

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 27 AUGUST 2013 at 9.30 AM.

COUNCILLORS: Jim Blackwood
Dennis Goldie
Gerry Goldie
Linda Gow
Adrian Mahoney
Craig Martin (Convener)
Alan Nimmo

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

CO-OPTEES: Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)
Martin Craigen (Parent Representative)
Marnie McKay (Pupil Representative)
Ross Nixon (Pupil Representative)

OFFICERS: Shona Barton, Committee Services Officer
Alex Black, Quality Improvement Manager
Danny Cairney, Accountancy Services Manager
Nigel Fletcher, Head of Educational Support and Improvement
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Educational Resources
Mark Meechan, Community Learning & Development Manager
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
Andrew Sutherland, Director of Education
Richard Teed, Senior Forward Planning Officer

ALSO ATTENDING: Christine Bell, Chair of Community Schools Partnership Board

EE10. APOLOGIES

Councillor Dr CR Martin, Jude Ainsley (Parent Representative) and Fiona Craig (Teacher Representative).

EE11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

EE12. MINUTES

Decision

The Education Executive approved the minutes of meeting of:-

- (a) the Education Executive held on 28 May 2013, and**
- (b) the Member/Officer Working Group on Educational Achievement held on 24 May 2013.**

EE13. EDUCATION EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIP

The Education Executive considered a Report by the Chief Governance Officer which advised that a new pupil representative will require to be appointed.

The period of appointment of Aimee Rattray as a pupil representative had come to an end. The Secondary Pupil Council had nominated Ross Nixon, a 5th Year pupil at Denny High School as a new pupil representative.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note that the period of appointment of Aimee Rattray had ended, and**
- (2) the appointment of Ross Nixon as a pupil representative member of the Education Executive for a period of two years.**

EE14. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED SITE FOR NEW CARRONGRANGE SCHOOL

The Education Executive considered a Report by the Director of Education which provided details of the proposal and consultation relating to the relocation of Carrongrange school and also requested permission to proceed to formal consultation.

At the Education Executive on 28 May 2013, it had been agreed that the two sites at Moray Primary School and Weedingshall which were identified as potential locations for the new Carrongrange School would be further considered by the Site Selection Team prior to formally progressing to a full consultation.

The Site Selection Team had met on 16 June 2013 and unanimously agreed that both sites should be considered as a possible location for the new school.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed that:-

- (1) a formal consultation process takes place as detailed in the report on the proposal to relocate Carrongrange School to one of two possible sites, at Moray Primary school or Weedingshall, and
- (2) a report back from this consultation will come to a future meeting of the Education Executive for a decision on the preferred site.

EE15. ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Education Executive considered a Report by the Director of Education which reported on Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) attainment within Falkirk Council secondary schools in 2013.

The Report highlighted the attainment of pupils at S4, S5 and S6 and provided comparison with figures for previous years as well as providing information on performance relating to comparator authorities. The Report also outlined the strategies which are being put in place to further improve performance.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the SQA attainment of Falkirk Council schools, and
- (2) to note the strategies outlined in the Report to further improve performance.

EE16. RESPONSE TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PAPER - "AMENDING THE SCHOOLS (CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010"

The Education Executive considered a Report by the Director of Education which sought approval for a proposed response to the Scottish Government Consultation Paper on Amending the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

The Scottish Government propose to amend The Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 following on from the report made by the Commission on the Delivery of Rural Education, which had been presented to the Government in April 2013.

The aim is to take forward the legislative proposals contained in the Consultation Paper this year as part of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill with a view to these coming into force in 2014.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the background relating to the Consultation Paper, and

- (2) that the response attached as Appendix 2 be submitted to the Scottish Government.

EE17. COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CHARITY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

The Education Executive considered a Report by the Director of Education which provided an update on the status of the Community Schools 2008 Charity Board and provided information on the operations, financial position and organisational changes over the period from August 2012 to June 2013.

The Community Schools 2008 Charity had been established following the 4 new (NPDO) Secondary Schools being completed. The main aim of the Charity is to receive and disburse the proceeds which it receives from the schools project holding company, Gateway.

Decision

The Education Executive noted the Charity Board's 2012/13 Annual Report and financial position.

Margaret Smith left the meeting during discussion of the foregoing item of business.

EE18. PILOT COMMUNITY HUBS – CAMELON AND DAWSON

The Education Executive considered a Report by the Director of Education which sought approval to establish pilot Community Hubs within Camelon Community Project and the Dawson Community Centre. The Report also sought approval to review and amend the arrangements for the allocation of free community use of schools, community centres and community halls within the Community Hubs.

The Falkirk Council Corporate Plan 2012-2017 states that the Council will 'improve use and access to community facilities and create community hubs'. Education Services are keen to improve services for people living within the Falkirk Council area. The existing community services arrangements within both the Camelon and the Dawson areas do not provide the necessary flexibility to accommodate the need for new services in response to changing community needs.

The Report outlined the background and the current practice and also provided an overview of the proposed pilot Community Hub model.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to approve the proposals for the pilot Community Hubs as outlined in the Report, and

- (2) to receive a further report on the findings of the pilots with recommendations for future action.

EE19. VALEDICTORY REMARKS

The Convener advised that this would be the last meeting which Andrew Sutherland, Director of Education would be attending as he was leaving to take up a new post with North Lanarkshire Council. The Convener thanked Mr Sutherland on behalf of the Education Executive and the Council for his contribution to the work of Education Services, for his positive ethos and wished him all the best for the future. The Committee also heard from Councillor Nimmo, Portfolio holder for Education who congratulated Mr Sutherland on his new appointment and thanked Mr Sutherland for the role he played as Director of Education leaving the Service in good standing. Other members of the Committee also expressed thanks and good wishes to Mr Sutherland.

Mr Sutherland thanked members for their kind words and said that it had been a privilege to work in Falkirk over the past 2 years.