

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2015 at 9.30 AM.**

**COUNCILLORS:** David Alexander  
Jim Blackwood  
Adrian Mahoney  
Craig Martin (Convener)  
Dr Craig R Martin  
Malcolm Nicol  
Alan Nimmo

**REPRESENTATIVES** Hector Cairns  
**OF RELIGIOUS** Margaret Coutts  
**BODIES:** Michael Rollo

**CO-OPTEES:** Helena Barton (Pupil Representative)  
Mike Ablett (Parent Representative)  
Martin Craigen (Parent Representative)  
Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)

**OFFICERS:** Danny Cairney, Accountancy Services Manager  
Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer  
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning and Resources  
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer  
Anne Pearson, Head of Education

**EE29. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors Tom Coleman, Dennis Goldie, Gerry Goldie and Linda Gow, and Jonathan Barclay (Pupil Representative).

**EE30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

**EE31. MINUTES**

**Decision**

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 8 September 2015 and the Special Meeting of the Education Executive held on 29 September 2015 were approved.

### **EE32. LEARNING TO ACHIEVE AWARDS 2015**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services detailing the background to the Learning to Achieve Awards (LTA) and which proposed that the scope of the awards be reviewed to recognise achievements from the whole remit of children's services in future. At present the LTA only recognise outstanding school, community and education-based projects.

The report highlighted the nine category award winners and the sponsorship details at this year's ceremony which had taken place within Graeme High School on 24 September 2015.

#### **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed to:-**

- (1) note the success of the Learning to Achieve Awards event, and**
- (2) change the event next year to encompass the whole of Children's Services.**

### **EE33. EXTENSION OF FRANCHISE TO 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the recent legislative changes that had been made in Scotland which gives 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in both Scottish Parliamentary and Local Government elections.

The report sets out information and examples of how Children's Services and the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) were working with secondary schools in helping to promote and encourage young people to register to vote and become involved in the democratic process. Children's Services also provided specific activities to raise awareness amongst vulnerable pupils, particularly those with additional support needs and those who are looked after.

#### **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed:-**

- (1) to note the report, and**
- (2) that the Director of Children's Services continues to work with schools and other parties to encourage young people to register to vote and to participate in the democratic process.**

### **EE34. THE SCOTTISH ATTAINMENT CHALLENGE**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services outlining the aims of the Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) and Children's Services' plans for school involvement in the related Schools Programme.

The main aims of the SAC and its associated Schools Programme are to focus and accelerate targeted improvements in literacy, numeracy and wellbeing in specific areas of Scotland which have been identified as having the highest concentration of primary aged pupils living in multiple deprivation.

Langlees Primary School has been identified as one of the 57 Scottish primary schools to be included in the Schools Programme, which was launched on 1 October 2015.

A funding package has been set up for the next four years (2015-2019) and it is expected that between £20k to £80k per annum will be allocated to those schools identified in the Schools Programme to help accelerate improvement and support innovation.

The report detailed a range of support available to education authorities in relation to the SAC, which included direct access to an Attainment Advisor, access to the national hub and inter-authority partnership working.

The report also set out the bid process and the range of strategies Children's Services will use to address the attainment gap and that the resources will be used more widely than in Langlees Primary School.

## **Decision**

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

- (1) to note the aims of the new Scottish Attainment Challenge;**
- (2) that the Director of Children's Services develops and submits a bid to the Scottish Government as outlined in Section 6.1 of the report;**
- (3) that the Director of Children's Services develops a strategy designed to begin to address the attainment gap, and**
- (4) that an update report on progress be submitted to the Education Executive at a later date.**

## **EE35. PROPERTY ASSET SURPLUS TO OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: FORMER GRANGEMOUTH DAY NURSERY**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services seeking approval to declare the site at the former Grangemouth Day Nursery, surplus to Children's Services operational requirements and thereafter to proceed with the disposal of the site.

The site and current building has been vacant since August 2009 and is no longer required by Children's Services. At present, the premises are secure; however, the condition of the building is deteriorating and there is asbestos present in the roof area.

In light of the current risk assessment, the Director of Children's Services in conjunction with the relevant portfolio holder had, in the interest of public safety, agreed the demolition of the building.

## **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed that:-**

- (1) the site held on Children's Services account be declared surplus to operational requirements, and**
- (2) the Director of Development Services proceed with the sale/disposal of the site, once the existing building has been demolished.**

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: RELOCATION/DECANT OF MARINER SUPPORT SERVICES**  
**Meeting: EDUCATION EXECUTIVE**  
**Date: 2 FEBRUARY 2016**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Purpose of this report is to:

- (i) Confirm to the Education Executive that Children's Services were successful in their bid to purchase the former focus school and to
- (ii) seek Education Executive's approval for:
  - the temporary relocation of the Mariner Support Service from the Weedingshall site to the former Focus School site at Laurieston.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 Education Executive on 29 September 2015 agreed that the Director of Children's Services progress with a bid to purchase the former Focus School site at Laurieston.

2.2 The business case in relation to this bid outlined the reasons for the services wish to relocate the Mariner Support Service from its current location at Weedingshall, to the Focus School site.

**2.3 Procurement Of Former Focus School Site**

Children's Services can report that this bid was successful and the missives concluding the sale/transfer of the site have now been completed and the Service received the keys for the school site on 14 December 2015.

**2.4 Progress Of Onsite Work/Improvements**

Since receiving the keys Children's Services Property Team and Development Services Facilities Team have been working together to plan/carry out onsite improvement work in the following areas:

- general internal decoration
- electrical wiring checks and minor upgrades
- kitchen improvements

- upgrade of some internal fixtures and fittings
- ICT wiring and network connectivity
- minor roof repairs/checks
- asbestos checks.

## 2.5 Consultation With Parents, Pupils and Staff

### Parents

- Meetings have already taken place between officers and parents to update them on the position. Following the initial meeting the Parents Group submitted a letter offering their full support with the planned move.

### Staff

- The school management team have spoken to the staff about the plans and the services' intentions.

### Pupils

- The pupil representatives had previously submitted a letter to the Director of Children's Services asking for school improvements to be undertaken at Weedingshall.
- The acquisition of this facility has surpassed the expectations of the pupils and the school reports that they are delighted with this.

### Visits to Site

- Site visits have taken place to allow staff the chance to visit and look around the Focus School site. A further visit to allow pupils and parents the chance to view the site is being arranged

## 2.6 Proposal To Move Staff/Pupils From Weedingshall Site To New Focus School and Campus

For the reasons outlined in the original business case presented to Education Executive on 29 September 2015, Children's Services now wish to progress with this temporary decant arrangement as soon as possible.

This decant has received backing from the pupils, parents and staff at Mariner Support Service and a further letter of support for the move has been received from the Local Branch Secretary of The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS).

Subject to the onsite works being completed our Property Team hope to progress the move during the Easter (2016) holiday period.

## 2.7 What Is Required Before Such A Move Can Be Made Permanent

Whilst a temporary move can be undertaken, before any such move can be deemed permanent a Statutory Consultation must be undertaken in accordance with the 'Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010'.

Children's Services will consider when they are best placed to undertake this statutory consultation and a report will come to Education Executive in the future to request permission to progress this.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no changes to the financial position previously reported to Education Executive.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Education Executive are asked to:

- 4.1 approve the temporary decant/move of the Mariner Support Service from Weedingshall to the new Focus School site during Easter 2016;
- 4.2 instruct the Director of Children's to ensure that all parents, pupils and staff remain involved and are kept up to date with the progress of the move; and
- 4.3 instruct the Director of Children's Services to bring a further report to Education Executive to request permission to undertake a statutory consultation on making the move permanent at a future date.

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Director of Children's Services

**Date: 13 January 2016**

Contact Officer: Gary Greenhorn, ext 6620

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL



FALKIRK COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: NEW ASN SECONDARY SCHOOL - ADVANCED/ENABLING WORKS**  
**MEETING: EDUCATION EXECUTIVE**  
**DATE: 2 FEBRUARY 2016**  
**AUTHOR: DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide members with an update on the project for the new ASN secondary school.
- Provide details of necessary enabling works and other recommended advance works.
- Seek approval to proceed with the advance onsite works.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 A progress report was brought to a meeting of Falkirk Council on 7 October 2015 with details of the Hub East Central Scotland (Hubco) Stage 1 Report that provided:

- a detailed pricing report;
- a technical design submission; and
- a programme for delivery.

2.2 It was agreed to proceed through to “Stage 2” on the basis of this Stage 1 report and prepare a revised Capital Programme Bid for submission in February 2016 in line with the Stage 1 Cost Report.

**3.0 STAGE 2 - UPDATE ON PROJECT PROGRESS**

3.1 Planning approval and the necessary Building Warrants have now been granted for the new school and detailed designs have been prepared.

3.2 Hubco and the main Contractor, Ogilvie Construction Ltd, are currently assessing work package tenders and preparing a final Stage 2 Report which will include detailed costs and the programme for delivery. This is expected to be formally submitted to the Council in early March 2016.

3.3 Since the Stage 1 Report, the programme has slipped by 4 weeks so the final completion is now expected to be in late July 2017. This has been due to a number of factors including:

- later than anticipated delivery of the Stage 1 Report; and
- transfer of principal design responsibility from Falkirk Council Development Services to Morgan Sindall Professional Services (following legal advice concerning contract liabilities).

- 3.4 It is still planned that the school will be ready in August 2017. However with the anticipated completion date of 21 July 2017 being so near to the start of the 2017/18 term contingencies will need to be in place to ensure that any unforeseen delays can be accommodated.
- 3.5 Current information from Hubco confirms their aim to deliver the project on time (as indicated above) and within budget (according to the previously approved Stage 1 position).
- 3.6 When the Stage 2 report is received in early March this will provide the Council with final cost certainty. When this report is approved it will form the basis of the final contract with Financial Close expected by mid April 2016.

#### **4.0 ADVANCE/ENABLING WORKS ON SITE**

- 4.1 The Stage 1 Report submitted to Falkirk Council on 7 October 2015 made reference to necessary enabling works, namely the diversion of a culvert that crosses the site just below the surface. This work was not included in the Stage 1 Cost report and will therefore require to be funded separately from Children's Services agreed Capital Budget.
- 4.2 The Contractor has now costed this work and has the necessary building warrant approval. Although the cost of this work on its own is estimated at c£179k, the Contractor, Ogilvie Construction have proposed that this work is undertaken at the same time as the other onsite advanced works which are required to be completed by the Contractor, as part of the school contract. By undertaking the culvert diversion work at the same time as their own onsite enabling works, Ogilvie have been able to reduce the overall cost by c£39k to c£140k. The other advanced works which are included in the school contract to be completed by the Contractor are:
- formation of site openings;
  - drainage;
  - site hoardings;
  - groundworks (site scrape and excavation and piling mat installation); and
  - lowering of existing services at site openings.

The cost of all of the above works was included in the Stage 1 cost report.

- 4.3 The Contractor has also confirmed that a further £26k, will be required for street lighting works and is recommending that the Council undertake this work as part of the enabling works.

#### **5.0 NEXT STEPS/PROPOSED WAY FORWARD**

- 5.1 Having considered the Contractors' proposals and available options regarding the completion of the enabling works, it is proposed that those works are undertaken in 2 separate phases.

(i) Phase I Enabling Works

This will entail:

- formation of site openings (funded within contract)

- culvert diversion (funded by Council)
- installation of street lighting (funded by Council).

The Total estimated cost of this work is c£221k. It is proposed that Phase I works are given approval to start onsite immediately, to ensure that the overall project timeframe is maintained.

(ii) Phase II Enabling Works

This will entail:

- site hoardings
- drainage
- lowering of existing services at site openings
- groundworks (site scrape and excavation and piling mat installation).

The estimated cost of the Phase II works is c£409k and is all funded within the school contract.

The Phase II works will only proceed once written confirmation has been received from Hubco that final project costs are within the overall capital budget of the project. The overall capital project budget will be agreed as part of the Council's 3 Year Capital Budget on 17 February 2016.

- 5.2 The approach outlined above minimises any financial risk to the Council, whilst ensuring that both best value principles and the central programme timescales are achieved.
- 5.3 In recognition of the need to progress these onsite preparatory works as soon as possible a contract for the phased enabling works has already been prepared and agreed by both parties and is ready to be signed subject to Education Executive approval for the work to proceed.

## 6. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

- 6.1 The Phase I enabling works costs can be met from the following existing approved budgets:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| • 2015/16 Children's Services Capital Improvements - All Schools Budget    | £140k               |
| • 2015/16 Children's Services Capital Improvements - All Schools Budget    | £26k                |
| • 2015/16 Children's Services Capital Programme - New ASN Secondary School | <u>£55k</u>         |
| <b>Total Phase I Works</b>   | <b><u>£221k</u></b> |

All of the Phase II Works estimated to be £409k will be funded from the capital budget for the new ASN secondary school.

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Education Executive are asked:**

- 7.1 To note the requirement to proceed with a package of advance/enabling works prior to Financial Close to meet the overall programme timescales and the proposal to undertake this work in the cost effective manner as detailed in Section 4.2.**
- 7.2 To approve Phase I advance/enabling work commencing onsite immediately.**
- 7.3 To approve Phase II advance works, subject to written confirmation being received from Hubco that the final costs will be within the overall agreed capital budget.**

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**Director of Children's Services**

Date: January 2016

Contact Officer: Richard Teed, ext 6621.

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL