

The background of the slide is a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. It features a crown at the top with four maple leaves. The shield is divided into four quadrants: top-left shows a ship on the water, top-right shows a stag's head with a cross, bottom-left shows a ship on the water, and bottom-right shows a grizzly bear. A banner at the bottom 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 1 February 2022 at 10.00 a.m.

Councillors:

Fiona Collie
Joan Coombes
Nigel Harris
James Kerr
Adanna McCue
Cecil Meiklejohn (Convener)
Lynn Munro
Laura Murtagh
Alan Nimmo
Emma Russell

**Representatives
of Religious
Bodies:**

Maureen Harkins
Agnes Mullen
Rev Michael Rollo

Co-Optees:

John Chalmers, Teacher Representative
Charlotte Clem, School Representative
Fiona Craig, Teacher Representative
Karen Procek, Parent Representative
Isa Santos, Care Experienced Young Person
Cameron Simmons, School Representative
Merle Stevenson, Parent Representative

Officers:

Jack Frawley, Team Leader – Committee Services
Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning and Resources
Rhona Jay, Service Manager
Sue Johnson, Lead Officer (Child Protection)
Sara Lacey, Head of Social Work Children's Services
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive
Alison Lindsay, Accountancy Services Manager
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer
Mari-Claire Morgan, Climate Change Co-ordinator
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services

ECYE36. Apologies

An apology was intimated on behalf of Councillor Bissett.

ECYE37. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

ECYE38. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Education, Children and Young People Executive held on 9 November 2021 was approved.

ECYE39. Rolling Action Log

A rolling action log detailing decisions not yet implemented following the previous meeting on 9 November 2021 was provided.

Decision

The Education, Children & Young People Executive noted the rolling action log.

Rev. Rollo joined the meeting during consideration of the following item.

ECYE40. Falkirk Child Protection Committee

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Chief Social Work Officer which recommended that the Child Protection Committee Annual Report was submitted to the Education, Children & Young People Executive on an annual basis.

National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014 and 2021) and Protecting Children and Young People Child Protection Committee and Chief Officers' Responsibilities (2019) required that a Child Protection Committee was established and governed by a Chief Officers Group.

The prescribed functions of the Child Protection Committee, were:-

- Public information, engagement and participation
- Continuous improvement
- Strategic planning and connections
- Annual reporting on the work of the Child Protection Committee

The Falkirk Child Protection Committee comprised senior representatives from across all key areas and partners concerned with the care and protection of children. The governance of the Child Protection Committee was the responsibility of the Falkirk Public Protection Chief Officers Group, chaired by the Council's Chief Executive.

Child Protection Committees were required to produce an Annual Report. The Annual Report summarised the work of the partnership within the past year. It highlighted the core business of the Child Protection Committee as well as areas of strength and good practice, alongside identified priority areas for the coming year. The Annual Report was presented for endorsement to the Public Protection Chief Officers Group to provide wider assurance about the arrangements for the protection of children in Falkirk and to enable open dialogue on what had been achieved and scrutiny of future plans.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive agreed to receive the Child Protection Committee Annual Report on an annual basis to receive assurance on the arrangements for the protection of children in Falkirk.

ECYE41. Expansion of Universal Free School Meals – Primary Pupils

The Education, Children & Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the provision of free school meals to all Primary 4 and 5 pupils and an update on the Scottish Government's plans to extend universal free school meal provision to all Primary 6 and 7 pupils.

In May 2021 there had been an agreement to implement the roll-out of universal free school meal provision in a phased manner for all P4 – P7 children. To support this, the Scottish Government provided funding of which Falkirk's share was £0.872m.

In order to deliver the expansion of universal free school meals to P4 and P5 pupils Catering and Cleaning Officers liaised with Headteachers, schools and other Services to implement from August 2021. To support delivery additional staffing resources were provided within schools:-

Catering	80.50 Additional Daily Hours
Cleaning	57.25 Additional Daily Hours
Supervision	47.50 Additional Daily Hours
Total	185.25

For the expansion to P6 and P7 children 4.5 work had assessed the significant infrastructure challenges that required to be addressed and overcome to ensure the next phase could also be successfully introduced. A national exercise was undertaken by the Scottish Futures Trust and COSLA, to quantify and assess the level of additional capital and revenue investment required for the next phase.

Following the findings of the exercise and local authority feedback the Scottish Government agreed to delay the implementation of this phase. The initial exercise estimated that one-off capital funding of c£206m and on-going annual revenue funding of c£46m was required. The Scottish Government had announced that an initial £30m of capital funding would be provided to support local authorities with initial work to support the school meal expansion programme. Falkirk's share of this had not been confirmed.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) noted the position within Falkirk regarding the expansion of free school meal provision to all Primary 4 and 5 pupils as detailed in sections 4.1 – 4.4 of the report;**
- (2) noted the Scottish Government's updated position regarding plans to extend universal free school meal provision to all Primary 6 and 7 pupils as outlined in sections 4.5 – 4.9 of the report, and**
- (3) requested that the Director of Children's Services keep the E,CY&P Executive updated on future plans to expand universal free school meals within the primary sector.**

ECYE42. 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 which provided an update on progress with the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Expansion Plans; additional information on associated ELC workstreams; and updated information on the overall financial position.

Woodlands ELCC had opened in November 2021 and Glendevon ELCC (Maddiston) was expected to open later in February. There were 4 projects due to be completed in time to be available after the Easter 2022 holidays.

The changes made to the early years admissions policy had been implemented with the new on-line application process introduced. As part of the Scottish Government's Pilot Programme on deferred entry, Falkirk had received £800,000 to cover the additional costs for 2020/21 and 2021/22. A similar amount would also be received for 2022/23. The funds provided:-

- additional staffing to ensure the statutory 1:8 staffing ratio was maintained;
- provision of free meals and snacks;

- support for children with additional needs;
- internal adaptations to be made to provide additional capacity; and
- additional temporary staffing resource to specifically deal with parental enquiries and applications.

A consultation on the delivery of Early Learning and Childcare was proposed. There was a duty on local authorities to consult on and review plans every two years for the delivery of ELC. The consultation's aim was to provide information to support future ELC local planning, following the statutory implementation of the 1140-hour programme. The Consultation sought to gather the views of parents. A report summarising the findings of the consultation would be provided to a future meeting.

In line with the national policy of "Funding Follows the Child", parents could elect to send their child to an ELC establishment outwith the Falkirk area, provided that a funded place existed in that establishment. In such cases, the authority in which the parent resides was required to fund the place. The Statutory Guidance for ELC suggested that local authorities agree an Inter Authority Cross Boundary Charging Agreement with neighbouring authorities to ensure that parents could access ELC establishments that suited their needs and that recharges could be monitored and potentially off-set to keep bureaucracy to a minimum. It was proposed that as the expansion programme neared completion that the Service looked to set up an Inter-Authority Arrangement.

The Education, Children & Young People Executive adjourned at 11.55am and reconvened at 12noon with all members present as per the sederunt with the exception of Rev. Rollo.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) noted the workstream updates in section 4 of the report;**
- (2) noted the updates on the remaining infrastructure projects detailed in appendix 1 to the report;**
- (3) agreed to proceed with the ELC Consultation as outlined in section 4.5 and in appendix 2 to the report;**
- (4) agreed to proceed with work on an Inter Authority Cross Boundary Charging Agreement, as outlined in section 4.6 of the report, and**
- (5) noted the financial position.**

Rev. Rollo left the meeting during consideration of the previous item.

ECYE43. Council of the Future - Succeed Today, Excel Tomorrow Project Report: Virtual Learning Provision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided a review of Virtual Learning Provision offered as part of the Senior Phase Curriculum across all eight Secondary schools in Falkirk.

Over the last two years all secondary schools across Falkirk had moved to an aligned timetable model which had provided scope to increase curricular course offering via 'virtual learning/classes' in the Senior Phase. Since 2019, two virtual classes had run across the authority; Advanced Higher History & Higher Politics. During session 2021-22, Higher Sociology was added to the virtual learning provision.

The delivery method for virtual classes had been constructed in a manner to maximise pupil engagement whilst also facilitating time for independent learning. Lessons consisted of a teaching input, which was delivered via either a live lesson or pre-recorded video input created by the class teacher. The teaching input was followed by a series of classwork tasks which were undertaken by pupils and submitted to the class teacher ahead of the next lesson.

There was an increasing trend in the number of young people choosing to engage with the virtual learning provision. As a result of the growing number of pupils who selected a virtual class, Secondary Headteachers had agreed the following commitments going forward:-

- Maximum staff to pupil ratio of 1-20, and
- Where the number of pupils exceeded 20 an additional member of staff (with appropriate subject knowledge and expertise) from a different school, would support the lead teacher.

Decision

The Education, Children and Young People Executive:-

- (1) noted progress of the Virtual Learning Provision being delivered as part of the Senior Phase Curriculum across Falkirk Council, and**
- (2) agreed the approach to expand the number of subjects offered via Virtual Learning Provision across the authority.**

John Chalmers left the meeting during the previous item.