

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 30 AUGUST 2016.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), David Dodds, Stuart Borrowman, Harry Cartmill, Tom Conn, Alexander Davidson, Carl John, Dave King, Sarah King, Danny Logue, John McGinty, Anne McMillan, Andrew Miller, Angela Moohan, George Paul, Frank Toner and Jim Walker; Appointed Representatives Myra MacPherson, Lynne McEwen and Margaret Russell; Parent Council Representative Eric Lumsden.

Apologies – Councillor Tony Boyle; Appointed Representatives Elsie Aitken and John MacKinnon.

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS, INCLUDING NOTICE OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair ruled under Standing Order 11 that an urgent report on Member Attendance at the Governance Institute Academy Governance Conference be tabled and considered following agenda item 5 (Appointed Member Attendance at Church of Scotland Annual Education Conference).

Councillor Borrowman asked the Chair to make an urgent statement to provide an update on school transport. The Chair ruled under Standing Order 10(5) that a statement would be made following the final item on the agenda.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTE

The Education Executive approved the minute of the meeting held on 7th June 2016 as being a correct record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. APPOINTED MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Development) seeking approval to invite the Church appointed members of the Education Executive to attend the Church of Scotland Annual Education Conference scheduled to be being held in Edinburgh from 1st to 3rd September 2016. A copy of the programme for the conference: Investing In Our Young People was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Church of Scotland Annual Training Conference provides an

opportunity for professional development in relation to the role of Church appointed members on education committees. The conference included information on the expected role of the representatives, issues they might have to deal with or be aware of and new consultations being submitted by the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, GTCS and SQA. It also explored the value that appointed members bring to the post and provides a forum for discussing and sharing experiences, expertise and best practice.

The Education Executive was asked to agree that the Church appointed members of the Education Executive be invited to attend the Church of Scotland Annual Education Conference being held in Edinburgh on 1-3 September 2016 on a non-residential basis.

Decision

Approved the terms of the report.

5. MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT THE GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE ACADEMY GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which were tabled) by the Depute Chief Executive providing details of the Governance Institute Academy Governance Conference on 4 October 2016 in London. Details of the programme for the conference were attached as an appendix to the report.

The conference aimed to provide delegates with the tools to evaluate school governance frameworks and discuss fundamental governance principles. The ICSA is the professional body for governance professionals.

The Education Executive was asked to consider attendance at the Governance Institute Academy Governance Conference.

Motion

Agreed the terms of the recommendation and proposed that the Executive Councillor for Education should attend the conference.

- Moved by Councillor King and seconded by Councillor Dodds.

Decision

The motion was unanimously agreed.

6. S5 AND S6 SQA EXAMINATION RESULTS 2016

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) providing details of the SQA awards in the Scottish Curriculum and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Level 6 (Higher or equivalent) attained by S5

students and at SCQF Level 7 (Advanced Higher or equivalent) attained by S6 students in 2016.

The report provided details of the continued improvement in performance of S5 students in 1+, 3+ and 5+ examinations at SCQF Level 6 (Higher or equivalent). The examination performance of S6 students in 1+ examination at Level 7 (HNC, Advanced Higher or equivalent) was up over the five year period and that the figure for 2016 did not at this stage include all college based HNC candidate results.

The Raising Attainment Strategy set out the council's key strategic plan to improve the examination performance of young people in West Lothian. The challenging examination performance targets contained in the Raising Attainment Strategy have been achieved one year ahead of schedule. In conclusion, it was noted that the SQA results for S5 students in 2016 showed continuation in the overall trend of improvement across key indicators with record success in the percentage of pupils attaining 1, 3 and 5 or more passes at Level 6. It was noted that the Level 7 figures did not include the results of students who had successfully completed the first year of the HNC courses in Computing and Engineering.

The Education Executive was asked to note the continued improvement in performance.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

7. DELIVERING EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT DELIVERY PLAN

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Heads of Education providing details of the Scottish Government's delivery plan for improvements in Scottish Education, 'Delivering Excellence and Equity'.

The report explained that on 28 June 2016 the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills published the Scottish Government's delivery plan to 'Deliver Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education'.

The Education Executive had previously considered reports on the National Improvement Framework, the Scottish Attainment Challenge, Getting it Right for Every Child, Developing the Young Workforce and the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare. The delivery plan set out timescales for delivering the actions and activities associated with the policies and reviews. A copy of Delivering Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education Timeline was attached at appendix 1 to the report.

The report outlined the key points relating to the Scottish Attainment Challenge, Early Learning and Childcare, National Improvement Framework, Governance Review and Parental Engagement. The delivery plan set out challenging timescales for all stakeholders, Scottish

Government, Local Authorities, Education Scotland, General Teaching Council for Scotland, head teachers and schools and partners such as the National Parent Forum and the teacher training institutions. It was envisaged that there would be significant changes to the funding, governance and statutory responsibilities for local authorities and schools arising from new legislation on the role of an education authority, standards in schools, additional learning needs and parental involvement.

The Head of Education (Quality Assurance) advised the Education Executive that a new Education Bill would be published in 2017. Consultation on the Bill would take place in early 2017. Further reports and responses to formal consultations would be submitted to future meetings of the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel and Education Executive for consideration.

The Education Executive was asked to note the published delivery plan and note that further reports would be submitted on the implementation of the key proposals, particularly in relation to the outcome of the Governance Review, the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare and implementation of the National Improvement Framework and consultations on future legislation.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

8. STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR REGARDING TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL

Following the request from Councillor Borrowman for an urgent statement to be made in relation to school transport, the Chair invited Elaine Cook, Depute Chief Executive, Education and Planning Services, to provide an update on his behalf.

Dr Cook advised that the Transport To and From School Policy was submitted to the Education Executive for approval on 24 March 2015. She confirmed that the provision of school transport within the policy was the responsibility of the Public Transport Unit.

Graeme Struthers, Depute Chief Executive, Corporate, Operational and Housing Services, confirmed that the Public Transport Unit falls within the remit of Operational Services. The delivery of transport to and from school service was through Operational Services in conjunction with Education Services. It was proposed that a further report be forwarded to an appropriate meeting of the Council Executive to clarify the remit of the transport to school service.

A spokesperson from each of the opposition parties in attendance at the meeting were then given the right of reply. Councillors Borrowman and Miller requested that a substantial statement be given to provide confirmation of where the responsibility lies within the council for the delivery of this service.

The Chair indicated that he thought that it would be appropriate for a

report to be submitted to the Council Executive for consideration which should clearly outline who was responsible for the delivery of transport to and from school.

It was noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Council Executive on the delivery of transport to and from school.