

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 29 APRIL 2014 at 9.30 AM.

COUNCILLORS:

Jim Blackwood
Dennis Goldie
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:

Fiona Craig (Teacher Representative)
Martin Craigen (Parent Representative)
Marnie McKay (Pupil Representative)
Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)

OFFICERS:

Margaret Anderson, Director of Social Work Services
Shona Barton, Committee Services Officer
Danny Cairney, Accountancy Services Manager
Elaine Costello, Acting Head of Service (Individual and Additional Support)
Nigel Fletcher, Joint Acting Director of Education
Gary Greenhorn, Joint Acting Director of Education
Eileen Hutton, Childcare Provision Co-ordinator
Kathy McCarroll, Head of Children and Families and Criminal Justice
Kenny McNeill, Acting Head of Service (Support, Resources and Infrastructure)
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
Richard Teed, Senior Forward Planning Officer

EE1. MINUTE'S SILENCE

The Convener expressed his shock at the news that Ann Maguire, a teacher at a school in Leeds, had been killed while teaching a lesson. The Education Executive observed a minute's silence in her memory.

EE2. VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Convener varied the order of business. The following items have been recorded in the order that they were taken at the meeting.

EE3. APOLOGIES

None.

EE4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

EE5. MINUTE

Decision

The minutes of meeting of the Education Executive held on 4 February 2014 were approved.

EE6. REQUEST TO UNDERTAKE A FORMAL CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE ADMISSIONS POLICY

The Education Executive considered a report by the Joint Acting Director of Education which (a) provided details surrounding the proposal to make changes to the Falkirk Council Admissions Policy, and (b) requested permission to carry out a formal consultation in accordance with the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010.

The report provided the background to the proposals, the proposed changes to the Admissions Policy and the implications of the changes. Also outlined in the report were the legislative considerations and the arrangements for the statutory consultation process.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) that the appropriate consultation, as required by the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, takes place on both of the proposals to change the Council's Admission's Policy as outlined in Section 3 of the report, and
- (2) that the result of the consultation would be reported back to the Education Executive with an appropriate recommendation.

EE7. THE CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014

The Education Executive considered a joint report by the Director of Social Work Services and the Joint Acting Director of Education which provided information on the content of the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act and outlined the potential implications and areas for development required to meet this legislation.

The report provided background to the Bill which received Royal Assent on 27 March 2014. Information on the key elements of the Act were outlined in the report along with detail on the areas where there would be implications for the Council.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the implications and resource issues related to the Act, as well as future policy implications;**
- (2) to note the publication of the guidance which will help to clarify expected practice, and**
- (3) to request that the Director of Social Work Services and the Acting Director of Education provide a further report to the Education Executive once the above aspects and expected impact are clearer.**

Councillor D Goldie entered the meeting during discussion of the preceding item of business.

Councillor Dr C R Martin declared a financial interest in the following item of business as he would financially benefit from the changes in childcare hours and considered that this required him to recuse himself from consideration of the item having regard to the objective text in the Code of Conduct. Thereafter, he left the meeting.

EE8. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF 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) provided an update on the implementation of the 600 hours of early learning and childcare per annum; (b) detailed the updated implementation strategy; (c) outlined the plans to increase capacity and staffing to meet Phase 1 of the implementation from August 2014, and (d) detailed the proposed planned capital investment schedule.

The report provided detailed information on the implementation strategy for Phase 1, including a summary of current early years provision and the plans by the service to address the shortfalls which have been identified. Information was also provided on the staffing implications and the capital and resource implications. The report also outlined the plans announced by the Scottish Government to extend the requirement to provide 600 hours of early learning and childcare to 2 year olds from workless households from August 2014, and to extend this further to 2 year olds from families eligible for free school meals from August 2015

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) to note the current strategy and implementation plan;**
- (2) to approve the core session time (2 hours 45 minutes) as set out in section 4.1 of the report;**
- (3) the proposals of Education Services to address the shortfall in provision as detailed in section 6 of the report;**
- (4) to note the revenue and capital resource implications as detailed in section 7,8 and 9 and summarised in section 11 of the report;**
- (5) to note the Government's announcement to include the same provision for 2 year olds from workless households;**
- (6) to endorse the next steps/way forward as set out in section 13 of the report, and**
- (7) that Education Services provide a further report to Education Executive on 17 June 2014 providing a further implementation update and details of the Government's announcement on 2 year olds from workless households (Phase 2).**