

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 13 NOVEMBER 2018.

Present – Councillors David Dodds (Chair), Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Stuart Borrowman, Harry Cartmill, Pauline Clark, Tom Conn, Peter Heggie, Chris Horne, Charles Kennedy, Dave King, Sarah King, John McGinty, Andrew McGuire, Dom McGuire (substituting for Councillor Muldoon), Andrew Miller, George Paul, Moira Shemilt and Kirsteen Sullivan; Appointed Representatives: Elsie Aitken, Heather Hughes, Myra Macpherson, Lynne McEwen and Margaret Russell.

Apologies – Councillor Cathy Muldoon

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The Education Executive approved the minute of the meeting held on 11 September 2018 as a correct record. The Chair thereafter signed the minute.

3. PROGRESS IN EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

A presentation was delivered by the Depute Chief Executive detailing the attainment in schools across the local authority area.

The Council had implemented a Raising Attainment in Schools Strategy for 2018-2023 which set out how the Council would raise the quality and value of service provision in order to achieve the corporate priorities of raising attainment and narrowing the attainment gap.

Attainment information was provided on each of the individual secondary schools, as well as at local authority level to illustrate progress towards these priorities. The following key features of attainment were provided which demonstrated the impact of the Raising Attainment in Schools Strategy in making progress towards achieving the outcomes and targets that it contained:

- Pupils were sitting and passing more National 5 examinations at the S4 stage than they were in 2014;
- Pupils were sitting and passing more Higher examinations at the S5 stage than they were in 2014;
- At the S4 stage, pupils were outperforming the virtual comparator and national average in literacy and numeracy at SCQF Levels 4 and 5;

- At the S4 stage, pupils were achieving above the level of the virtual comparator and the national average at key measures of breadth and depth attainment at SCQF Level 5;
- At the S5 stage, pupils were achieving above the level of the virtual comparator and the national average at key measures of breadth and depth attainment at SCQF Level 6;
- At the S6 stage, pupils were leaving education with more qualifications than the virtual comparators and national average at key measures of breadth and depth attainment at SCQF Level 6; and
- The attainment gap in total cumulative tariff points between Q1 and Q5 was smaller than the virtual comparator and national average at every senior phase stage.

The Education Executive commended education staff for the progress which had been made to date. The Education Executive then considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance) which provided details of progress in educational attainment.

Officers in attendance then responded to a number of questions from members of the Education Executive. In response to a suggestion for an additional report to be provided, which should include a breakdown of subject results within each school, the Chair agreed to determine the most suitable way to communicate this to members.

Finally, members were advised that performance management undertaken at schools and authority level would continue to rely on a wide range of measures in order to allow performance to be measured at key stages and performance of particular subjects, curricular areas, and groups of pupils to be measured.

During the course of the discussion the Depute Chief Executive undertook to encourage Head Teachers to share the information on the progress made in educational attainment with staff within their schools.

It was recommended that the Education Executive:

- Noted the key features of attainment set out in the report and presentation, which demonstrated the impact of the Raising Attainment Strategy in making progress towards achieving the outcomes and targets that it contained; and
- Noted that a further report would be delivered in March 2019 after the February Insight update. This would highlight West Lothian Leavers data (Young people who had left in S4, S5 and S6 in 2017). This would show 1+, 3+ and 5+ Level 6 SCQF Awards at point of exit as the key measure of attainment.

Decision

- 1) To note the presentation and contents of the report.
- 2) To note the suggestion for an additional report providing a breakdown of subject results within each school. The Chair agreed to determine the most suitable way to communicate this to members.
- 3) To note the undertaking by the Depute Chief Executive to encourage Head Teachers to share the information with staff within their schools.