

The background of the slide features a large, light blue outline of the Seal of the State of Alaska. The seal includes a crown at the top with four stars, a shield with a ship, a moose, and a miner, and a banner at the bottom with the motto "A NE FOR A".

## **Agenda Item 5**

# **Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) – 1140 Expansion Plan Update**

**Falkirk Council**

**Title:** Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) – 1140 Expansion Plan Update  
**Meeting:** Education, Children and Young People Executive  
**Date:** 26 January 2021  
**Submitted By:** Director of Children's Services

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report provides the Education, Children and Young People Executive (ECYP) with:
- an update on progress with the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion Plans;
  - updated information on the Scottish Governments announcements on the new date for the implementation of 1140 hours and on Deferred Places;
  - additional information on proposals to expand early intervention support;
  - an update on the overall financial position.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Education, Children and Young People Executive is asked to:
- (i) note the overall content of this update report;
  - (ii) note the updates provided on the remaining projects as detailed in - Appendix 1;
  - (iii) note that Falkirk have been selected as a pilot authority to progress the Scottish Government's planned changes to the Deferred Place legislation (Section 4.2);
  - (iv) agree the names of the new ELC Centres as proposed in Section 4.3;
  - (v) agree to the proposed changes to the Support for Learning Assistant DSM allocations as detailed in Section 4.4;
  - (vi) agree to the proposal for an additional Support Officer post as detailed in Section 4.5.

**3. Background**

3.1 National Context

The Scottish Government have now advised they will restart the statutory requirement on local authorities to deliver 1140 hours from August 2021, having previously placed that requirement "on hold" due to the COVID position.

### 3.2 Local Context

Following the Scottish Government's confirmation of the revised August 2021 implementation date Officers from Children's and Development Services have been liaising extensively with the main contractors to update and finalise timelines for the remaining work projects.

## 4. **Considerations**

### 4.1 Update on Outstanding Projects

- At the time of writing this report work is on track to complete the expansion works at a further 4 projects:
  - St Francis PS – planned opening Jan 21 (capacity 64)
  - Laurieston PS – planned opening Jan 21 (capacity 64)
  - St Margaret's ELCC – planned completion Feb 21 \*\*
  - Nethermain PS – planned completion Feb 21 \*\*

Note - \*\* establishments currently delivering 1140 hours.
- In summary there are 21 projects that have still to be completed.
  - 15 are larger work projects
  - 6 are minor work projects
- Full details of these projects are contained in Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Deferred Places

- Further to the information outlined in the 8 December 2020 report the Scottish Government have now confirmed on 16 December 2020 that Falkirk has been selected to be one of the 5 pilot local authorities who will be assessing the roll out of the planned changes to the legislation from August 2021.
- Additional funding for this pilot workstream will be provided once it has been ratified by COSLA's Settlement and Distribution Group (SDG).

### 4.3 Naming of New Early Learning and Childcare Centres

- In line with previous practice Officers have been consulting with parents and Local Members on the preferred options for the new names for the undernoted ELCC's:
  - (i) Moray PS / Oxfords – proposed name is Abbotsgrange ELCC.
  - (ii) Maddiston PS – proposed name is Glendevon ELCC
  - (iii) St Margaret's PS – proposed name is Parkhill ELCC

### 4.4 Supporting Early Intervention and Children with Additional Support Needs

- EC&YP Executive has already agreed to deliver a comprehensive approach to Early Intervention for children and their families, therefore, in-setting support for children with additional support needs is a key element of this approach.

- The first part of this strategic plan work-stream has been completed and proposes enhancing the level of core SFLA resource across all of our 39 ELC classes. Further work will be undertaken to consider how best other support teams including Family Support can be aligned to further enhance the early intervention support that is provided.
- Falkirk's ELC expansion strategy has created both new and additional support level posts, namely ELC Assistants and Support for Learning Assistants. This has supported the delivery of a refreshed workforce to deliver the expanded hours in a way that supports both children's needs and parental choice.
- Given the successful approach taken to early and phased implementation of 1140 hours since August 2018; and, with the experience of having ELC Assistants working in settings, Officers now have a better and more acute level of understanding as to what is required further by way of investment to deliver sector-leading services.
- Learning from staffing models that are in place in each of our 13 ELCCs shows that motivated and well-trained SFLAs provide crucial support to children where there is a known additional need. This can include delivering programmes of support provided by health and other professional staff groups and working with children and families to assess and gather information that allows children's needs to be better understood and profiled. This supports and allows other practitioners, managers and social work teams to make more informed decisions on relevant support plans.
- The undernoted table summarises the proposed changes to the Devolved School Management (DSM) formula with regard to enhancing the SFLA allocations:

<b>Registration Capacity</b>	<b>SFLA Core Weekly Hours</b>	<b>No of Nursery Classes</b>	<b>Proposed Total Hours</b>
Up to 32	15.0	8	120.0
33 to 56	22.5	20	450.0
57 and above	30.0	11	330.0
	<b>Totals</b>	<b><u>39</u></b>	<b><u>900.0</u></b>

- If approved then the current core DSM weekly hours of 530 will be increased by 370 additional weekly hours. This will create additional hours for some staff and also some additional new posts which would be recruited in February 2021.
- The estimated additional full year cost of this is c£0.560m and has been included in our financial and budget assessments.

#### 4.5 Central ELC Support Team

- Following the confirmation that Falkirk has been selected to be a pilot local authority to support the implementation of the new Deferred Place legislation it is proposed that a new Support Officer post is created within the Team.
- If approved this will allow the existing Team to realign and will also allow for additional support to be provided for the families of eligible 2 year olds.

- This post (Grade E) will cost c£30k pa. The funding for this post will come from the expected increased quantum of revenue funding once the funding for the Deferred Place pilot has been confirmed.

## **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 Officers will continue to consult with appropriate stakeholder including parents, trade unions and colleagues working on the Strategic Property Review as required as the Expansion Plans continue to be developed and rolled out.

## **6 Implications**

### **Financial/Resources**

- 6.1 Summary of Current Years Financial Position (2020/21)

<b>Funding Stream</b>	<b>Funding Available</b>	<b>Projected Spend to Year-End</b>	<b>Projected Balance to be C/Fwd</b>
Revenue	£16.535m	£16.159m	£0.376m
Capital	£10.456m	£ 4.000m	£6.456m

- A more detailed analysis and breakdown of costs will be provided in the next update report along with a projection for financial year 2021/22.

### **Legal**

- 6.2 Current plans have been developed in recognition of the relevant Statutory Guidance that has been issued in relation to the Early Years Learning and Childcare Duties within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

### **Risk**

- 6.3 The key inherent risks associated with this major project are:
- delivery of infrastructure expansion projects on time;
  - ensuring that planned expenditure is kept in line with resources;
  - ensuring we have sufficient staff recruited on time;
  - potential disruption to the supply chain as a result of price inflation or non-availability of materials linked to Brexit;
  - the potential impact that any current or future COVID/lockdown decisions may have on all aspects of the overall expansion plans; and
  - Officers are considering and reviewing contingency plans in liaison with external providers.

## **Equalities**

- 6.4 The removal of snack charges for parents within our early years establishments also support and furthers the aims and ambitions of the Council's Poverty Strategy - Towards a Fairer Falkirk 2019-2024.

This project also provides additional support for those children who have disabilities.

## **Sustainability/Environmental Impact**

- 6.5 All project infrastructure work has been developed in a way that supports and enhances the quality of our school estate. Many aspects of this work has also augmented and improved energy efficiency targets and our overall aim to meet national climate change ambitions, this has included the replacement of older buildings.

## **7 Conclusions**

- 7.1 As the Scottish Government has now confirmed the new statutory date for the implementation of 1140 hours is August 2021, it gives Officers sufficient time to consider alternative or contingency options that can be provided to parents for 1140 hours provision for those larger scale projects that are scheduled to be completed from August to December 2021.
- 7.2 Officers are delighted that Falkirk has been selected to be one of 5 pilot authorities that will implement the Scottish Governments planned changes to the Deferred Places legislation from August 2021, two years ahead of the national scheduled implementation date.

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Director of Children's Service

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## **Appendices**

App 1 - Details of Outstanding ELC 1140 Infrastructure Projects at 20 Dec 2021.

### **List of Background Papers:**

- Education & Children and Young People Executive – ELC1140 Update Reports
- Scottish Government letter 16 December 2020 – Deferred Places

## Appendix 1

### Section 1 – Larger Work Projects to be Completed (15)

WARD	ESTABLISHMENT / PROJECT	UPDATE	ESTIMATED DELIVERY OF 1140	CAPACITY	CURRENT EST. COSTS £000s			
					£10-50	£50 - £250	£250 - £500	£500 +
1	Kinglass ELC Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site investigations completed – ground conditions require foundations to be upgraded.</li> <li>Revised tender due in Jan21 to reflect additional foundation works.</li> <li>Anticipated Completion date – Summer 2021</li> </ul>	August 2021	40 - 3-5yr olds 15 - 2yr olds 3 - Babies				X
1	Kinneil PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tender for the new kitchen has been awarded.</li> <li>Work due to start Jan21.</li> <li>Work completion - Easter21.</li> <li>Internal nursery alterations complete.</li> </ul>	Currently delivering 1140	64 - 3-5yr olds 10 - 2yr olds			X	
2	Moray PS/Oxgangs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor has now started on site.</li> <li>Some on-site flooding challenges</li> <li>Est. Completion date – Easter 2021</li> </ul>	April/May 2021	88 - 3-5yr olds				X
2	Beancross PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kitchen improvement works complete.</li> <li>Remaining building works scheduled for summer 2021.</li> <li>Est. Completion date – summer 2021</li> </ul>	Currently delivering 1140	64 - 3-5yr olds		X		
3	Head of Muir PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tender due in Jan 21.</li> <li>Work planned for summer 2021</li> </ul>	August 2021	64 - 3-5yr olds				X

WARD	ESTABLISHMENT / PROJECT	UPDATE	ESTIMATED DELIVERY OF 1140	CAPACITY	CURRENT EST. COSTS £000s			
3	Denny PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised plans for conversion of former CLD building on-site with covered play area finalised.</li> <li>Tenders due in Jan 21</li> <li>Officers assessing kitchen options</li> </ul>	TBC	80 - 3-5yr olds				X
3	Nethermain PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal alteration &amp; improvement work is underway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stage 1 – completed Dec20</li> <li>Stage 2 – est. completion Feb21</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Currently delivering 1140	80 - 3-5yr olds			X	
4	Inchlair Amalgamated Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modular units due to be installed Feb21.</li> <li>Building work and asbestos removal work underway.</li> <li>Est. completion date – May21</li> </ul>	June 2021	80 - 3-5yr olds 40 - 2yr olds 12 - Babies				X
4	Carron PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning stage is now completed and project plans have been agreed for on-site modular provision (Same at St Frances)</li> <li>Revised tender costs are now awaited</li> <li>Est. completion date – Summer 2021</li> </ul>	August 2021	64 - 3-5yr olds				X
4	Carronshore PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modular units due to be installed Feb21.</li> <li>Est. completion date – May21</li> </ul>	April/May 2021	64 - 3-5yr olds				X
5	Larbert Village PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kitchen works planned for Easter21.</li> <li>Est. completion date – Easter2021.</li> </ul>	April/May 2021	32 - 3-5yr olds	X			
6	Woodburn ELCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor due on site end of Jan 21</li> <li>Discussions taking place with Planning re: outdoor area.</li> <li>Est. completion date – Easter 2021</li> </ul>	April/May 2021	48 - 3-5yr olds 20 - 2yr olds				X
6	Callendar Park ELCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised design plans completed.</li> <li>Revised tender due in mid – January 21.</li> <li>Est. completion date – Summer 2021</li> </ul>	August 2021	40 – 3 -5 yr olds				X



WARD	ESTABLISHMENT / PROJECT	UPDATE	ESTIMATED DELIVERY OF 1140	CAPACITY	CURRENT EST. COSTS £000s			
8	Westquarter PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Officers are finalising plans for the creation of an external/outdoor play area.</li> </ul>	TBC	50 - 3-5yr olds		X		
9	Maddiston ELCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor started on site on Nov20.</li> <li>Plans to accelerate work programme to allow completion summer 2021.</li> </ul>	Currently delivering 1140	96 - 3-5yr olds				X

**Section 2 – Minor Work Projects to be Completed (6)**

WARD	ESTABLISHMENT / PROJECT	UPDATE	ESTIMATED DELIVERY OF 1140	CAPACITY	CURRENT EST. COSTS £000s			
					£10-50	£50 -£250	£250 - £500	£500 +
1	Bo'ness PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor kitchen alterations will be undertaken during summer21.</li> </ul>	August 2021	32 - 3-5yr olds	X			
1	Deanburn PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor kitchen alterations &amp; refurbishment of the modular unit agreed.</li> <li>Tender due to be awarded Jan21.</li> <li>Care inspectorate have confirmed capacity as 72.</li> <li>Est. completion date – Easter 21</li> </ul>	Currently delivering 1140	72 - 3-5yr olds	X			
6	St Francis PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New modular unit installed &amp; completed.</li> <li>Landscaping works still to be completed.</li> <li>Est. completion date – Easter21</li> </ul>	Jan 2021	64 - 3-5yr olds			X	
7	Glenburn ELCC (Hallglen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New establishment opened on February 2020.</li> <li>Some external landscaping work has still to be completed.</li> </ul>	Currently delivering 1140	72 - 3-5yr olds 20 - 2yr olds	X			
8	Laurieston PS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor currently on site undertaking internal refurbishment works.</li> <li>Est. completion date – Jan21.</li> <li>Some external landscaping still to be completed.</li> </ul>	TBC	64 - 3-5yr olds				X
8	St Margaret's ELCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New modular units are now on site and work is progressing well.</li> <li>Est. completion date – Feb21</li> </ul>	Currently delivering 1140	96 - 3-5yr olds 20 - 2yr olds 3 - Babies				X