

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a sailing ship on the water. The top-right quadrant shows a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a beaver. The bottom-right quadrant shows a grizzly bear. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom of the shield contains the motto "A NE FOR A".

Agenda Item 3

Minute

Draft

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Minute of meeting of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 7 November 2017 at 9.30 am.

COUNCILLORS:

David Alexander
Gary Bouse
Fiona Collie
Paul Garner
Dennis Goldie
Gordon Hughes
Adanna McCue
Cecil Meiklejohn (Convener)
John Patrick
Robert Spears

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF RELIGIOUS
BODIES:**

Rev Michael Rollo
Maureen Tait

CO-OPTES:

Margaret Smith (Teacher Representative)

OFFICERS:

Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning and Resources
David Mackay, Head of Education
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
Stuart Murray, Trainee Governance Assistant
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive
Karen Thomson, Childcare Provision Co-ordinator

EE16. Apologies

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Provost Coleman, Councillor Nimmo and Fiona Craig (Teacher Representative).

EE17. Convener's Remarks

Councillor Meiklejohn advised that she had received Dr Brendan McGuckin's resignation as the representative of the Roman Catholic Church on the Education Executive. She acknowledged Dr McGuckin's valuable contribution to the Education Executive and wished him every success in his academic career.

EE18. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

EE19. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 5 September 2017 was approved.

EE20. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 5 September 2017 was provided.

Decision

The Education Executive noted the rolling action log.

EE21. Regional Collaborative

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services detailing the proposals for the establishment of Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RIC) for Education, which were agreed by COSLA and the Scottish Government on 29 September 2017, following work undertaken during the summer, by a joint local government steering group.

A report by the Joint Steering Group setting out the interim conclusions of its work to date, the scope of the intended work of RICs, and the guiding principles and functions of the RICs was attached as an appendix to the report.

Information was provided on work to establish a RIC between Falkirk, Clackmannanshire, Stirling and West Lothian Councils, which will be named Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement Collaborative.

The report detailed the requirement to appointment a Regional Lead Officer from within the existing workforce of the participating councils and the work undertaken to progress this secondment. Falkirk Council's Director of Children's Services had been appointed Regional Lead Officer for the Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement Collaborative.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) agreed that Falkirk Council's Children's Services enters into a Regional Improvement Collaborative for Education with Clackmannanshire, Stirling and West Lothian Councils;**

- (2) noted that this Regional Improvement Collaborative will be named the Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement Collaborative;**
- (3) noted that the Chief Executives of the four councils and the Chief Inspector of HMiE have jointly agreed to second the Director of Children's Services to the role of Lead Officer for the Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement Collaborative;**
- (4) agreed that a launch event will be arranged to involve representatives of the four participating councils;**
- (5) agreed that the Regional Lead Officer submit a further report to the next meeting of the Education Executive detailing the initial agreed areas of focus for the work of the collaborative; and**
- (6) agreed that the Director of Children's Services will arrange a briefing session for all elected members on the establishment of Regional Improvement Collaboratives for Education.**

EE22. Early Learning & Childcare – Expansion Plan

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services presenting the Council's proposed Early Years and Childcare (ELC) Expansion Plan to deliver 1140 hours of ELC provision by 2020. The report summarised the impact and future challenges for Children's Services to ensure delivery of the expansion plan.

Falkirk Council's Strategic Expansion Plan was attached as an appendix to the report which had been submitted to the Scottish Government, by the deadline of 29 September 2017.

The Strategic Expansion Plan sets out the background and strategic aims, the summary of consultations undertaken, the proposals for future ELC delivery model, and the phased implementation of the plan.

Decision

The Education Executive:

- (1) endorsed Falkirk's high level Strategic Expansion Plan as submitted to the Scottish Government (as per Appendix 1);**

- (2) agreed the Strategic approach taken and model adopted to expand ELC provision within Falkirk;**
- (3) noted that the ELC Expansion Plan will be the subject of on-going discussions with the Scottish Government, the Scottish Futures Trust and the Improvement Service, and**
- (4) agreed that the Director of Children's Services provide regular updates to the Education Executive on plans and progress with ELC expansion as they develop.**

EE23. Education Governance – Response to Scottish Government's Consultation on Fair Funding

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services summarising the main points contained in Falkirk Council's response to the Scottish Government's Consultation on "Fair Funding to Achieve Excellence and Equity in Education".

The consultation sought views on the Scottish Government's future approach to school funding, including the way education is currently funded, the purpose of developing a new more consistent approach to school funding and the principles underpinning any changes. Views were also sought on the possible future approaches to govern school funding, and the support, accountability and reporting mechanisms to allow greater responsibility for funding decisions to be devolved to Headteachers.

Decision

The Education Executive:

- (1) endorsed the Consultation response submitted to the Scottish Government (at Appendix 1), and**
- (2) requested that the Director of Children's Services keep the Education Executive informed of any key outcomes from this Consultation.**

Councillor Goldie left the meeting after consideration of the previous items.

EE24. Education Portfolio Holder's Remarks

Councillor McCue advised the Education Executive of achievements by Falkirk Council schools over the last month:-

- Bo'ness Academy had been shortlisted and had made the final 3, for the Education Initiative of the Year Award at the Herald Society Awards.
- Larbert and Graeme High Schools, together with Forth Valley College and Police Scotland had been shortlisted for Partnership of the Year at this year's SQA Awards and had received a "Highly Commended".
- St Francis Primary School had been nominated and won first prize in the Central FM Pride of Forth Valley School of the Year Award.
- Kinneil Primary School had won first prize in a UK wide competition to mark the 75th anniversary of the Famous Five Books. This had been run in partnership by Microsoft and Hachette, the publishers of Enid Blyton's books.

EE25. Attainment in Falkirk Secondary Schools (2017)

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update from the initial publication of Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) attainment in Falkirk Secondary Schools, which had previously been noted by the Education Executive on 5 September (ref EX15).

The report expanded on pupil attainment gained through college courses and non-SQA providers. It also provided for comparisons with a virtual comparator authority (VC), and with the Scottish national averages, in various measures.

Details were provided on Falkirk Council schools' pupil attainment levels in various measures for the last 4 years. These measures, together with the percentage Scottish index of multiple deprivation decile, for comparison purposes, were broken down to school level in appendix 1 to the report.

Decision

The Education Executive:

- (1) noted the SCQF1 attainment of Falkirk Council secondary schools over time and in relation to the VC and national average in various measures, and**
- (2) agreed that a future report will be presented to the Education Executive in spring 2018, to take account of updated leavers' data and attainment in relation to areas of deprivation within Falkirk.**