

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the Coat of Arms of the City of Edinburgh. The crest includes a crown with four thistles, a shield divided into four quarters (a saltire, a stag's head, a ship, and an eagle), and a motto scroll at the bottom.

# **Agenda Item 3**

## **Minute**

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Minute of meeting of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 10 April 2018 at 9.30 am.**

**COUNCILLORS:**

David Alexander  
Robert Bissett  
Paul Garner  
Dennis Goldie (Convener)  
Nigel Harris  
Gordon Hughes  
James Kerr  
Adanna McCue  
Cecil Meiklejohn  
Malcolm Nicol  
Alan Nimmo

**REPRESENTATIVES  
OF RELIGIOUS  
BODIES:**

Rev Michael Rollo  
Maureen Tait

**CO-OPTEES:**

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  
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services  
Karen Thomson, Childcare Provision Co-ordinator

**EE1. Apologies**

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillor Coombes; Fiona Craig (Teacher Representative) and Karen Procek, (Parent Representative).

**EE2. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

**EE3. Minute**

**Decision**

**The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 23 January 2018 was approved.**

#### **EE4. Rolling Action Log**

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 23 January 2018 was provided.

##### **Decision**

**The Education Executive noted the rolling action log.**

#### **EE5. Autism Spectrum Disorder and Language and Communication Support Bases Developments**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided a further update on proposals for the development of the expansion of provision for children and young people who have social and communication difficulties including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and, the options which have been considered to meet their needs.

The report provided information on the existing additional support facilities within Falkirk Council for pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN) and ASD, which have a greater population than originally planned. In order to both meet the increased demands and reduce the number of children attending these existing provisions in future, an increase capacity for ASD provision is required in other geographic areas. Statutory consultation had taken place in 2017 in relation to the proposed expansion.

To enable children with ASN to be educated as close to their home and community as reasonably possible, whilst meeting their educational support needs, Easter Carmuir's Primary School and Larbert High School had been identified for expansion. Both establishments will require internal work to develop the learning spaces to accommodate the new resources. Details of additional staff requirements and staff development proposals were also set out.

##### **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed:-**

- (1) to increase capacity for Autism Spectrum Disorder provision by creating specialist classes within Easter Carmuir's Primary School and Larbert High School from August 2018, and**
- (2) that Children's Services undertake further work to assess the impact that the current expansion plans would have on the need to provide further specialist classes in the future.**

## **EE6. Early Learning and Childcare – 2020 Expansion Plan**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the work that has taken place to revise and re-profile Falkirk Council's Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion Plans.

The report set out an updated summary of the key demographic, financial and statistical information currently being projected and estimated as part of the ELC expansion programme.

Reference was made to a number of factors which required the initial ELC expansion plans to be revised. The revised financial timetable, reflecting the revised expansion plans was submitted to the Scottish Government.

In order to meet the projected demand and in light of recent Scottish Government guidance, delivery options have been revised to provide 5 different models, which are summarised in Appendix 1 to the report.

Information was provided in relation to workforce expansion, with growth in the ELC sector and within catering and cleaning services. Details on the expansion of school meal provision was also provided.

An update on the Scottish Government's timeframe for funding announcements in respect of revenue and capital financial resources from 2018/19 to 2020/21 was also provided. A summary of the agreed proposed projects for years 1 & 2 was set out in Appendix 2.

Details of the current and proposed amendments to the Council's ELC Admissions Policy (Criteria for Allocating Early Learning and Childcare Places) was appended as Appendix 4 to the report.

### **Decision**

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

- (1) agreed the Children's Services updated plans for Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion;**
- (2) noted the updated information used for financial planning and projections;**
- (3) agreed the proposals for 5 delivery models as outlined in Appendix 1(i) to the report;**
- (4) agreed that the Director of Children's Services can, once the 2018/19 capital funding is known, select and proceed with the expansion projects proposed for 2018/19 as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;**

- (5) agreed that the Director of Children's Services earmark £0.27m from the 2018/19 revenue funding to provide additional staffing resources within Support Teams;**
- (6) agreed that the Director of Children's Services continues to provide regular updates to the Education Executive on plans and progress with the ELC expansion project as they develop;**
- (7) requested a report on details of the future years revenue and capital funding once it is announced;**
- (8) agreed the changes to the ELC Admissions Policy as outlined in Appendix 4 to the report, and**
- (9) requested a report for the next meeting of the Education Executive on the provision of school meals during holiday periods for children who are entitled to free school meals.**

**EE7. Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) - Attainment in Falkirk in 2016/2017**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services advising on the attainment of young people leaving Falkirk Council's secondary schools in 2016/17 and focuses solely on point of exit data.

The report sets out the performance information for Falkirk Council secondary schools, benchmarked against the national average and a virtual comparator, made up of pupils from other local authorities who have the same characteristics as pupils in Falkirk Council schools.

The data included attainment in literacy and numeracy as well as leaver destination information for senior pupils exiting their education, variously at the end of S4, S5 and S6.

**Decision**

**The Education Executive:-**

- (1) noted Falkirk Council secondary school leavers' results for 2016/17, and**
- (2) requested that the Director of Children's Services to continue to engage with schools on tracking and monitoring pupil's progress, and with partners in planning for positive leaver destinations.**

## **EE8. Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement Collaborative – Progress Report**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the work of the Regional Improvement Collaborative for Education involving Falkirk, Clackmannanshire, Stirling and West Lothian Councils.

The initial plan was submitted to the Scottish Government and Education Scotland at the end of January 2018. The plan outlined the actions to progress work in the five themed areas. Work has already begun to develop phase 2 of the Improvement Plan which is required to be submitted by 3 September 2018.

Education Scotland has commented on the significant progress made in taking forward the identified work streams and on updating and further developing the work of the collaborative.

Officers from across the four councils are continuing to develop more detailed plans and further engage with stakeholders on developing activities and interventions for improvement, in the five themed areas.

### **Decision**

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

- (1) noted the progress made to date in establishing the Regional Collaborative, and**
- (2) requested that the Regional Lead Officer submit a further report to the next meeting of the Education Executive detailing further progress.**