

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a sailing ship on wavy lines representing water. The top-right quadrant shows a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a beaver. The bottom-right quadrant shows a grizzly bear. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom of the shield contains the motto "A NE FOR A".

Agenda Item 3

Minute

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Minute of meeting of the EDUCATION, CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE EXECUTIVE held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 28 January 2020 at 9.30 am.

COUNCILLORS:

David Alexander
Robert Bissett
Fiona Collie
Joan Coombes
Nigel Harris
Cecil Meiklejohn (Convener)
Lynn Munro
Laura Murtagh
Alan Nimmo

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF RELIGIOUS
BODIES:**

Evelyn Crosbie
Maureen Harkins
Rev. Michael Rollo

CO-OPTES:

John Chalmers, Teacher Representative
Fiona Craig, Teacher Representative
Ryan Farmer, Pupil Representative
Siobhan O'Neill, Care Experienced Young Person
Merle Stevenson, Parent Representative
Beth Wallace, Pupil Representative

OFFICERS:

Karen Chambers, Committee Services Officer
Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning and Resources
Sara Lacey, Head of Social Work
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive
David Mackay, Head of Education
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
Karen Thomson, Childcare Provision Co-ordinator
Vivien Thomson, Service Manager

**ALSO
ATTENDING:**

Councillor James Kerr (for Item ECYE40)
Caitlyn Mossman, Young Champ
Janet Weir, Champions' Board Co-ordinator

ECYE35. Apologies

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors McCue, Nicol and Reid; and Karen Procek, Parent Representative.

ECYE36. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

ECYE37. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education, Children and Young People Executive held on 19 November 2019 was approved.

ECYE38. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 19 November 2019 was provided. Items 482 – Gaelic Medium Education in Falkirk Council; and 505 – School Transport - Motion, appeared as items on the agenda for the meeting and consequently fell from the rolling action log.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive noted the rolling action log.

ECYE39. Presentation - The Importance of Really Good Corporate Parenting

The Education, Children and Young People Executive received a presentation from Sara Lacey, Caitlyn Mossman, Siobhan O'Neill, Vivien Thomson and Janet Weir.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive noted the presentation.

ECYE40. Motion referred to the Education, Children and Young People Executive under Standing Order 31 from the meeting of Falkirk Council on 4 December 2019

On 4 December 2019, and in accordance with Standing Order 31.1, Council referred the following motion, proposed by Councillor Kerr, to the Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) notes the current position regarding school transport for children with more than one residence as set out in the Transport Policy – Operational Guidance;
- (2) notes that the current policy unfairly impacts children whose parents live separately and the child lives with both parents as only one pass is issued on a specified route and therefore only allows travel to one parent's residence; and
- (3) instructs the Director of Children's Services to report to the next meeting of Council with:-
 - i) options to provide school transport to children with more than one residence, where each residence meets the distance entitlement, and
 - ii) information on any cost implications arising therefrom.

In terms of Standing Order 31.2, Councillor Kerr spoke in support of his motion.

Councillor Bissett, seconded by Councillor Harris, moved the terms of the motion.

Following discussion, and in accordance with Standing Order 20, Councillor Bissett, with the consent of Councillor Harris, as his seconder, agreed to adjust the wording of his Motion.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) noted the current position regarding school transport for children with more than one residence as set out in the Transport Policy – Operational Guidance;**
- (2) noted that the current policy impacts on children whose parents live separately and the child lives with both parents, as only one pass is issued on a specified route and therefore only allows travel to one parent's residence; and**
- (3) agreed to instruct the Director of Children's Services to bring a report to a future meeting of the Education, Children and Young People Executive with:-**
 - (i) an analysis of how many children are affected by the current policy;**
 - (ii) potential options to provide transport, and**
 - (iii) information on any cost implications arising therefrom.**

ECYE41. Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) – 2020 Expansion Plan Update

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the progress and current financial position of the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion programme.

Additional information on new and individual projects and work stream proposals which supported the overall ELC Expansion and Implementation Plans was provided, this included the proposed decant provision of Inchlair for the period August to October 2020, to allow the extension and refurbishment to be undertaken.

Details of the remaining 26 infrastructure work projects on a ward by ward basis, were provided as an appendix to the report.

The report also set out the key changes required to the Early Years Admissions policy to reflect the universal implementation of the early years expansion programme from August 2020. The new proposed Early Years Admissions Policy was also attached as an appendix to the report.

A summary of the projected year end position for 2019/20 funding was provided. Officers from Children's, Development and Finance Services would continue to liaise and work collegiately to ensure that the expansion programme was delivered within the available funding.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) noted the overall content of the current progress report;**
- (2) noted the update provided on the main projects outlined in section 4.1 of the report;**
- (3) agreed the revised Early Years Admissions Policy;**
- (4) agreed that the Director of Children's Services progress with decant proposals for Inchlair ELC Centre as outlined in section 4.1(ii) of the report;**
- (5) noted the updated financial position as detailed in sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the report, and**
- (6) requested that the Director of Children's Services continues to keep the Education, Children and Young People Executive updated on progress with the expansion plans.**

ECYE42. Report on the Survey to the Future Demand for Gaelic Medium Education in Falkirk Council

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing the outcome of the survey exercise undertaken with the parents of children starting their ante pre-school year to determine the future demand for Gaelic Medium Education (GME) in Falkirk. This had been requested by the Education, Children and Young People Executive at its meeting on 17 September 2019 (ref ECYE19).

Parents/carers of ante pre-school children attending all of Falkirk's Early Learning Childcare (ELC) provisions had been invited to complete the short survey.

The survey was distributed to 885 parents/carers, with 170 responses received (19%). The outcome of the survey was provided in an appendix to the report, which suggested that there may be demand for GME in Falkirk that was greater than long standing uptake figures to access provision.

Due to the difficulty in establishing how robust the results were, as the survey only asked for a simple yes/no response, proposals were set out to undertake further engagement with parents/carers. This would ascertain how many of those who had indicated an interest in accessing the provision would retain that interest when more information and understanding on GME delivery was provided. The Director confirmed that all parents of children within the cohort would be able to attend the consultation event.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report;**
- (2) agreed the proposal set out in paragraph 4.12 of the report, to engage further with parents/carers who had indicated an interest in accessing GME for their children, and**
- (3) agreed that the Director of Children's Services be instructed to provide a further report to the Education, Children and Young People Executive.**

ECYE43. Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative – Progress Update

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the work of the Regional Improvement Collaborative.

The Education, Children and Young People Executive, at its meeting on 17 September 2019 (ref ECYE18), noted the progress of the Phase 2 Improvement Plan and the ongoing work in developing a further plan for September 2019 - September 2022.

This Plan was informed by consideration of the 2019 National Improvement Framework (NIF); School Improvement Plans for sessions 2019-20; input from Education Scotland, and evaluation from key engagement events. As with Phase 1 and 2 Plans, this Plan had been developed in collaboration across the four local authority areas.

The 2019-2020 Plan, which was attached as an appendix to the report, detailed the steps the collaborative would take to achieve identified and agreed priorities to support the aims of the National Improvement Framework (NIF); and the steps it would take to reduce inequalities of outcomes resulting from socio-economic disadvantage. Details of the priorities and work streams which had been identified from analysis of data information from across the RIC was also included in the Plan.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report;**
- (2) noted the Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative 2019-2022 Plan, which was attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and**
- (3) agreed that a report on progress with the 2019-2022 Plan be presented to the Education, Children and Young People Executive in September 2020.**