

DRAFT

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2014 at 9.30 AM.

COUNCILLORS:

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

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF RELIGIOUS
BODIES:**

Hector Cairns
Margaret Coutts
Rev Michael Rollo

CO-OPTEES:

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

OFFICERS:

Alex Black, Quality Improvement Manager
Danny Cairney, Accountancy Services Manager
Crawford Campbell, Schools Estate Co-ordinator
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
Antonia Sobieraj, Committee Services Officer

EE19. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor D Goldie.

EE20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point in the meeting.

EE21. MINUTE

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 17 June 2014 was approved.

EE22. SCHOOL ESTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN – PROGRESS UPDATE

The Education Executive considered a report by the Joint Acting Director of Education on the progress made during 2013/2014 on the School Estate Management Plan (SEMP). This followed a brief visual presentation of the school estate.

The report outlined that SEMP was a key strategic document which supported the Council's Corporate Asset Plan to secure best value and to demonstrate sound management of the Education school property portfolio. Information was also highlighted on the improvements made across the school estate and summarised the major works carried out during that year, the work planned for 2014/15 and the assessment of the current estate, including the condition, suitability and sufficiency ratings of each school.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted**
 - (a) the progress made in the implementation of the School Estate Management Plan (SEMP); and**
 - (b) the current condition, suitability and sufficiency ratings; and**
- (2) agreed to instruct the Director of Education to continue the process of implementation, monitoring and review of the plan.**

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.

Councillor G Goldie left the meeting during consideration of the following item of business.

EE23. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXPANSION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE TO 600HRS PER ANNUM

The Education Executive considered a report by the Joint Acting Director of Education which (a) provided an update on the implementation of Phase 1 for the increase in the entitlement to nursery provision for 3 and 4 year olds from 475 to 600 hours from August 2014 in accordance with the Scottish Government's commitment; and (b) sought approval for commencing the implementation of Phase 2 for 2 year olds from workless families from 31 October 2014.

The report outlined the completion of the expansion of Kinnaird and Maddiston Primary School nursery classes providing up to 60 places, that all nursery classes now provided 3 hours 10 minutes per day in expanded provision and with associated capital investment in all wards.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

(1) noted:-

- (a) the updated position on meeting Phase 1 of the Implementation Plan as detailed in section 2 the report;**
- (b) the eligibility criteria as detailed in section 4 of the report;**
- (c) the estimated additional capacity required for 2 year olds from workless households as detailed in section 6 of the report; and**
- (d) the additional capital and revenue funding received as detailed in section 8.1 of the report; and**

(2) agreed:-

- (a) the proposals of Education Services to commence implementation of Phase 2 of the expanded provision for 2 year olds from “workless or job seeking households” as detailed in section 3 of the report;**
- (b) that Service Plans meet the estimated shortfall as detailed in section 7 of the report;**
- (c) that proposed revenue and capital expenditure, including staff recruitment as detailed in section 8.2 and 8.3 of the report; and**
- (d) the next steps/way forward as detailed in section 10 of the report.**

Councillor Dr C R Martin re-entered the meeting following consideration of the foregoing item of business.

EE24. PROVISION OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN P1-3 IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Education Executive considered a report by the Joint Acting Director of Education which (a) confirmed the Scottish Government commitment that all children with P1 to 3 with primary schools would be eligible to receive free school meals from January 2015; and (b) provided information on the Education Service's plans to implement the initiative whilst highlighting the challenges ahead.

The report outlined:-

- the current provision of the schools meals service and the associated uptake levels;
- the Government assumptions within their initial baseline calculations;
- the challenges for the Council in relation to the implementation of proposals including calculating the additional meals required and meeting the increased food production and dining room capacities; and
- the Scottish Government revenue and capital funding available and the revenue and capital costs to be incurred by the Council.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted the content of the report; and
- (2) agreed that Education Services progress the rollout and implementation of free school meals for all P1-P3 pupils from January 2015, within the revenue and capital resources available.

EE25. ATTAINMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Education Executive considered a report by the Joint Acting Director of Education reporting on the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) attainment and achievement within Falkirk Council secondary schools in 2014.

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 and changes to the appeals process. The report also outlined the future actions and strategies which were being put in place to further improve attainment levels and performance.

Decision

The Education Executive noted the SQA attainment within secondary schools and the strategies outlined within the report further improve performance.