

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2014 at 9.30 AM.**

**COUNCILLORS:** Jim Blackwood  
Gerry Goldie  
Linda Gow  
Adrian Mahoney  
Craig Martin  
Dr Craig R Martin  
Malcolm Nicol  
Alan Nimmo

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

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

**OFFICERS:** Shona Barton, Committee Services Officer  
Danny Cairney, Accountancy Services Manager  
Nigel Fletcher, Joint Acting Director of Education  
Gary Greenhorn, Joint Acting Director of Education  
Eileen Hutton, Childcare Provision Co-ordinator  
Kenny McNeill, Acting Head of Service Support, Resources  
and Infrastructure  
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer  
Anne Pearson, Acting Head of Schools/Curriculum Support

**EE30. APOLOGIES**

Councillor D Goldie, Jude Ainsley (Parent Representative), Fiona Craig (Teacher Representative) and Ross Nixon (Pupil Representative).

**EE31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

**EE32. MINUTE**

**Decision**

The minutes of meeting of the Education Executive held on 29 October 2013, and the special meeting of the Education Executive held on 16 December 2013 were approved.

### **EE33. REPORT BACK ON THE FINDINGS OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE 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) informed of the results of the consultation exercise undertaken in relation to the expansion of early learning and childcare to 600 hours per annum, and (b) outlined the proposals and made recommendations for implementing the changes to existing service provision and delivery from August 2014.

As part of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill, the Scottish Government proposes to introduce an additional 125 hours per annum of early learning and childcare provision as from August 2014. The Education Executive, at the meeting on 29 October 2013, agreed that a consultation be undertaken by Education Services on the options for families and children to access these extra hours.

#### **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed:-**

- 1) to note the contents of the responses contained within the consultation report attached as Appendix 1 of the report;**
- 2) to endorse the proposals of Education Services to implement option 2 as detailed in section 5.1 of the report;**
- 3) to note that the Nursery Education Admissions Policy will be reviewed and submitted to the Education Executive for approval in due course;**
- 4) that Education Services will provide a further report to Education Executive in April 2014 providing:**
  - an implementation update**
  - details of the proposed capital investment, and**
- 5) that Education Services will carry out a further consultation early in 2015 as set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report.**

Councillor Gow entered the meeting during discussion of the foregoing item of business.

### **EE34. LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2014-17**

The Education Executive considered a report by the joint Acting Director of Education which presented for approval the draft Local Improvement Priorities for the 3 year period 2014-17.

The report outlined the background to the planning process, including providing information on the consultation process and how the priorities will contribute to the council's corporate goals. Information was also provided on how each of the individual priorities will be developed and used by schools to develop individual plans. The priorities will also be incorporated into the Service Improvement Plan for 2014-17 which will be presented to the council's Performance Panel at the appropriate time.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed to endorse the draft Local Improvement Priorities for Education for inclusion in the Education Services Performance Plan for 2014-17.**

## **EE35. POLITICAL LITERACY AND THE REFERENDUM ON INDEPENDENCE FOR SCOTLAND**

The Education Executive considered a report by the joint Acting Director of Education which set out how Education Services and Falkirk schools plan to address the issues of political literacy and the referendum on independence for Scotland.

Political literacy is an important component of the Curriculum for Excellence and is central to citizenship education. The issue of political literacy has been given added significance by the referendum on independence for Scotland which will take place on 18 September 2014 as 16 and 17 year olds will be entitled to vote. A strategy paper has been developed to assist schools in developing political literacy amongst pupils and prepare them for the referendum. The strategy paper was attached as an appendix to the report for approval.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed to:-**

- 1) note the Curriculum for Excellence Briefing 14 and the guidance 'Political literacy and the referendum on independence for Scotland', and**
- 2) approve the strategy paper 'Educating Young People for the Referendum in Falkirk Schools'.**