

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 26 MARCH 2019.

Present – Councillors David Dodds (Chair), Tom Conn (substituting for Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick), Peter Heggie, Tom Kerr, John McGinty and Andrew Miller; Elsie Aitken, Heather Hughes, Eric Lumsden, Lynne McEwen and Margaret Russell

Apologies – Councillors Stuart Borrowman and Lawrence Fitzpatrick; Myra Macpherson

1        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2        ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair advised that the report at agenda item 5 (Establishment of New Non-Denominational Secondary School at Winchburgh and Review of Admission Arrangements Arising From Non-Denominational Secondary School Catchment Area Variations at Broxburn Academy, Linlithgow Academy and West Calder High School) had been amended since the publication of the agenda and a revised report was circulated to members.

3        MINUTES

The Committee approved the minute of its meeting held on Thursday 14 February 2019 as a correct record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4        ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NON-DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL AT WINCHBURGH AND REVIEW OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM NON-DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA VARIATIONS AT BROXBURN ACADEMY, LINLITHGOW ACADEMY AND WEST CALDER HIGH SCHOOL

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) (copies of which had been circulated) on the proposal to establish a new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh.

The report set out the rationale for the proposal, stating that the establishment of a new school and associated alterations to existing school catchment areas would alleviate pressure on current and future capacity and enable the creation of flexible learning spaces in schools.

The proposed new school catchment area would include existing and new properties in Winchburgh, some areas of the current catchment of Broxburn Academy and Linlithgow Academy and the ongoing property development area in East Calder which was currently within the West Calder High School catchment. A preferred site for the new school had been identified at Craigton Park. Attached to the report at appendices 3 to 9 were area maps showing the relevant locations. It was intended to introduce year stages on a phased basis which would be determined following consultation.

The report set out the implications of the proposal for Broxburn Academy, Linlithgow Academy and West Calder High School and summarised the proposed admission arrangements. It was proposed to proceed initially to the pre-consultation stage following approval by the Council Executive, with a view to commencing construction in 2020 if approved.

A draft timeline and the draft consultation document were attached to the report at appendices 1 and 2 respectively. Attention was drawn to an error in the school roll forecast figures for Linlithgow Academy on page 13 of the consultation document (appendix 2), and the Panel was advised that the correct figures were shown in section D4.5 of the report. A revised version of the report with correct figures in appendix 2 was circulated to members.

The report noted that a new school and review of admission arrangements were required to support housing developments and meet the Council's statutory responsibilities. It considered that the proposals would deliver on these and make best use of the existing and future capacities.

During discussion, members noted that some of the proposed consultation period was during school holidays which may not be the most appropriate time for gathering responses. The Panel were advised that the proposed dates met the statutory timescales but that it would be possible to amend these dates to begin the consultation period after pupils had returned from their summer break. With regard to the location on a former industrial site, the Panel were assured that the development company would be required to carry out any necessary remediation works before transferring the land to the Council for construction to begin.

The Panel was recommended to consider the proposal which was intended for submission to the Education Executive for consideration.

### Decision

To note the report and the proposal for submission to the Education Executive.

## 5 UPDATE TO PROPOSAL ON RELOCATION OF HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY SCHOOL

A report by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources)

(copies of which had been circulated) on the proposed relocation of Holy Family Primary School was considered by the Panel.

Holy Family Primary School was currently located in premises shared with Winchburgh Primary School. As part of the expansion of development of Winchburgh, it was proposed to relocate Holy Family Primary School to a newly built school.

In May 2018, the Council Executive was recommended by officers that the school be relocated to a site at Beatlie Road; however it was now recommended that the school be relocated to Craigton Park. This would provide a separate building within the same site as the proposed new secondary schools. It was considered that financially and logistically, offering due regard to access and traffic management and sports and outdoor facilities, there were greater advantages of the school being delivered as a separate building within a larger single development on the same site as the proposed new secondary schools at Winchburgh.

Forecast school roll figures were provided within the report up to session 2028-29 and it was noted that the proposed approach would alleviate identified capacity pressures.

If approved by Council Executive, the consultation process would commence. A draft timeline was attached at Appendix 1 followed by the draft consultation document at Appendix 2. A map attached at Appendix 3 showed the current and proposed locations.

The Panel sought clarification on the forecast school roll figures and was advised that the scenario of 900 houses per annum was the most likely figure. These forecasts took into account the Housing Land Audit and the number of new properties likely to come forward in future. The potential to extend the school capacity if required to accommodate demand was also highlighted.

The Panel was recommended to note the proposal which was intended for submission to the Education Executive for consideration.

### Decision

To note the report and the proposal for submission to the Education Executive.

## 6 UPDATE TO PROPOSAL ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL AT CALDERWOOD, EAST CALDER AND REVIEW OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM THE NON-DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA VARIATIONS AT EAST CALDER PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) (copies of which had been circulated) on the proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school at Calderwood, East Calder and associated proposals.

The Council Executive considered a proposal to establish the new school in May 2018, and this had now been revised. The current proposal would see the establishment of a new primary school at Calderwood with the catchment secondary school being the proposed new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh, rather than West Calder High School as proposed previously. If the proposal was to proceed, the admission arrangements for East Calder Primary School would require to be reviewed.

The report noted that a site had been identified for the school which could accommodate pupils from the entire Calderwood development and construction and delivery would be funded by the developer. The catchment area of the new school would cover the Calderwood development plus 37 existing dwellings. A review of the East Calder Primary School catchment would also be undertaken.

If approved a consultation exercise would be undertaken, a draft timeline for which was attached to the report at Appendix 1. The draft consultation document was attached at Appendix 2. It was hoped that the new school would be completed in August 2021. The maps at appendices 3 to 5 showed the current and proposed catchment areas for East Calder Primary School and the proposed school at Calderwood.

The report concluded that the new school was necessary to ensure the council met its statutory responsibilities, particularly in relation to the new housing development at Calderwood.

The Panel was recommended to note the proposal which was intended for submission to the Education Executive for consideration.

### Decision

To note the report and the proposal for submission to the Education Executive.

## 7 REVIEW OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM PROPOSED VARIATIONS TO THE CATCHMENT AREAS OF POLKEMMET PRIMARY SCHOOL, CROFTMALLOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND GREENRIGG PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) on the admission arrangements for primary schools in Whitburn and Greenrigg.

It was proposed to commence a formal consultation to review the arrangements arising from proposed catchment alterations to the catchment areas for Polkemmet Primary School, Croftmalloch Primary School and Greenrigg Primary School. The houses being built as part of the Heartlands Development in Whitburn were currently almost entirely within the catchment area for Greenrigg Primary School which did not have sufficient capacity to accommodate the expected number of pupils.

The proposal would see 443 properties currently in the Greenrigg Primary School catchment change to Polkemmet Primary School. Only 9 of 37 school pupils in this area currently attended Greenrigg Primary School, indicating this was not satisfactory for most families. It was also proposed to expand the catchment area for Croftmalloch Primary School to balance demand across the non-denominational primary schools.

The report set out the school roll forecasts for the three affected schools and noted that the changes were required to ensure the council met its statutory responsibilities.

A draft timeline for the consultation exercise was attached to the report at Appendix 1 alongside the draft consultation document at Appendix 2. The maps attached at appendices 3 to 9 showed the current and proposed arrangements and the areas which would change as a result.

The Panel was recommended to note the proposal which was intended for submission to the Education Executive for consideration.

### Decision

To note the report and the proposal for submission to the Education Executive.

## 8 MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING IN SCHOOLS

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance) on the current practice and future plans to support the mental and emotional wellbeing of children and young people in schools.

The West Lothian Council Corporate Plan prioritised positive outcomes on health and to deliver on this, schools worked closely with partners to promote the positive mental wellbeing of children and young people. West Lothian schools had made very good progress in developing and implementing strong cultures, systems and practices to support this.

In terms of the current position, the report noted that key actions were being progressed in a range of areas in line with the clear strategic approach being taken to deliver improvements.

In the future, the Health and Wellbeing Steering Group would continue to prioritise improvements in mental and emotional wellbeing in the coming school session. This would involve evaluating the impact of current action plans and further strengthening the quality and capacity of high level groups and individual schools to deliver planned priorities.

During discussion, members were informed of the range of partners the Council worked with to strengthen the support offered in schools and the partnership working which took place involving Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, NHS Lothian, Police, the Integration Joint Board and the third sector. It was suggested that support could be further

improved with increased working between the Council and the Community Planning Partnership.

The Panel were informed that a proactive approach had been developed and the actions which were being progressed would further improve the position in terms of the numbers of young people supported and the waiting time for services. The Panel requested a further update in one year to track progress.

The Panel was recommended to note:

1. Education Services' current position and aspects of very good practice in supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools; and
2. Education Services' approach to future planning of mental health and wellbeing for children and young people in schools.

### Decision

- 1) To note the terms of the report and presentation.
- 2) To encourage officers to work with the Community Planning Partnership to strengthen the support available to young people.
- 3) To request that a further report be submitted in one year to update the Panel on the progress made.

## 9 PROGRESS IN EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT - FEBRUARY INSIGHT UPDATE

The Committee received a report and presentation by the Head of Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance) (copies of which had been circulated) on the progress in Educational Attainment following the February update of Insight, the professional benchmarking tool for analysing attainment data of S4 to S6.

Delivering the best possible outcomes for children and young people was the Council's number one priority in the Corporate Plan. The Raising Attainment Strategy 2018-23 set out how the Council would raise the quality and value of service provision and support raising attainment and narrowing the attainment gap.

The report and presentation highlighted a number of key achievements which demonstrated the impact of the Strategy and the work being done to improve attainment. These included that school leavers were outperforming the virtual comparator in literacy and numeracy at levels 4 and 5, and achieving above the level of the virtual comparator and national average at key measures of breadth and depth attainment at SCQF levels 5 and 6. School leavers in quintile 1 were outperforming the virtual comparator in literacy and numeracy at levels 4 and 5, and the virtual comparator and national average at key measures of breadth and depth attainment at SCQF levels 5 and 6. The data also showed that the attainment gap in total cumulative tariff points between quintile 1 and

quintile 5 was smaller than the virtual comparator and the national average.

The data provided related to school leavers in the 2017/18 academic session as this was considered the most relevant for comparison using the insight tool and most relevant for showing all attainment and achievement throughout a young person's schooling.

Members asked about what was being done to ensure attainment continued to improve and were advised that more work was required to engage the lowest attaining young people and support pupils to positive destinations which were right for them. Attainment would continue to be measured and reported to the Panel. The Panel commended the work of officers and pupils for their achievements

The Panel was recommended to notes 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.

#### Decision

- 1) To note the terms of the report.
- 2) To commend the staff and pupils for their hard work and the results achieved.

### 10 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2019/20

The proposed meeting dates for the Panel in 2019/20 were presented.

#### Decision

To note the 2019/20 timetable of meetings.

### 11 WORKPLAN

The workplan detailing the future work of the Panel was presented.

#### Decision

To note the workplan.