

#### **EE4. Council of the Future Project Report: Connected Falkirk**

The Emergency Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an overview of Connected Falkirk, a Council of the Future transformation project to deliver a sector leading, modern & digital learning environment across our schools.

To deliver the overall project a total investment of c.£16m was required. A £9.6m capital investment was conditionally approved in the budget for the first five years of the project, subject to a follow-up report providing more details of the aims and ambitions of the project. A further investment of c.£6.4m was required beyond year five, to ensure longer term sustainability of the project and ensure that the equipment and infrastructure was kept updated and refreshed.

Connected Falkirk was an investment in our young people and school estate infrastructure. It aimed to ensure every young person being educated in the Falkirk Council area had the confidence, skills and knowledge needed to thrive in an ever-changing, fast-paced digital world. It was a response to the national strategy, published in 2016, for enhancing learning and teaching through the use of digital technology.

#### **Decision**

##### **The Emergency Executive:-**

- (1) noted the provisional capital award of £9.6m within the recently approved Capital Programme Budget at the Council Meeting on 26 February 2020;**
- (2) noted that this funding covers the initial five years of the Connected Falkirk Project which aims to complete the procurement process for infrastructure, devices, training and ultimately deliver on our digital learning ambitions across all our schools;**
- (3) noted that a future capital submission will be made for investment required beyond year five of the Connected Falkirk project in order to ensure longer term sustainability, and**
- (4) agreed that the project should proceed and that the Director of Children's Services is authorised to spend the capital expenditure for financial year 2020/21 set out in paragraph 4.3.**