local community and completing a wide range of follow-up tasks back in the classroom could help us attain John Muir Awards.



Analytical pastel drawings of lilies

We began the year with a focus on "Living Things" by familiarising ourselves with the species of trees in our woods using leaf and other identification guides. We learned about photosynthesis and the importance of trees for human existence. In maths, we measured the girth of tree trunks and calculated the area and perimeter of leaves. We also used compasses to help us create large-scale compasses using 8-point compass bearings on the ground. In language, groups of children worked cooperatively to "make friends with a tree". For this, pupils

examined their tree in great detail and from several different angles!

Back in the classroom, pupils created "po-e-tree" about the faces that they had found in their tree. Following each visit to the woods, pupils from p5-7 wrote recounts of their experiences. We created the Bothkennar Outdoor Learning Blog and posted our experiences on this blog.

We learned about the life cycles of trees and plants that we passed on the way to the woods and studied different methods of seed dispersal. We were keen to find out why the trees in our woods were coniferous as opposed to the deciduous varieties found locally. We contacted Mrs. Lesley Sweeney, a Falkirk Ranger, and when she visited the woods with us, she informed us that the trees had been planted on an old mine's slag heap. This led the children from p5-7 to begin researching mining and more specifically, the history of mining in Skinflats.

A group visited the Falkirk Archives and had the rare opportunity to study maps and other historical documents that are not yet available online. Pupils were fascinated to learn that our woods were planted on the site of the Zetland Pit and a brick works owned by the Grangemouth Coal Company.

Mrs Sweeney also brought with her the remains of a little pipistrelle bat. In class, pupils completed small-scale research about bats and then we constructed bat boxes which we then had to hunt for and map the location of once Mrs Sweeney had taken them and erected them in our woods. The children enjoyed learning about echolocation in a game using blindfolds. The p1-4 class studied owls at this time. Mrs Sweeney was able to supply us with real owl droppings to dissect!

We felt that we were spending so much time getting to the woods that we were taking several weeks to complete some longer learning experiences in the woods. We

contacted our Active schools Coordinator, Mrs. Lisa Male, and asked for her help organising cycling proficiency lessons for all pupils. Mrs. Lennie taught cycling lessons over the period of a month and at the end, Mrs Male returned to assess all the pupils



A pipistrelle bat!

Developing Capacity within the Grangemouth Cluster cont'd

who had completed the lessons. Everyone was delighted to pass their tests! The ability of the majority of older pupils to cycle, helped solve a problem of how to accept an invite by the local RSPB Skinflats Reserve to participate in an afternoon of local bird- related activities. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed a wet, slippery and very muddy time investigating either the murder of Mr. Worm or investigating the shape and usefulness of birds' beaks.

After Christmas, we changed from a science focus in the woods to a selection of other subject areas. We were



contacted by a member of Falkirk Council's Effective Learning and Teaching team who had read our Outdoor Learning blog and was interested to find out more about how we used the woods to develop literacy. We invited them along on one of our weekly visits.

The children developed drama sketches of their own fairy tales using a selection of randomly chosen props and prompts.

Back in the classroom, pupils planned cooperatively but then wrote their own fairy tales. Mrs Lennie and Miss McCarthy were invited to speak to teachers to share this good practice of using the outdoors to develop literacy.

Most recently, we have studied Mini beasts in our local area. Pupils worked cooperatively to plan and build mini beast mansions. Over a couple of weeks, groups gently collected a range of mini beasts into jars and then used identification guides and websites to identify and write reports about them.

Outdoor Learning: the school grounds

A pupil action group was asked to survey the school playground and make recommendations for short term and longer- term improvement ideas. This group used Enterprise money to buy a range of good quality gardening equipment. We also bought compost and filled two of our raised beds at the back of the school. We then planted a selection of vegetables, herbs and plants. One of our longer-

term improvement goals is to develop a secure fenced- in community garden. We have sought help from the Skinflats Action Group to secure funding for this major project and hope to make further progress in this area this session.

We were able to secure funding for a mural at the front of the school with a design that highlights our commitment to outdoor learning.

At the end of term Assembly, we displayed photographs showing the multitude of tasks that the pupils had undertaken throughout the school session.

Pupils from P5-7 shared extracts from their John Muir biographies and displayed their John Muir portraits. Our hard work was rewarded as the

John Muir Trust awarded a class certificate at Discovery Level to Miss McCarthy's class and individual certificates at the next stage, Explorer Level, to the pupils in Mrs Lennie's class.



Painting our Mural

Big Writing in Grangemouth

In November 2011 the Grangemouth Cluster Primary Schools with colleagues from Grangemouth High School and Oxbang School took part in a staff development session „Big Writing“. Professional dialogue following this session highlighted a need to change our approach to writing in order to build pupil and teacher confidence in the teaching and learning of writing, track attainment and provide moderation opportunities across the cluster.

What is Big Writing?

„If a child can say it, a child can write it!“

Big Writing teaches writing to children which focuses on four main aspects:



Developing Capacity within the Grangemouth Cluster cont'd

- Vocabulary
- Connectives,
- Openers
- Punctuation

VCOP

Using the Big Writing approach children are encouraged to:

- Talk about their writing
- Find exciting words and use these in their writing.
- „Borrow“ exciting words and phrases from other authors - „WOW“ words.
- Have a go at using interesting examples of punctuation.
- Once a week in their classrooms write for an extended period of time.
- Re-read their own writing and „up-level“ to make it better.
- Understand what they need to do next to improve.

Big Writing:

- Sets clear targets
- Provides quality feedback for staff, pupils and parents
- Tracks progress

From our pilot group last session we found a sustained rise in attainment levels, a clearer and increased knowledge of targets, an ability to discuss these and an enjoyment of the writing process.

This session the Cluster Primary Schools are all working towards having this positive impact on children's writing.

Grangemouth Cluster P7 Residential

We set out in 2009 to organise a week long residential experience for the P7 pupils within the Grangemouth Cluster of Beancross, Bowhouse and Moray Primary Schools. While we



felt confident of there being social benefits to bringing our Primary 7 pupils together, we have been impressed by the unique opportunities the Cluster P7 Residential has offered to develop the four capacities of each pupil. We have visited three residential centres: Dounans, Castle Toward and Belmont. Each of these centres has its own merits

but we found the Scottish Outdoor Education Centre of Belmont, near Dundee, particularly well suited to our group and we will return there in March 2013.

Building the Four Capacities

The residential is the ideal context to offer many of the experiences and outcomes of the Curriculum for Excellence. To build a den there will need to be sorting of materials for a purpose; there will need to be talking and listening within a group to discuss the options for its design. Experiences and Outcomes aside, significantly, the residential experience provides an example to see the four capacities of each child.

For five days pupils get a chance to display their achievements as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. Pupils regularly assess and take risks



to solve problems, make informed decisions, evaluate those decisions and modify their ideas in collaboration. They need to use critical and creative thinking; they need to be aware of the environment they are in. The context could be building a den, lighting a campfire, climbing a tree successfully or making a raft for their group.

Interestingly, each task seems to encourage the very attributes we seek to develop in our young people. Throughout their week away, each pupil showcases their achievements in these four capacities from the moment they get up and organised for the day independently.

Benefits for P7/S1 Transition

Most residential centres offer specific programmes for P7/S1 transition which focus on problem solving and co-operation within the outdoor environment. We always mix our pupils in their activity groups thus giving them the chance to be independent from their normal circle of friends and work effectively with new children.

We have been grateful to be joined by members of the High School staff who value the opportunity to talk to the children and take note of particular achievements while on the residential. For the children, it is beneficial to meet and be familiar with staff who will be part of their support network at the

Developing Capacity within the Grangemouth Cluster cont'd

High School.

We still receive feedback from parents, even from our first cohort of children in 2009, who are appreciative of the opportunity we offered their child and still mention the impact it had on them.

Challenges

Our biggest challenge is ensuring the opportunity is as accessible to all pupils as it can be. Although most of our pupils do go, we are still disappointed to leave children behind who cannot meet the expense of the residential. Fortunately, we have benefited from some funding from the Awards for All Scheme and the Stirlingshire Educational Trust which have gone some way to reduce the burden on parents.

We work in partnership with a staff member from each school who will have responsibility for the pupils who will be staying in school that week. At a cluster level there are considerations for how we offer these children the same opportunities to develop the four capacities within the school environment. Staff liaise and organise a programme of activities which will allow pupils to meet and work together. Nevertheless, we would hope that every child is able to have the opportunity to go on the residential given its significant benefit to the child's wellbeing, independence and self awareness.

Opportunities

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the communication between the teaching staff in the upper stages of the Grangemouth Schools has improved significantly. There are clear benefits from improving the relationships between the schools. Following the trips, we have shared ideas and resources; all to the advantage of our P7 pupils as they join Grangemouth High School.

The residential has allowed our teaching staff to develop leadership skills as they have taken responsibility for organising and running residential groups. Furthermore, we have been able to give the opportunity to a number of probationer teachers

within the cluster who have benefited from the additional experience.

This year we are focusing our efforts on fundraising to reduce the cost to parents. We have set out to cover all of our transport costs by pupil led fundraising and we are working with Active Schools to develop an idea for a sponsored event with a fun twist which each P7 in the cluster will participate in.

Grangemouth High School

S1 Enterprise Challenge

The S1 Enterprise Challenge is a day off timetable for pupils in S1, who work in groups to complete a challenge with an "enterprise" theme. This year's challenge was led by Mr Duffy, who took inspiration from the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Working in small teams, first year pupils were challenged to organise a celebratory tea-party. Each team had to:

- ★ decide on a team-name
- ★ use strengths and interests to allocate tasks to different team members
- ★ work in smaller groups to a time-scale
- ★ produce a menu and place-settings
- ★ bake and decorate jubilee cup-cakes
- ★ create a table decoration
- ★ produce costings
- ★ bring everything together to present as a display at the end of the day

With the assistance of their teachers, the pupils baked the cup-cakes in Home Economics and were then given a master-class on decoration by Mrs O'Donnell, one of the Support for Learning Assistants, before decorating their own cakes with a jubilee theme.

Another SfLA, Mrs Maitland, showed pupils how to create floral table decorations and each group then had to produce their own, again with the jubilee theme.

While all this was happening, other members of each team produced a menu and place-cards and, with



Developing Capacity within the Grangemouth Cluster cont'd

advice from Tracy Cordiner of the Royal Bank of Scotland, worked out the cost all their products and produced an accounts sheet.

Finally, the displays were laid out, and each team had to discuss their products and answer questions about them.

The pupils had great fun whilst developing their creativity, team-working and skills in literacy and numeracy.

The P7 – S1 induction days

As part of the transition programme, P7 pupils spent 2 days in May at Grangemouth High School. The purpose of this was to give pupils an opportunity to:

- get to know some more of the secondary staff
- find their way around the building
- meet and work with P7 pupils from other schools
- experience the bigger environment
- use the cashless catering system.

Preparation began some time before the visits with secondary teachers preparing activities around a

"Guitar Hero" theme and primary teachers collecting

money for the swipe cards that would be used in the dining hall. Secondary office staff then had to credit each card in advance, so that they could be issued to pupils on the first of the 2 days.



Pupils worked in groups drawn from each of the primary schools, and followed a schedule that took them to a number of different departments around the school. Within each group, half of the pupils visited some departments and the other half visited the remainder. The Guitar Hero theme provided a context for learning, with cassette cases being designed in Technical, press releases prepared in English, music written in the Music department, and promotional material created in Art. This represents just a few of the activities, as every department in the school was involved.

While the pupils were taking part in their activities, the P7 teachers met secondary teachers from each curricular area to discuss programmes of work, coverage of Experiences and Outcomes, and assessment strategies.

When the P7 pupils returned in June to follow their new timetable for 2 days, they already knew a lot about their new secondary school and were much more confident than similar groups in the past.

Promoting Positive Achievements

In Grangemouth HS, recognition for excellent work is a regular feature. The new Class of the Month award has joined Pupil of the Month and individual award certificates presented to S1-S3 pupils.

Achievements outside school are also celebrated - highlighting awards and certificates gained by pupils in dancing, piping, sailing and other activities.

Recently a group of staff and pupils got the chance to take part in a tall ships expedition around the west coast of Scotland. Pupils were able to develop their independence, self-esteem and social skills as well as sailing skills.

All pupils achievements are detailed in a monthly newsletter.

Bowhouse Primary School Library Visits

As part of our focus on literacy, P7C, P7B and P5K have had the opportunity to visit Grangemouth Library. All children have become members and will become regular visitors.

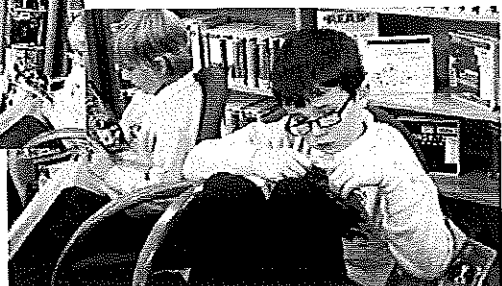
The children have reported very positively about their experience as have the library staff.

Sharon Woodforde, Senior Librarian at



Grangemouth Library reported -

"We couldn't believe how quiet the children were when they started to read their books.



The staff found themselves whispering and tip toeing about so as not to disturb them. Wonderful!"

Award Winning St Bernadette's RC Primary School

St. Bernadette's Primary School was awarded the 'Highly Commended' (Runner Up) in the Stirling Society of Architects (SSA) Building of the Year competition 2012 (from a shortlist of 16 entrants). The nominations covered a range of building projects from major barn/farm conversions, property restorations, individual and multiple house buildings to new public buildings in the area.

The SSA represents one of six chapters of the RIAS (Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland) and covers the Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannan local authority areas.



Cllr Alan Nimmo receives the award on behalf of the Design Team. From left to right: Steve McEwan, Project Architect; Alan Livingstone, Property Development Manager; Cllr Alan Nimmo; Jack Aitken, Design Co-ordinator; John Russell, Managing Director, Russwood (Award sponsors); Stephen Lynas, President, Stirling Society of Architects; Gary Greenhorn, Head of Educational Planning and Resources.

The SSA Design Awards have been established to recognise and promote good architecture and good design and seek to recognise architects and clients who have worked well together in the creation of well designed buildings.

The new £8.0M St. Bernadette's Primary School was designed 'in-house' by Falkirk Council's Education Design Team in Development Services in collaboration with their client, Education Services.

The award was presented to our Education Property/Design Team at a ceremony in Falkirk and Alan Nimmo, Education

Convener accepted the award.

School Fund Audited Accounts

Finance team would like to remind all establishments that the submission deadline accounts for year ended 31st July 2012 is 31st October 2012. If you have not already done so, please ensure accounts and relevant supporting documents are submitted as soon as possible. Further information, guidance and blank templates can be found on the Underground:

http://underground.falkirk.gov.uk/corporate/services/education/educational_resources/finance_resource_team/school_fund.aspx

Larbert High School: Trip to Cape Town, South Africa

In August 2010, Larbert High signed a partnership agreement with Woodlands School in Heideveld, Cape Town in order to develop our young people as global citizens. The school is also partnered with GCU (Great Commission United) School. Over the next two years, 64 pupils from Larbert High will travel to South Africa. During the last year and a half, Larbert High pupils have been involved in learning about their counterparts in South Africa. This project is firmly embedded within the S1 Curriculum for Excellence experience.

LHS Charities Committee has raised over £11,000 that has been used to enhance security in Woodlands School, provide working toilets, create a school library and employ a local librarian. LHS pupils and parents initiated their own fundraising programme to support the trip – including bag packs and sponsored cycles between Edinburgh and Glasgow. A grant has been awarded to the project from Stirlingshire Educational Trust to reduce the cost of the trips for pupils.

In October 2012, 16 pupils (in S5) and 4 members of staff travelled on the first trip to South Africa. During the trip the pupils worked in Woodlands School delivering lessons in Science, Literacy and PE. They will also coach young people within GCU Academy, in the fields adjacent to the Heideveld ganglands, in a variety of different sports such as football, basketball and rugby. This will be in addition to participating in their literacy and life skills programme.

Members of the public could follow the journey of LHS pupils via Twitter: @LarbertHigh

BRAES CLUSTER 'MAKE IT COUNT': NUMERACY DEVELOPMENT AND PRIMARY TRANSITION

Primary pupils across the Braes cluster have been building their Numeracy skills with help from visits by Mr Duncan of the Braes High School Maths Department.

The Numeracy and Primary Liaison program is in its third year now and is led by Mr Duncan who makes weekly visits to the cluster primaries to work with the classes on key Numeracy methods and skills whilst also getting to know the pupils and helping to prepare them for life at Braes High School.

In addition to the visits, Mr Duncan has also set up a 'Cluster Numeracy Group' which includes primary and secondary staff who meet during each term to discuss all things Numeracy and Maths in an effort to standardize the methods and resources being used as well as having the rare opportunity to have professional dialogue between primary and secondary colleagues.

Mr Duncan said "The primary visits are going really well, I get the chance to visit each school six times over the year and work with the pupils and get to know their strengths and weaknesses. I also get the opportunity to highlight key Numeracy strategies and the standards that are expected. In year three now, we have already noticed the difference in our S1 pupils in terms of Numeracy knowledge and understanding."

S1 Pupil Kirsty MacLeod from Wallacestone "Mr Duncan's visits really helped us in P7, he let us know what would be expected from us in Maths and it was great because we all knew him well when we arrived in S1!"

The Numeracy program is part of the Braes High Primary Transitions which also involves projects in Literacy, Science, Music, Social Subjects and Health and Wellbeing.

Green Flag Success at Larbert Village PS



Larbert Village Primary is delighted to have received their 3rd green flag on Thursday 4th October.

Miss Elliott and the Eco Committee have been working so hard to prepare for their special visitors and made sure the assessors had a day to remember. Eco Week took place at the same time and the whole school and nursery enjoyed activities such as, litter orienteering, King Waste-a-lot interactive story, walking bus, a whole school dance off, litter campaigning and lots more. They even planned an Eco Showcase for when the assessors were in school to show off all the hard work that they had been doing.

Each class had their own stall on show and parents and other members of the community were invited in to look around. DJ Eco and Rapper ChEco played a huge part in what was a very successful week.



Everyone enjoyed a fun and exciting Eco assembly the next day to celebrate another green flag. Well done Larbert Village!

WEA National Awards

Alec Buchanan, Haining Care Home, Maddiston has won the WEA Learner of the Year for the learning that he undertook as part of the workplace literacy programme delivered by CLD and the WEA. Alec will be going to the House of Commons for the awards event and the presentation.

CLD has a very strong partnership with the WEA to deliver workplace literacy and this award is recognition of this work. This is a great achievement for the Service and the WEA in Falkirk as it recognises the contribution we are making in sustaining individuals within employment, developing the employability of individuals and promoting a wide range of other social and economic benefits.

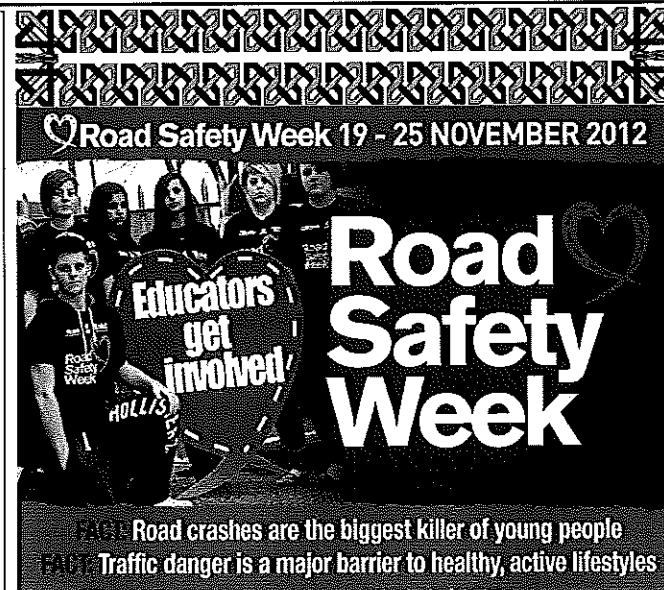
Jack and Jill Markets

The Jack & Jill Markets are a **not for profit community interest organisation**, dedicated to helping local families make and save money while at the same time encouraging recycling.

They run monthly quality nearly new markets in Grangemouth Sports Complex which have so far proved to be extremely popular. At their September Market on the 9th they had an amazing 515 happy shoppers leave with arms full of brilliant bargains.

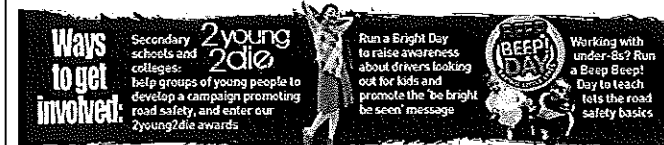
Coming along to a market really is a great opportunity to save some money on the quality items that you need or want for your children. Its also a great opportunity to sell on pre-loved items! Stallholders can make around £300 (and some have even made over £700).

The Jack & Jill Market will be in Grangemouth Sports Complex, Abbots Road, FK3 8JB on Sunday 4th November and Sunday 2nd December with their monthly markets. You will find 40 stalls bursting with quality nearly new bargains for babies and children age 0-9. From clothes to cots and buggies to bikes and everything else you could imagine! Come along and save a fortune while being kind to the environment. Markets are from 10.30am-1.30pm. £1 Entry per Adult. For more info see www.jackandjillmarket.co.uk



Road Safety Week (19-25 November) is a chance to teach life-saving lessons, promote road safety in the community, and work towards safer streets - using **FREE** resources from Brake.

Register **NOW** online to get your email action pack, including downloadable posters plus ideas on road safety teaching, activities and campaigns. Go to www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk



Register now for simple activity ideas and resources at www.roadsafetyweek.org.uk



Show Racism the Red Card

Pupils from Dunipace, Easter Carmuir, and Laurieston Primary Schools attended an anti-racism / anti-sectarianism educational event at Falkirk FC on Tuesday 18 September to launch the annual Show Racism the Red Card Anti-Racism / Anti-Sectarianism Creative Competition 2012 / 2013.

Also in attendance was SQA Chairman Graham Houston, ex-professional and Show Racism the Red Card coaches Gary MacKay and Michael Weir, and Falkirk FC players Craig Comrie, Kris Faulds and Graham Bowman.

All across Scotland, Show Racism the Red Card is marking their 10 year anniversary by working with schools and colleges to promote anti-discriminatory behavior, equality and respect with young people. The competition aims to encourage young people to develop expressive and creative ways to communicate the anti-racism and anti-sectarianism messages throughout society. Young people will gain a clear message that Scotland should be a welcoming and multi-cultural society.

The prize giving is held in Hampden Park in March every year and Football clubs across Scotland donate a variety of prizes for winners. A variety of the players attend the prize giving at Hampden to present prizes and meet the young people.



THE FIRST SCOTLAND SAFE SWIMMERS

Three Pupils from Ladeside Primary School are amongst the first youngsters in Scotland to achieve the new Scotland Safe Swimmer Award.

Luke, Mathew and Corey received their Certificate at Grangemouth Sports Complex. They are part of a class who are on the Autistic Spectrum.

The "Triple S" is the new **minimum** standard designed to 'waterproof' our children and help to ensure that they are safe in and around water. The assessment is undertaken without goggles or nose clips. And was developed with input from both experienced education and community swimming teachers and was subject to a full consultation with local authorities and leisure trusts and supported by the Scottish Government, Scottish swimming, SportsScotland, The Royal Lifesaving Society and Speedo.

Lindsay Young, the School swimming teacher for the Grangemouth cluster said "This is a fantastic achievement for these pupils who have worked hard to get to this level."

The "Triple S" standard is not particularly difficult in

itself to meet, however many pupils will not achieve this in the relative small number of lessons they receive. The objective of Schools swimming

lessons is to get all pupils to swim, however many children cannot swim at the start of primary 5, some have never been in a swimming pool! Children are at an advantage if parents take them to Pools regularly or enrol them in Mums and Toddlers, Pre School and later swimming lessons. It can take many lessons to teach children to

swim particularly if they are not water confident and this is best undertaken in early years.

Although some might think that this standard is harsh, pupils are taught to swim in case they end up in open water, somewhat colder and dirtier than in a Pool. This should equip them with enough ability to scramble to safety.

Those pupils who do not achieve the standard, will be offered 'Top Ups' to bring them up to the minimum standard.



Awards for All Funding at Easter Carmuir Primary

Easter Carmuir Primary School received a £7,500 grant from lottery funded Awards for All to build an outdoor classroom. After discussion with pupils and staff we decided to create a seating area where classes are able to come and sit when they are learning outdoors. Caledonia Play built the seating area with the timber coming from a local timber merchant.

We ran a competition in the school to name the area and the winning name was The Inside Outside Eco Pod!

We are really excited to have our classroom and look forward to developing it further with trees and plants to attract wildlife, areas to grow our own food and much more. We already have a pond which primary 7 dug a few weeks ago!

It will be really interesting to take our learning outdoors and our outdoor classroom will make this easier!



On Wednesday 19 September the school celebrated the opening with an Eco schools focus and had a One Planet Picnic. Many special guests were invited to the picnic and Provost Pat Reid officially opened the classroom. Each class had been learning about local, seasonal and ethically produced food. All classes carried out research and carefully planned the ingredients

in the foods created for the picnic. We decorated the outdoor classroom area with recycled materials. The school also had a visit from local farmers the week before the picnic, organised through RHET who told us all about their produce.

Calendar of Events

November 2012

| | |
|--|--------|
| ESMT - 9am | 01 Nov |
| Parents and Families Workshop Event - Grangemouth High School - 10am | 03 Nov |
| Public Social Partnership - Project Team - 9am - CVS - Callendar Business Park | 05 Nov |
| Guy Fawkes Night | 05 Nov |
| ESMT - 9am | 07 Nov |
| National Stress Awareness Day - www.nationalstressawarenessday.co.uk | 07 Nov |
| Nurture Steering Group - 9.30am - Camelon Education Centre | 08 Nov |
| Falkirk Children's Commission - Implementation Team - 9am - Sealock House | 08 Nov |
| Remembrance Sunday | 11 Nov |
| National Anti-Bullying Week (start) | 12 Nov |
| Staff Development Day | 12 Nov |
| Staff Development Day | 13 Nov |
| Diwali - Festival of Lights (Hindu and Sikh) | 13 Nov |
| Parents' Information Evening - 7pm - Camelon Education Centre | 13 Nov |
| World Diabetes Day - www.worlddiabetesday.org | 14 Nov |
| ESMT - 9am | 15 Nov |
| Al Hajar - Islamic New Year (Muslim) | 15 Nov |
| Policy and Resources Committee - 9.30am | 15 Nov |
| Education Matters - submitting articles deadline day | 16 Nov |
| Extended ESMT - 9am | 20 Nov |
| Headteachers' Meeting - 8.45am - Larbert HS | 21 Nov |
| Parent Council / PTA Networking Session - 10am - Camelon Education Centre | 24 Nov |
| ESMT - 9am | 28 Nov |
| Birthday of Guru Nanak (Sikh) | 28 Nov |
| Admin Team Meeting - 10am - Sealock House | 28 Nov |
| Falkirk Children's Commission - Executive Group - 1.30pm - Municipal Buildings | 29 Nov |
| St Andrew's Day | 30 Nov |

School Litter

The Community Safety Team conducted a mini 'Litter Initiative' at a High School on Tuesday 9th October. This involved six members of the Community Safety Team patrolling the routes around the High School used by school pupils at lunch time. This was as a result of complaints throughout the area about school lunch time litter.

The teams patrolled the area on foot and dealt with any litter offences that they witnessed.

Due to the effectiveness of this initiative, the team are looking to make this a regular event and may appear at a school near you!

For more information on the Community Safety Team please contact Amanda Maclean on 01324 590474.



Green Flag Success

Congratulations to

- ★ Bainsford Primary School,
- ★ Bowhouse Primary School,
- ★ Larbert Village Primary School and
- ★ St Andrew's RC Primary School

who successfully renewed their Green Flags in September / October.

Well done also to Victoria Primary School who got their first Green Flag!

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: MAJOR WORKS - SCHOOL ESTATE - APRIL TO AUGUST 2012
 Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
 Date: 5 December 2012
 Author: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with information on the major works that have been completed across the school estate during the period April to August 2012.

2. MAJOR WORKS COMPLETED - APRIL TO AUGUST 2012

- 2.1 The major works carried out across the school estate are detailed below:

Work £1000k+

- St Bernadette's Primary School (£8m)
- Wallacestone Primary School - rewire (£0.45m)
- Westquarter Primary School - extension/refurbishment (£0.55m)
- St Andrew's Primary School - nursery/primary drop off areas and car park improvements (£0.175m)

Work £50k to £100k

- Bowhouse Primary School - external render works
- Greenpark Community Centre - Windows upgrade and asbestos removal
- Larbert Village Primary School - double mobile enhanced provision
- Shieldhill Primary School - roof over clad
- St Margaret's Primary School - convert previous nursery to classrooms


- 2.2 In addition a number of other schools had significant work carried out between £10,000 and £50,000:

- Airth Primary School - fencing replacement
- Bankier Primary School – resurfacing works
- Beancross Primary School - nursery toilet extension
- Blackness Primary School - mobile extension fabric repairs
- Bo'ness Public Primary School - roof upgrade
- Carronshore Primary School - roof upgrade
- Drumbowie Primary School - felt roof and glazing upgrade
- Grange Primary School - replacement of felt roofing and internal repairs
- Head of Muir Primary School - toilet upgrades
- Inchlair Nursery School - felt roof, ceilings, lighting and switchgear replacement

- Ladeside Primary School - resurfacing works
- Maddiston Primary School - acoustic improvements
- Moray Primary School - mobile alterations
- Nethermain Primary School - replacement of external fascias, windows and renders
- Queen Street Nursery School - resurfacing works
- Slamannan Primary School - roofing and ceiling replacements
- St Andrew's Primary School - new nursery play area

3. SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 3.1 The Committee is invited to note the major works carried out across the school estate during the period April to August 2012.

 Director of Education

Date:

Contact Officer: Alan Livingstone, ext 6620.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

FALKIRK COUNCIL

SUBJECT: CALL FOR EVIDENCE : INQUIRY INTO DECISION MAKING ON
WHETHER CHILDREN SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CARE
MEETING: INFORMATION BULLETIN
DATE: 5TH DECEMBER 2012
AUTHOR: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK & DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Education and Culture Committee of the Scottish Parliament agreed to carry out an inquiry into decision making on whether children should be taken into care. The remit of the inquiry was to understand:

- the decision-making processes involved in determining whether a child should be removed from the family home and taken into care;
- whether these decision-making processes are delivering the best outcomes for children and their families.

1.2 The Committee requested views on the inquiry remit and a number of questions set out below:

- Are decisions made on the basis of a clear, fully developed and agreed evidence base that demonstrates what is most effective for children and their families? Do all those involved in the decision-making process share common standards of training, knowledge and practice?
- Is there consistency in decision-making across the country? To what extent are decisions on whether to remove children influenced by resource constraints or any other barriers?
- Can general assumptions ever be made about fitness to parent or must each situation be fully assessed on its individual circumstances? Are there any particular parental risk factors, for example drug or alcohol misuse, that would create a presumption that a child should be removed? To what extent are there differences of opinion among relevant bodies about what constitutes fitness to parent, for example in relation to parental neglect?
- What evidence is available to demonstrate that children who are removed from the family home, whether temporarily or permanently, enjoy better outcomes than they otherwise would have had?
- How are decisions made on whether a child, once removed from the family home, should be returned to that home, or removed permanently? Is the speed of decision making appropriate?
- Where a child has been returned to the family home, what type of support is most effective in ensuring that the child will enjoy greater stability and security?

2 DEVELOPING A CORPORATE RESPONSE

- 2.1 Following initial consideration it was agreed to develop and submit a corporate response to the inquiry through Falkirk Children's Commission. This enabled all Community Planning Partners to contribute to a multi-agency, cross-service response for Falkirk, incorporating a broad range of perspectives on an agreed basis in line with the strategic approach taken through the Commission. The response was required by 28th August 2012.

3 ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 A multi agency, cross service meeting of senior managers took place on 27th July to consider the request and to gather views on the questions posed. Following this initial meeting a draft response was prepared and considered at the Children's Commission of 2nd August. In summary the response welcomes the opportunity to comment on the remit of the inquiry into decision making in taking children into care and makes the following comments:-

1. The Commission stressed the importance of recognising the often complex circumstances surrounding decisions, and emphasised that each decision is often part of a continuum of events that both precede and follow on from a decision to take a young person into care. The decision to do so is not necessarily limited to a single point in time and does not occur in isolation from events preceding the decision or those that follow the decision.
2. In the light of the above, Falkirk Children's Commission noted that there may be a risk of making the focus of the inquiry too narrow if it simply examined such decisions from the perspective that the decision is a single point in time. It may be more informative to consider such decisions in the context of the broader and longer term pathways to and following on from decisions.
3. The Commission also noted the importance of recognising the need to ensure there is a role for children and young people in decision making wherever possible and in determining the types and phasing of outcomes for each individual to suit their needs and assets. This would include aspects of early intervention to prevent admission to care, support, guidance and assistance for parents/carers and resilience building assistance for young people.
4. The response is consistent with the approach to implementing Getting It Right For Every Child in Falkirk.

.....
Director of Social Work Services

.....
Director of Education

7th November 2012

Contact Officer: Kathy McCarroll, Extn: 504033

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Falkirk Children's Commission response to Inquiry questions
2. Paper outlining Inquiry questions

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF COMPUTER HARDWARE
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE (PS-10-004 IT MANAGED SERVICES
(SMALL) – LOT 2)

Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN

Date: 5th December 2012

Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A Mini-Competition for Provision of Computer Hardware Repair & Maintenance was issued through the Scottish Procurement framework PS-10-04 IT Managed Services (Small) Lot 2. All ten companies listed within the Scottish Procurement framework were invited to quote.
- 1.2 The Mini-Competition is to establish a contract for an initial period to run from 22nd October 2012 to 30th September 2015 with an option to extend for a period of twelve months to 30th September 2016.

2. TENDERS RECEIVED

- 2.1 Three bids were received by the due date of Tuesday 2nd October 2012 and opened in accordance with Standing Order 11.2 relating to contracts.
- 2.2 Following evaluation by Officers from Corporate & Neighbourhood Services bids were selected offering best value for the full range of repair and maintenance required. Suppliers are detailed at Appendix 1, with an estimated total contract value of £140,000 for the period 22nd October 2012 to 30th September 2015 with an option to extend for twelve months to 30th September 2016.
- 2.3 In accordance with Standing Orders 6.2(ii) and 8.4 relating to contracts, the approval of the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Governance Officer to enter into contract with those parties was sought and received.
- 2.4 The funding for this project is contained within Maintenance of Computer Equipment budget heading.

3. ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 In accordance with Standing Order 6.2(ii), I accepted the bids detailed in Appendix 1, with an estimated total contract value of £140,000 for Computer Hardware Repair & Maintenance to Falkirk Council for the period 22nd October 2012 to 30th September 2015 with an option to extend for twelve months to 30th September 2016.

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 22nd October 2012
Contact Name: David Houston Ext: 0819

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. * Tender documents

* Item not for publication on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in, paragraph 10 of part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

APPENDIX 1

FALKIRK COUNCIL

CONTRACT FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF COMPUTER
HARDWARE

| Company | Postal Town |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Amor IT Services UK Ltd | Glasgow |
| Maindec Computer Solutions Ltd | Glasgow |

Estimated Total Contract Value £140,000

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: PARTICIPATION IN SCOTLAND EXCEL CONTRACTS
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 5 December 2012
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Falkirk Council as a Member of Excel, the Local Government Centre of Expertise for Procurement has access to a range of national contracts. The purpose of this Report is to advise Members of the Authority's participation in the following Excel contract.

2. PARTICIPATION AND BENEFITS**Electrical Materials (Lot 9 – Lamps)**

- 2.1 The Council's current Contract for the Supply of Electric Lamps Plugs & Fuses with Edmundson Electrical terminates on 30th November 2012.
- 2.2 Excel has in place a national framework agreement for the Supply & Distribution of Electrical Materials. This national contract will run to 31st March 2015 with the option to extend for 12 months to 31st March 2016. Falkirk's Participation within this framework would be limited to Lot 9 – Lamps. Suppliers for Lot 9 to the Excel framework are detailed below:

| Company | Postal Town |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Edmundson Electrical Ltd | Falkirk |
| Rexel UK Ltd (Ross Electrical) | Falkirk |
| Trilight Ltd | Falkirk |

- 2.3 It is anticipated that migration to the Excel contract would achieve savings of approximately 3% on comparative pricing.
- 2.4 Participation also means the Council can avoid the costs of conducting its own tendering exercise and afford us access to a fully compliant framework agreement
- 2.5 Best value would be achieved by Falkirk Council procuring Lamps from the Excel Framework from the 1st December 2012 through to its initial end date of 31st March 2015 with an option to extend to 31st March 2016 at a cost of approximately £10,000 per annum.

3. ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 In accordance with Contract Standing Order 6.2(i), I authorised Falkirk Council's participation in the Scotland Excel framework for the Supply & Distribution of Electrical Materials (Lot 9 – Lamps) at a cost of approximately £10,000 per annum.

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 27 September 2012
Ref: AAD0512
Contact Name: David Houston Ext: 0819

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: PARTICIPATION IN SCOTLAND EXCEL CONTRACT –
SUPPLY, DELIVERY & INSTALLATION OF OFFICE &
STORAGE FURNITURE**
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 5 December 2012
**Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD
SERVICES**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Falkirk Council as a Member of Excel, the Local Government Centre of Expertise for Procurement has access to a range of national contracts. The purpose of this Report is to advise Members of the Authority's participation in the following Excel contract.

2. PARTICIPATION AND BENEFITS

Office Furniture

- 2.1 Falkirk Council's ad-hoc requirement for Office Furniture has been purchased from a number of national suppliers through a process of quotes which has given no stability in the pricing structure achieved.
- 2.2 The table below provides details of suppliers currently used by Falkirk Council:

| Company | Postal Town |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| EFG Matthews Office Furniture Ltd | Glasgow |
| Park Modern Furniture Ltd | Glasgow |
| Claremont Office Furniture | Glasgow |
| Caledonian Furniture Mfg Ltd | Cumbernauld |
| E.M.E. Furniture | Sanquhar |
| Office Furniture Centre | Glasgow |
| Furniture @ Work | Glasgow |
| Alpha Office Furniture Ltd | Glasgow |

- 2.3 Monitoring spend for furniture purchases has highlighted that costs using the current process of obtaining quotes for the Council's ongoing requirements has indicated a continual upward trend in pricing with no indication of being able to achieve any form of price stability.

- 2.4 Excel has in place a national framework agreement consisting of 6 Lots for the Supply, Delivery & Installation of Office & Storage Furniture. This national contract will run to 28th February 2013. With an option to extend to 28th February 2014. Suppliers on the Excel framework are detailed below:

| Company | Postal Town |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| AFH Strategic Contracts Ltd | Glasgow |
| Azzurro Ltd | Airdrie |
| Claremont Office Furniture Ltd | Glasgow |
| EFG Office Furniture Ltd | Glasgow |
| Hunters Contracts (Scotland) Ltd | Glasgow |
| Langstane Press Limited | Aberdeen |
| Archibald McKellar Ltd | Glasgow |
| OfficeTeam Ltd | Croydon |
| Roc Furniture Ltd | Birmingham |
| Senator International Ltd | Accrington |
| The Triumph Furniture Company Ltd | Merther Tydfil |
| Wagstaff Bros. Ltd | Edinburgh |

- 2.5 Migration to the Excel contract would achieve structured pricing and avoid the fluctuation in rates obtained as a result of quotes process currently adopted.
- 2.6 Participation also means the Council can avoid the costs of conducting its own tendering exercise and afford us access to a fully compliant framework agreement.
- 2.7 Best value would be achieved by Falkirk Council procuring the its requirements for the Supply, Delivery & Installation of Office & Storage Furniture from the Excel Framework through to its initial end date of 28th February 2013 with the option to extend to 28th February 2014. The estimated value for the term of the contract is approximately £300,000
- 2.8 Participation in the framework will support better control measures and provide management information on spend analysis and purchasing patterns.
- 2.9 In accordance with Standing Orders 6.2(ii), the approval of the Chief Governance Officer to enter into contract with those parties was sought and received.

3. ACTION TAKEN

- 3.1 In accordance with Contract Standing Orders 6.2(ii), I authorised Falkirk Council's participation in the Scotland Excel framework for the Supply, Delivery & Installation of Office & Storage Furniture at a cost of approximately £300,000 for the remaining term of the contract

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Date: 8th November 2012

Contact Name: David Houston Ext: 0819

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. * Tender documents

* Item not for publication on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 10 of part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: PARTICIPATION IN SCOTLAND EXCEL CONTRACT –
PROVISION OF SECURITY SOLUTIONS
Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN
Date: 5 December 2012
Author: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Falkirk Council as a Member of Scotland Excel (Excel), the Local Government Centre of Expertise for Procurement has access to a range of national contracts. The purpose of this Report is to advise Members of the Authority's participation in the following Excel contract.

2. PARTICIPATION AND BENEFITS**Security Solutions**

- 2.1 Excel has in place a national framework agreement for the Provision of Security Solutions. This national framework will run to 31st March 2014.

- 2.2 Suppliers on the Excel framework are detailed below:

| Company | Postal Town |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Advance Security UK Ltd | Hillington |
| MITIE Security Ltd | London |
| Profile Security Services Ltd | Barrow-under-Humber |
| SecuriGroup Services Ltd | Glasgow |
| Securitay Ltd | Dundee |
| Security Scotland Ltd | Glasgow |

- 2.3 This is a multi-supplier collaborative framework for security solutions covering the whole geography of Scotland. All suppliers on the Framework have the security industry authority 'Approved Contractors Scheme' status (ACS). ACS status ensures the suppliers on the framework comply with strict standards of behaviour and governance.
- 2.4 Property Services, within Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, on occasion will require security services to guard their construction sites from unauthorised entry, vandalism or theft. Previously security solutions were procured through a process of quotes in line with Financial Regulations. This is administratively burdensome and also required that the council had a vetting process to ensure that the security providers appointed continuously held their ACS status.
- 2.5 It is considered Best Value to procure Security Solutions from the Excel Framework as this would avoid the need for the Council to conduct its own tendering process, give access to competitive pricing and would ensure that providers appointed held ACS status.