

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 sailing ship on wavy lines representing water. The top-right quadrant depicts a stag's head with large antlers. The bottom-left quadrant contains a beaver. The bottom-right quadrant shows a grizzly bear. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom of the shield reads "CITY OF VANCOUVER".

# **Agenda Item 3**

## **Minute**

Draft

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Minute of meeting of the EDUCATION, CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE  
EXECUTIVE held remotely, on Tuesday 8 December 2020 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Councillors:**

David Alexander  
Robert Bissett  
Fiona Collie  
Joan Coombes  
Nigel Harris  
James Kerr  
Adanna McCue  
Cecil Meiklejohn (Convener)  
Lynn Munro  
Laura Murtagh  
Alan Nimmo  
Pat Reid

**Representatives  
of Religious  
Bodies:**

Maureen Harkins  
Rev Michael Rollo  
Evelyn Crosbie

**Co-Optees:**

John Chalmers, Teacher Representative  
Fiona Craig, Teacher Representative  
Callum Mack, Pupil Representative  
Merle Stevenson, Parent Representative

**Officers:**

Karen Chambers, Committee Services Officer  
Kenny Gillespie, Head of Housing and Communities  
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  
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager

**Also Attending:**

Siobhan O'Neill

**ECYE12. Apologies**

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Holly Anderson, Pupil Representative and Karen Procek, Parent Representative.

### **ECYE13. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Munro declared a non-financial interest in item ECYE20 as a family member was employed as a teacher at one of the schools that could be impacted by the proposed policy change. Councillor Munro stated that, having regard to the objective test in the Code of Conduct, she did not consider that this required her to recuse herself from consideration of the item.

### **ECYE14. Minute**

#### **Decision**

**The minute of the meeting of the Education, Children and Young People Executive held on 27 October 2020 was approved.**

### **ECYE15. Rolling Action Log**

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 27 October 2020 was provided. Item 535 Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) - 1140 Expansion Plan Update appeared on the agenda and consequently fell from the Rolling Action log.

### **ECYE16. Presentation: Keep the Promise – A Recap of the Care Review Conclusions and Next Steps**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive received a presentation on Keep the Promise – A Recap of the Care Review Conclusions and Next Steps from Sara Lacey, Head of Social Work Children's Services and Siobhan O'Neill.

#### **Decision**

**The Education, Children and Young People Executive noted the presentation.**

### **ECYE17. National Improvement Framework - Standards and Quality Report 2019-20**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services providing details of Children's Services Standards and Quality Report, this report was an evaluation summary of the impact of the Education Division National Improvement Framework (NIF) Plan, approved in September 2019 under the NIF and sought approval to submit this to Education Scotland.

## **Decision**

### **The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-**

- (1) noted the report;**
- (2) agreed that the Director of Children's Services submit the Standards and Quality Report to Education Scotland, and**
- (3) requested that the Director of Children's Services publish the report on the Falkirk Council website.**

## **ECYE18. Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) - 1140 Expansion Plan Update**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services Report providing:-

- an update on the progress with the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion Plans;
- information on all of the individual projects that have still to be completed;
- an update of the Scottish Government's plans to change the rules governing Deferred Places, and
- an update on the overall financial position.

An update on each project was provided in an appendix to the report. The Director of Children's Services advised that the Scottish Government had announced its intention to progress with plans to extend the rights of parents to request their child was provided with an additional years funded ELC place rather than place them in Primary 1. Details of the timeframe were set out in the report. Falkirk would be one of the pilot authorities adopting the proposed changes from August 2021.

The current year financial position was set out in the report and in the appendices to the report.

## **Decision**

### **The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-**

- (1) noted the updates provided on the remaining projects in appendix 2 to the report;**
- (2) noted the financial position as detailed in section 6.1 and appendix 1 to the report;**

- (3) noted that Falkirk Council was being considered as a pilot authority with regard to proposed changes to Deferred Places guidance as outlined in Section 4.6 of the report, and
- (4) requested that the Director of Children's Services continued to keep the Education, Children and Young People Executive updated on progress with the expansion plans.

#### **ECYE19. Falkirk's Covid-19 - Tackling Food Insecurity and Support for Individuals at Financial Risk**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a joint report by the Directors of Children's and of Corporate and Housing Services providing an update on the various work streams that were supporting the Council's work in the following areas:-

- School Holiday – Meal payments,
- Emergency Food Project;
- Building Community Resilience/Supporting People; and
- proposals to utilise the Scottish Government Funding Grant to support individuals at financial risk.

A direct payment of £3.50/day in lieu of free school meals was made to all qualifying pupils to cover the Easter, Summer and October 2020 holiday periods at a total cost of £1.046m.

The Emergency Executive agreed to fund the purchase of food and supported the distribution of the food parcels from 6 April 2020 until 31 August 2020. c.16,000 emergency food parcels were supplied to households experiencing food insecurity.

The Council would receive funding of £552,000 for the current financial year from the £20 m allocation to support individuals at financial risk. Building on feedback from third sector partners, including the local community food aid providers, it was proposed that funding was allocated as follows:-

- **£211k** to address the shortfall in free school meal direct payment during school holidays;
- **£100k** to support local community food aid providers;
- **£30k** to support a volunteer expenses fund administered by CVS Falkirk;
- **£71k** to support households experiencing fuel poverty;
- **£100k** to support free school meal direct payment for any pupil required to self-isolate by Public Health Scotland as they have tested positive or are a close contact of someone who has tested positive; and

- **£40k** to support additional income maximisation capacity to carry out welfare benefits entitlement checks and support people to apply for benefits.

**Total: £552,000**

### **Decision**

**The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-**

- (1) **agreed the funding proposals as outlined in sections 4.4 and 4.5 of the report, and**
- (2) **agreed to make the Scottish Government's £100 Winter Support Fund payment for pupils who qualify for free school meals to the extended cohort of qualifying pupils in a manner consistent with the £3.50 daily holiday payments and requested that Officers realign the proposed funding allocations for the Supporting People Grant of £552k to meet the estimated additional cost of c£120k.**

### **ECYE20. Mothballing of Schools**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services seeking agreement to temporarily suspend the assessment criteria for considering schools for potential mothballing pending the conclusions reached via the next stage of the SPR consultation work.

### **Decision**

**The Education, Children and Young People Executive agreed to place a temporary hold on the current criteria for considering schools for mothballing as set out in section 4.3 of the report.**