

#### **EE34. Early Learning and Childcare – 2020 Expansion Plan**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services detailing feedback from recent liaison meetings with the Scottish Government's Early Years Team and the proposed updates and changes to Children's Services Strategic Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion Plan.

Officers from Children's Services met with the Scottish Government's Early Years Team (SGEYT) to discuss and review the Council's initial Strategic ELC Expansion Plan.

After meeting with the 32 local authorities, the Scottish Government issued further guidance. This confirmed that due to significant differences between initial revenue and capital cost estimates, local authorities required to review and re-assess their initial plans.

Following feedback from SGEYT and the guidance issued, Children's Services reviewed the Council's existing expansion plans. The amendments proposed reflect the need to have additional infrastructure capacity to enable parents to have a reasonable and proportionate level of flexible choice options. The various options proposed were detailed in the appendix to the report.

Local authorities require to re-submit expansion plan information and data by 9 February 2018.

#### **Decision**

##### **The Education Executive:-**

- (1) noted the feedback on recent liaison meetings held with the Scottish Government's Early Years Team;**
- (2) agreed the proposed changes to be made to the Strategic ELC Expansion Plan, and**
- (3) agreed that the Director of Children's Services submits further data as requested by the Scottish Government and provides regular updates to the Education Executive on plans and progress with ELC expansion plans as they develop.**