

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2013 at 9.30 AM.

COUNCILLORS:

Malcolm Nicol
Linda Gow
Denis Goldie
Jim Blackwood
Craig Martin (Convener)
Dr Craig R Martin
Alan Nimmo

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF RELIGIOUS
BODIES:**

Margaret Coutts
Hector Cairns
Rev Michael Rollo

CO-OPTEES:

Fiona Craig (Teacher Representative)
Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)
Ross Nixon (Pupil Representative)
Martin Craigen (Parent Representative)

OFFICERS:

Shona Barton, Committee Services Officer
Danny Cairney, Accountancy Services Manager
Crawford Campbell, School Estates Co-ordinator
Steve Dougan, Support Officer
Nigel Fletcher, Joint Acting Director of Education Services
Gary Greenhorn, Joint Acting Director of Education Services
Eileen Hutton, Childcare Provision Co-ordinator
Kenny McNeill, Acting Head of Service Support, Resources and Infrastructure
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
Richard Teed, Senior Forward Planning Officer

ALSO ATTENDING:

Ken Thomson, Principal and Chief Executive, Forth Valley College
Fiona Brown, Head of Curriculum, Quality & Learning Services, Forth Valley College

EE19. APOLOGIES

Councillor G Goldie, Jude Ainsley (Parent Representative) and Marnie Mackay (Pupil Representative).

EE20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

EE21. MINUTE

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 27 August 2013 was approved.

EE22. OPENING REMARKS

The Convener advised that one of the pupil representatives on the Education Executive, Marnie Mackay, was currently attending “Space School” in Houston, Texas. A short message was read out which had been received from Marnie’s mum, and thereafter Members watched a short video message sent by Marnie.

The Executive passed on their congratulations to Marnie.

EE23. SCHOOL/COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

The Education Executive considered a Report by the joint Acting Director of Education which (a) set out the ongoing partnership between Falkirk Education Service and Forth Valley College, and (b) highlighted current and future collaborative projects.

Falkirk Education Service and Forth Valley College have had a close working relationship for a number of years with consortium arrangements being in place since 2001. An average of 300 pupils attend the College each year undertaking study in a range of courses not on offer within their own secondary school.

Ken Thomson and Fiona Brown from Forth Valley College were in attendance and provided an outline of the School/College Partnership and also answered questions from Members.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed to:-

- (1) note the further development of close partnership working between Education Services and Forth Valley College; and**
- (2) approve the strategies which have been adopted to further improve the destination outcomes of young people within Falkirk Council.**

EE24. TRANSPORT ENTITLEMENT UNDER CONTINUED ATTENDANCE

The Education Executive considered a Report by the joint Acting Director of Education which sought agreement to revise the wording of the Transport Policy with respect to Continued Attendance to reflect the current Curriculum for Excellence policy on studying for national qualifications.

The introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence has meant that studies towards national qualifications begin in year stage S4 in all secondary schools from 2013/14. Previously this could take place at year stage S3, and at S2 in schools that offered 'early presentation'.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) the change to the Continued Attendance Policy;**
- (2) the recommended change to the Transport Policy with respect to continued Attendance (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report), and**
- (3) that these changes take place with immediate effect and apply to all new transport requests.**

EE25. SCHOOL ESTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE

The Education Executive considered a Report by the joint Acting Director of Education which highlighted the improvements made across the school estate and summarised (a) major works carried out in financial year 2012/13; (b) the work planned for 2013/14, and (c) the assessment of the current estate, including the condition, suitability and sufficiency ratings of each school.

The School Estate Management Plan (SEMP) is reviewed and updated by the Education Services Property Team annually and is submitted to the Scottish Government together with the annual 'Core Facts' data collection exercise.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed to:-

- (1) note the progress made in the implementation of the School Estate Management Plan (SEMP);**
- (2) note the current condition, suitability and sufficiency ratings, and**
- (3) instruct the joint Acting Director of Education Services to continue the process of implementation, monitoring and review of the plan.**

Councillor Nicol left the meeting during discussion of the foregoing item of business.

EE26. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE BILL EXPANSION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE TO 600 HOURS PER ANNUM

The Education Executive considered a Report by the joint Acting Director of Education which (a) provided information on the Scottish Government's commitment to increase the entitlement to nursery provision for 3 and 4 year olds from 475 to 600 hours from August 2014; (b) informed of the requirements to consult with affected parents on their needs and their potential demand for childcare places, and (c) sought permission to consult parents and other stakeholders on the feasible options for the delivery of the 600 hours.

The report outlined the options available and the potential impact of the increase in provision, and outlined the possible future service delivery options and the proposed consultation arrangements.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed to:-

- (1) note the background information;**
- (2) note the current position and future challenge this change presents Education Services, and**
- (3) proceed with the consultation as outlined in Section 8 within the report, with a report on the findings and recommendations coming back to Education Executive on 4 February 2014.**