

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 city skyline with a diagonal beam of light. The top-right quadrant depicts a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a three-masted sailing ship on wavy water. The bottom-right quadrant features a grizzly bear standing on a rocky outcrop. 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 4 September 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
John Patrick

**REPRESENTATIVES
OF RELIGIOUS
BODIES:**

Maureen Harkins
Rev Michael Rollo

CO-OPTEES:

Alice Dunn, Pupil Representative
Aaron Laurie, Pupil Representative
Karen Procek, Parent Representative

OFFICERS:

Michelle Brown, Community Education Worker
Tracey Fox, Data Project Officer
Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning and Resources
Sara Lacey, Head of Social Work Children's Services
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive
David Mackay, Head of Education
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services
Karen Thomson, Childcare Provision Co-ordinator

EE19. Apologies

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillor Nimmo; Maureen Tait, Religious Representative; Fiona Craig, Teacher Representative, and Nicola Jordan, Parent Representative.

EE20. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

EE21. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 29 May 2018 was approved.

EE22. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 29 May 2018 was provided.

Decision

The Education Executive noted the rolling action log.

EE23. Education Executive Membership – Pupil Representatives

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services seeking approval of the process to appoint pupil representatives to the Education Executive and to make appointments to the two vacancies.

Children's Services had proposed a selection process where each secondary Headteacher would nominate two pupil representatives on an annual basis. Each secondary school would nominate on a rotational basis, allowing representation from each secondary school and giving more pupils an opportunity to participate in the Education Executive.

Falkirk High School had nominated two pupils, Alice Dunn and Aaron Laurie as the representatives for this year.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) the selection process as set out in paragraphs 4.1 & 4.2 of the report, and**
- (2) to appoint Alice Dunn and Aaron Laurie as the two pupil representatives on the Education Executive, for a period of one year, with immediate effect.**

The Education Executive welcomed Alice and Aaron to their first meeting.

EE24. Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement Collaborative – Progress Report and Update on the Scottish Government “Empowering Schools” Agenda

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. It also provided an update on the Scottish Government’s Empowering Schools agenda and its decision not to progress the draft Education (Scotland) Bill, at this time.

Work between the four authorities had continued to develop approaches and strategies to support schools and a Development Officer had been appointed to assist development of the Phase 2 Regional Collaborative Improvement Plan. The draft Phase 2 plan had been submitted to Education Scotland, and was circulated as Appendix 5 to the report.

Information was provided on the impact of the Scottish Government’s decision not to introduce the Education (Scotland) Bill at this time, and to an agreement that local government would deliver the Headteacher’s Charter, meaningful school empowerment, collaboration, and pupil and parent participation across Scotland.

Additional targeted funding of £46m would be available over 3 years, £10m of which would be allocated to support the six regional improvement collaboratives. A bidding approach would be developed for each regional improvement collaborative to access this funding.

It was anticipated that the pace of progress would increase once additional staffing resources were received from Education Scotland and funding was received from the Scottish Government.

The Education Executive adjourned at 9.50 a.m. to consider the contents of Appendix 5, which had been made available at the start of the meeting, and reconvened at 10.25 a.m. with all Members present as per the sederunt.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted the letter received from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education (attached as appendix 1 to the report) which intimated that the Scottish Government had published a draft Education (Scotland) Bill but that it would not be introduced to Parliament at this time;**
- (2) noted the Education Reform – Joint Agreement reached between the Scottish Government and COSLA (attached as appendix 2 to the report) and referenced in the letter detailed above;**

- (3) noted the joint statement made by the Scottish Government and COSLA regarding the Joint Agreement (attached as appendix 3 to the report);
- (4) noted that the Cabinet Secretary, in his statement to Parliament on 26 June 2018, announced that up to £10m would be made available to enhance regional capacity to support schools (the full statement is attached as appendix 4 of the report);
- (5) noted the appointment of the Regional Improvement Collaborative Development Officer;
- (6) noted the Phase 2 Forth Valley and West Lothian (FVWL) Improvement Collaborative Plan which was submitted to Education Scotland on 3 September 2018, attached as appendix 5 to the report, and
- (7) agreed that the Director of Children's Services provide further reports to the Education Executive which detail:-
 - i. feedback received from Education Scotland on the Phase 2 Regional Improvement Plan;
 - ii. the allocation of support to be received from Education Scotland officers;
 - iii. the level of financial support the FVWL Collaborative will receive from the Scottish Government, and
 - iv. the arrangements for evaluating progress regarding the Headteachers' Charter, Parental and Community Engagement, and Pupil Participation.

EE25. National Improvement Framework (NIF) Education Plan

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services informing of the new arrangements regarding the National Improvement Framework (NIF) and seeking its approval for submission to the Scottish Government.

The NIF was updated annually to reflect the changing local and national priorities. The Council's second draft NIF was appended to the report and outlined Children's Services three high level areas for improvement, together with a number of initiatives to be progressed over the coming year.

The plan also linked to the key priorities and outcomes of the Single Outcome Local Delivery Plan, draft Corporate Plan and the Integrated Children's Services Plan.

The draft plan was submitted to the Scottish Government by the deadline of 31 August, with a covering note advising that this would be considered by the Education Executive at this meeting.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) the National Improvement Framework Plan 2018-2019 for submission to the Scottish Government, and**
- (2) that the Director of Children's Services bring back a report evaluating its impact in November 2019.**

EE26. Specialist Education for Social and Behavioural Needs for Primary and Secondary School Pupils

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services seeking approval to combine and rename Oxbang School Support Service and Mariner Secondary School Support Service into a single Inclusion and Wellbeing Support Service (3-18).

The Service's current configuration required to be adapted to reflect the changing demographics in the population of children in Falkirk, and to ensure the Council continued to meet its statutory obligation.

Realigning the current educational provision would provide greater opportunities to build capacity across the service, to develop new and innovative approaches to support, particularly from primary to secondary transition for pupils with social and behavioural needs.

In terms of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, there was no requirement to conduct a formal consultation as both establishments would retain their school SEED status. However, in line with Council policy, Children's Services would undertake an informal consultation with all key stakeholders on the renaming of the Service.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) that Children's Services progress with the informal consultation regarding the proposal to combine and re-name both Oxbang School Support Service and Mariner Secondary Support Service to form the Inclusion and Wellbeing Support Service (3-18), and**
- (2) that the Director of Children's Services bring a report to the Education Executive summarising the outcomes of this consultation and make recommendations.**

EE27. Scottish Attainment Challenge Fund (SACF) – Additional Support for Care Experienced Children and Young People

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services advising that the Scottish Government was allocating additional funding to support and improve the outcomes for care experienced children and young people. Information was also provided on how the Children's Services plan to utilise and target this funding through its "Closer to Home" Strategy.

Information on Falkirk's funding allocation for 2018/19 and 2019/20 was provided, which was based on there being 245 looked after children in the area as recorded in the latest census.

The key principles of the additional funding stream were designed to enable local authorities to make strategic decisions around how best to improve the attainment of care experienced children from birth to the age of 26 years.

The report detailed the proposed planned projects which would be developed through engagement and consultation with stakeholders to ensure the funding directly focused on support for care experienced children and young people. Four test for change posts were included within the proposed planned projects and the details for each were set out.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted the additional funding received and the plan, set out in section 4 of the report, to undertake four tests of change, and**
- (2) agreed that the Director of Children's Services provides a progress report early in 2019.**

EE28. SQA Attainment in Falkirk Secondary Schools (2018)

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing information on the initial analysis of Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) attainment within Falkirk Council secondary schools in 2018.

The report, at this stage, provided information obtained solely from the Council's management information system (SEEMIS) and detailed only passes in National 3 and 4 courses and A-C passes of graded courses within the National Qualifications framework. Figures would be updated later in the session by the Scottish Government's Insight information system. This would be refreshed in February 2019 to include outcomes for school leavers', national and comparator authority figures.

Details of future changes to the way in which young people were assessed in National 5 Qualifications, particularly in relation to the removal of mandatory unit assessments, was provided.

Information on the actions and strategies which would be implemented to further improve attainment levels and performance, was also provided.

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted the SQA attainment of Falkirk Council secondary schools;**
- (2) agreed that a future report would be presented to the Education Executive in the spring of 2019 to take account of updated and additional SQA and other attainment data.**

EE29. Summary of HMI Inspections

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an overview of the performance of schools and early years provisions inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) and Care Inspectorate between January 2017 and June 2018. The report set out the performance of Falkirk Council early learning and childcare establishments, including partner providers, and schools.

Four nursery establishments, 5 primary schools, 1 secondary school and 1 additional support for learning service were inspected by HMI, together with 12 nursery or early learning centres inspected by the Care Inspectorate.

Details of achievement against the quality indicators for these inspections, was provided as Appendix 1 to the report.

Decision

The Education Executive noted the evaluation of each educational establishment.

EE30. Summary of Care Inspectorate Inspections

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an overview of the performance of the regulated services within Children & Families Social Work which were inspected by the Care Inspectorate between January 2017 and June 2018 and detailed changes to the inspection framework from 1 April 2018.

Details from the inspections undertaken by the Care Inspectorate on Falkirk's Children's Houses and Family Placement Services, were provided as Appendix 1 to the report. These services were inspected against the previous Care Standards; new standards had been introduced known as the Health and Social Care Standards.

The new inspection approach came into effect in April 2018 and was relevant across all health and social care provision. It would not only focus on regulated care settings, but would include social care, early learning and childcare, children's services, social work, health provision, and community justice.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted the evaluation of each registered service, as detailed in Appendix 1, and**
- (2) agreed that an overview report on Care Inspectorate inspections was presented to the Education Executive on an annual basis.**

EE31. Falkirk Community Learning and Development (CLD) – Action Plan 2018-2021

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services seeking approval of Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-21 and to its publication by 7 September 2018.

The report referred to the Community Learning and Development (CLD) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 which placed two obligations on the Council; to ensure that the need for CLD provision within the Council area was assessed, and a 3 year plan be published.

The draft CLD Action Plan 2018-21 set out what CLD provision the Council would make, how it would co-ordinate provision with other providers, what action the other providers would take during the period of the plan and what needs would be met.

The CLD Action Plan 2018-21 was provided as an appendix to the report.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) the 3 year CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 (as per Appendix 1), and to its publication by 7 September 2018, and**
- (2) that an annual report detailing the progress and impact of Falkirk's CLD Action Plan 2018-2021 is brought to the Education Executive.**

Councillor Patrick left the meeting during consideration of the previous item.

EE32. Mothballing of Primary Schools

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services presenting proposed operational parameters for Children's Services to progress consultation on the mothballing of a primary school where the number of catchment area pupils on the school roll fell below an agreed level. The report also detailed proposed amendments to the current Admission Policy which would be required, if the recommendations were approved.

The report set out the Scottish Government's statutory guidance under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, which dealt with the issue of mothballing. The term mothballing, referred to a temporary decision to close a school where the catchment pupil roll fell very low.

Information on Children's Services proposed criteria and parameters to be used when considering mothballing primary schools, together with the proposed management actions to be taken if schools were identified for temporary closure, was presented.

The proposed changes to the admissions policy were provided as an appendix to the report.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed:-

- (1) the criteria and parameters for schools to be considered for mothballing, as outlined in section 4.1 of the report;**
- (2) the proposed changes to the Admissions Policy, as outlined in Appendix 1, and**

- (3) the proposed Children's Services management actions to be taken when schools are being considered for mothballing, as outlined in section 4.2 of the report.**

EE33. Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) – 2020 Expansion Plan Update

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing an update on infrastructure expansion plans for years 1 & 2; individual establishment infrastructure expansion plans on a ward by ward basis and details of other associated work streams.

The report provided progress information on the current plans for each educational establishment operating as part of year 1 and year 2. Work was also progressing on the recruitment and selection process of registered childminders within the phase 1 area, and further engagement with the Private and Voluntary Nurseries Partnership Group was ongoing.

Details of the infrastructure improvement work planned for each establishment on a ward by ward basis, was provided as Appendix 1 to the report.

Decision

The Education Executive:-

- (1) noted the progress on years 1 and 2 expansion plans;**
- (2) noted the ward by ward summary of the infrastructure expansion plans, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, and**
- (3) agreed that the Director of Children's Services continues to provide the Education Executive with progress updates on the ELC expansion plans.**

EE34. Asset Surplus to Operational Requirements

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services seeking approval to proceed with the disposal of the property at 17 Cadzow Crescent, Bo'ness.

Information was provided on the previous use of the property.

Children's Services no longer had an operational need for the property and after consultation with other Council services, it had been confirmed that there was no other operational requirement for the asset.

Decision

The Education Executive agreed that the property at 17 Cadzow Crescent, Bo'ness was surplus to operational requirements.