



# Agenda Item 3

## Minute

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Minute of meeting of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Tuesday 6 November 2018 at 9.30 am.**

**COUNCILLORS:** David Alexander  
Robert Bissett  
Fiona Collie  
Joan Coombes  
Jim Flynn  
Nigel Harris  
Adanna McCue  
Cecil Meiklejohn  
Laura Murtagh  
Alan Nimmo  
John Patrick

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

**CO-OPTES:** Fiona Craig, Teacher Representative  
Alice Dunn, Pupil Representative  
Aaron Laurie, Pupil Representative  
Karen Procek, Parent 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  
Paul Wilcox, Communications Officer

**EE35. Apologies**

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillor Goldie and Maureen Harkins, Religious Representative.

**EE36. Convener**

In the absence of the Convener, the Chief Governance Officer sought nominations for the role of Convener for the meeting.

Councillor Nimmo nominated Councillor Bissett.

Councillor McCue nominated Councillor Meiklejohn.

In terms of Standing Order 22.1, a vote was taken by roll call, there being 11 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For Councillor Bissett (3) – Councillors Bissett, Coombes and Nimmo.

For Councillor Meiklejohn (5) – Councillors Alexander, Collie, McCue, Meiklejohn and Murtagh.

Abstentions (3) – Councillors Flynn, Harris and Patrick.

Accordingly, Councillor Meiklejohn assumed the Chair.

#### **EE37. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

#### **EE38. Minute**

##### **Decision**

**The minute of the meeting of the Education Executive held on 4 September 2018 was approved.**

#### **EE39. Rolling Action Log**

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 4 September 2018 was provided. Items 338 – National Improvement Framework (NIF) –Education Plan, and 397 – Early Learning and Childcare – 2020 Expansion Plan were subject of reports on the agenda and accordingly fell from the action log

##### **Decision**

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

#### **EE40. Implementing the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan in Falkirk's Schools**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which set out the current estimated financial savings target that Children's Services are expected to achieve in terms of the Council's current Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the proposed approach to achieving school level savings within the context of the Council's MTFP.

The MTFP was presented to the Executive on 25 September 2018 (ref EX58). This highlighted the need to address the estimated budget gap of £60m over the next 5 years.

A joint agreement between the Scottish Government and COSLA had been reached to progress aspects of the draft Education Bill, without the need for legislation. This included empowering schools and an expectation that Headteachers make decisions on their spending within the delegated budget received from the local authority. Until now, the local authority has been responsible for directing the school sector on the savings required.

The proposed approach to achieving school level savings was to adopt a “funding envelope approach”, based on existing devolved school management (DSM) allocation, and that schools be tasked with identifying targeted savings from their envelope.

Service Managers and Headteachers would require to consult with their individual stakeholders on possible budget savings options. A proposed 4 week consultation timescale was outlined to allow feedback to be assessed and reviewed.

Appendix 1 to the report, outlined potential areas that schools are likely to consider for budget savings options.

## **Decision**

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

- (1) the principle of requiring schools to identify targeted savings from their Devolved School Management (DSM) “funding envelope” as proposed at paragraph 4.1 in the report;**
- (2) that the Director of Children’s Services direct Headteachers to consult locally with parents, staff, pupils and other stakeholders on the savings options likely to be considered in order to achieve their (school level) proportionate share of the savings that have been attributed to Children’s Services in the MTFP, and**
- (3) that the Director of Children’s Services report back on the development of schools’ budget savings plans to the January meeting of the Education Executive.**

### **EE41. Promoting Positive Relationships in Falkirk’s Educational Establishments (Anti-Bullying Policy)**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children’s Services presenting for approval the updated Anti-Bullying Policy, rebranded “Promoting Positive Relationships in Falkirk’s Educational Establishments”.

Work to update the Policy had commenced in April 2017 when a Working Group was convened, ahead of the publication of new national guidance on anti-bullying in November 2017 and May 2018.

The new Policy merged the current Anti-Bullying Policy and the new national guidance on approaches for dealing and recording; and monitoring instances of bullying behaviour.

A number of strategic actions to be undertaken over a 3 year period were included in the new Policy, which complemented the work currently undertaken through the new National Improvement Framework. It was recommended that the approaches detailed in the updated Policy be reviewed in 2021.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive approved the new policy for implementation in Falkirk's Early Learning and Childcare Centres (ELCCs) and schools.**

## **EE42. National Improvement Framework - Standards and Quality Report 2018**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an evaluation summary of the impact of the Education Division NIF Plan, and sought approval to publish the Council's first Standards and Quality Report 2017-2018.

On 5 September 2017 (ref EE13) the Education Executive, had approved the NIF Improvement Plan 2017-18, which outlined the vision, key priorities and expectations of Children's Services in raising educational attainment and achievement for all pupils.

In line with new national guidelines, local authorities are required to publish annually, a Standards and Quality Report providing an evaluation summary of progress and improvements in relation to their NIF Improvement Plan.

The Standards and Quality Report 2018 was attached as appendix 1 to the report and set out progress, achievement and work undertaken in the academic session 2017-18. Identified areas for continued improvement for session 2018-19, was also provided.

### **Decision**

**The Education Executive:-**

- (1) noted the report, and**
- (2) agreed that the Director of Children's Services publishes the report on the Falkirk Council website.**

#### **EE43. Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) – 2020 Expansion Plan Update**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) 2020 Expansion Plan.

Year 1 had realised 8 planned projects, and 2 further projects being successfully delivered and fully operational. Review and re-assessment of Year 2 projects implementation dates and proposed phasing arrangements was currently ongoing.

Following work undertaken by the Strategic Property Review, 3 properties had been identified for consideration as potential early years use. It is proposed that consultation exercises be undertaken to assess whether the alternative property options set out offer best value, and meet the suitability and capacity requirements. Any informal consultation would involve groups and stakeholders, including parents, parent councils, staff and local elected members.

Information was provided on the partnership work with the Scottish Child Minding Association, with some children now receiving part of their provision via this blended approach between a local authority provider and a childminder.

#### **Decision**

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

- (1) noted the successful delivery of the Year 1 (2018) projects;**
- (2) noted the plans to review and re-asses the delivery timeframes for Year 2 projects;**
- (3) agreed that the Director of Children's Services can progress consultation with parents and other stakeholders on the plans to consider and utilise alternative properties, and**
- (4) agreed that the Director of Children's Services continues to provide Education Executive with progress updates on the ELC expansion plans and the feedback from the consultations agreed at (3) above.**

Councillor McCue left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item.

#### **EE44. Lease Agreement – Astroturf and Changing Rooms, Dawson**

The Education Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services seeking approval to lease the astroturf area and changing rooms at Dawson at below market rent to the Dawson Sports Development Association (DSDA).

DSDA is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and provide recreational facilities and advance social needs, health and wellbeing in the local area.

The organisation currently uses the property, but in order to support its activities in the community, it now requires a formal lease, details of which were set out in the report. This will allow them to make improvements to ensure activities can be sustained and maximise community benefits. An allocation of £65,000 from Cashback for Communities fund had been secured by DSDA to create a multi-sports area.

The goals and objectives of the proposed project had been assessed, with the findings detailed in the report.

#### **Decision**

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

- (1) agreed to lease the astroturf area and changing rooms, Dawson to Dawson Sports Development Association for a period of 15 years on full repairing and insuring terms at a nominal rent of £1 per annum;**
- (2) noted the proposals are in compliance with the Council's statutory obligations in respect of disposal of land and buildings at less than best price, and**
- (3) agreed that the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Director of Development Services, be authorised to conclude the lease transaction on the terms set out in the report.**