



# **Agenda Item 3**

**Minute**

**Draft**

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Minute of meeting of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 29 May 2018 at 9.30 am.**

**COUNCILLORS:** David Alexander  
Robert Bissett  
Fiona Collie  
Joan Coombes  
Dennis Goldie (Convener)  
Nigel Harris  
James Kerr  
Adanna McCue  
Cecil Meiklejohn  
Laura Murtagh  
Alan Nimmo  
John Patrick

**REPRESENTATIVES  
OF RELIGIOUS  
BODIES:** Maureen Harkins  
Rev Michael Rollo  
Maureen Tait

**CO-OPTÉES:** Nicola Jordan, Parent Representative  
Karen Procek, Parent Representative  
Margaret Smith, Teacher Representative

**OFFICERS:** Sally Buchanan, Fairer Falkirk Manager  
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

**EE9. Opening Remarks**

The Convener welcomed Maureen Harkins and Karen Procek to their first meeting of the Education Executive.

He advised that this would be the last meeting which Margaret Smith would be attending, as she was retiring from Falkirk Council. The Convener thanked Margaret on behalf of the Education Executive for her contribution to the work of the Education Executive. Other members of the Education Executive also expressed thanks and good wishes to Margaret.

Margaret Smith responded by stating that it had been an honour and a privilege being a member of the previous Education Committee and latterly, Education Executive.

#### **EE10. Apologies**

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Fiona Craig (Teacher Representative).

#### **EE11. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

#### **EE12. Minute**

##### **Decision**

**The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 10 April 2018 was approved.**

#### **EE13. Rolling Action Log**

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 10 April 2018 was provided.

##### **Decision**

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

#### **EE14. Education Executive Membership**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services advising of the appointment of Maureen Harkins as the Roman Catholic Church representative on the Education Executive.

Notification of Mrs Harkins appointment had been received from the Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, following the resignation of the previous representative.

The report referred to the decision of Council on 12 May to extend the remit of the Education Executive to include all non education functions of Children's Services. However, this decision did not extend voting rights to the religious representatives on these matters.

##### **Decision**

**The Education Executive noted the appointment of Maureen Harkins as the representative of the Roman Catholic Church on the Education Executive, with effect from 18 April 2018 until the next local government elections in 2022.**

## **EE15. Provision of Meals During Holidays for Children Entitled to Free School Meals**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided information, options and assessment around providing meals for children, entitled to free school meals during school holiday periods.

Information was provided on the current holiday food programme which was developed during 2017/18 by the Council and key partners. A multi-faceted approach was taken in order to deliver a number of initiatives which aimed to provide children and their families with food, when school meals would not be available. The current approach also ensured that children were not only provided with food, but had access to additional benefits and activities.

Due to the success of the holiday programme, work is ongoing to expand and provide similar initiatives during 2018.

The report also highlighted the issues and challenges which would require to be considered if the Council were to provide a free school meal for all those who were eligible, during the summer holiday period.

Councillor McCue, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn, moved that the Education Executive:-

- (1) notes the success of the 2017/18 holiday meal programme;
- (2) notes the challenges outlined should Members wish to adopt a more universally targeted provision, and
- (3) agrees that the current plans for the 2018/19 holiday meal programme continue and that a report is presented at a future date evaluating the outcomes.

By way of an amendment, Councillor Nimmo, seconded by Councillor Bissett, moved that the Education Executive:-

- (1) notes the great success of the Labour Holiday Meal programme as detailed in the report;
- (2) agrees that the current plans for 2018/19 continues, and
- (3) instructs Officers to bring forward an options report in relation to a pilot providing hot meals to all Primary School children during the school holiday periods (including Public/Bank Holidays/In Training days etc.) This is to be brought to the next meeting of the Education Executive on 4 September 2018. The report should include all the appropriate financial/accommodation information to support such a venture.

In terms of Standing Order 22.1, the vote was taken by roll call, there being 12 members and 3 religious representatives present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (9) – Councillors Alexander, Collie, Harris, McCue, Meiklejohn, Murtagh and Patrick; M Harkins and M Tait.

For the amendment (6) – Councillors Bissett, Coombes, Goldie, Kerr and Nimmo; and Rev M Rollo.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed the motion.**

## **EE16. Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) – 2020 Expansion Plan**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update of the overall funding package agreed for both revenue and capital expenditure up to 2021-22. The report also set out Children's Services infrastructure expansion plans for 2019-20 (Year 3) and 2020-21 (Year 4).

Confirmation of the overall capital and revenue funding allocation for the whole project was set out, and which now allowed Children's and Development Services' teams to progress with the expansion plans for years 1 & 2 (2017/18 & 2018/19).

Proposals on the remaining infrastructure expansion plans for years 3 and 4 (2019/20 & 2020/21) were set out in appendix 1 to the report.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive:-**

- (1) noted the overall quantum of financial resources allocated;**
- (2) agreed proposals for infrastructure expansion for years 3 and 4; 2019/20 and 2020/21 (as outlined at Appendix 1 of the report), and**
- (3) requested that the Director of Children's Services continues to provide the Education Executive with regular updates on the progress made with the ELC expansion plans.**

## **EE17. Exclusion Guidelines and Procedures, Service Circular No. 10**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services presenting, for consideration, a revised policy on Exclusion Guidelines and Procedures for Children's Services, which was attached as Annex 1.

The policy was last agreed in 2012 and had been updated to align with Children's Services, which was formed in 2015.

The report set out the amendments to the revised guidance which complied more effectively with the legislation on education, exclusion and the Equality Act 2010. An overview of the amendments were set out in Annex 2 to the report.

Following the issue of updated guidance from the Scottish Government, "Included Engaged and Involved Part 2", it was anticipated that the policy would be revised further and thereafter submitted to the Education Executive in 2019.

## **Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed:-**

- (1) the revised Exclusion Guidelines and Procedures Policy as set out in Annex 1 to the report, and**
- (2) that the Director of Children's Services present a revised policy to the Education Executive in 2019 incorporating the latest best practice guidance from Education Scotland.**

## **EE18. Motion**

On 9 May 2018, and in accordance with Standing Order 31.1, Council referred the following motion proposed by Councillor Collie, to the Education Executive:-

### **Family Cap**

Council notes with concern the implementation of the two child limit for tax credits for children born after 05/04/17 and for new claims for Universal Credit, and in particular notes concerns over the so-called "rape clause" which, in order to receive financial support for a third child, forces women to disclosure sexual violence at a time and context not of their own choosing.

Council therefore agrees to:

- (1) write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the concern of members of Falkirk Council and seek assurances that comprehensive equality impact assessment, fully exploring the impact of the family cap and the cumulative impact of social security changes on women, children, families and equality groups, have been carried out and that impact will continue to be closely monitored;
- (2) write to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities to seek assurances that the Scottish Government will commission ongoing national and local analysis of the impact of the family cap on key shared policy priorities such as equality, in work poverty, child poverty and health and wellbeing outcomes; and
- (3) instruct the Chief Executive to ensure the training needs of Falkirk Council staff across all departments are considered, in particular for advice and social work, to be able to approach the issue of non consensual conception of a third child with women who are making benefit claims, including appropriate referral routes, and any additional resources that required to be allocated or commissioned; and provide this report to the next full Council.

In terms of Standing Order 31.2, Councillor Collie spoke in support of her motion.

Councillor Collie, seconded by Councillor Murtagh, moved the terms of the motion.

**Decision**

**The Education Executive agreed the motion.**