

## 6. STATISTICS FOR SCHOOLS - PUPIL TEACHER RATIOS

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Schools with Education Support advising of the statistics published by the Scottish Government in relation to pupil teacher ratios and class size reduction as per the annual census in publicly funded schools in Scotland conducted on 18 September 2013, details of which were attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The Head of Schools with Education Support explained that the Scottish Government required all local authorities to provide information in relation to pupils and teachers in publicly funded schools on an annual basis with the census being undertaken in September each year. The results of the latest census were published on 11 December 2013.

The pupil teacher ratio for West Lothian Council in 2013 was 14:1 and compared favourably with the ratios being provided by other local authorities of a similar size. Pupil teacher ratios in 2013 across Scotland ranged from 12:4 to 14:8 (disregarding island authorities) with the average being 13:5. The pupil teacher ratio in West Lothian met the commitment made as part of the local government settlement for 2012-2015 to maintain teacher numbers in line with pupil numbers.

Additionally the percentage of P1-P3 pupils in classes of 18 pupils or less or in two teacher classes with a pupil teacher ratio of 18 or less was 20.8% for West Lothian schools in 2013. This percentage varied considerably between local authorities with the existence of a large number of small schools in some areas as one of the main reasons for this. The national level for 2013 was 13.6%.

In conclusion West Lothian Council's statistics for pupil teacher ratio and class size reduction compared favourably with similar local authorities and reflected the high level of investment in early education in West Lothian.

### Decision

1. Noted the contents of the report; and
2. Agreed that the statistics specifically to West Lothian would be circulated to all Panel Members.