

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 10 SEPTEMBER 2019.

Present – Councillors David Dodds (Chair), Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Stuart Borrowman, Pauline Clark, Peter Heggie, Charles Kennedy, Dave King, Sarah King, John McGinty, Andrew McGuire, Andrew Miller, Cathy Muldoon, Moira Shemilt and Kirsteen Sullivan

Apologies – Councillors Harry Cartmill, Tom Conn, Chris Horne and George Paul; Appointed Member Heather Hughes

Absent – Appointed Members Elsie Aitken and Eric Lumsden

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The Education Executive approved the minute of its meeting held on 11 June 2019. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. WEST LOTHIAN NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK PROGRESS REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance) informing members of the West Lothian National Improvement Framework Progress Report for Session 2018/19 and Improvement Plan for Session 2019/20.

The Progress Report, attached to the covering as Appendix 1, addressed each of the four key priorities of the National Improvement Framework: raising attainment, closing the attainment gap, improving health and well-being, and improving employability.

The report satisfied the requirement within the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 to produce an annual statement of improvement progress and objectives, and it closely correlated with the Raising Attainment Strategy.

The West Lothian Council NIF Improvement Plan, attached to the covering report as Appendix 2 set out the West Lothian Council context and the transformational change achieved through the collaborative Moving Forward in Learning approach, as well as the national context including the stretch aims agreed in partnership with Education Scotland in relation to literacy, numeracy and positive destinations. The Improvement Plan addressed each of the four key priorities of the

National Improvement Framework in terms of the key drivers of improvement identified within the NIF.

It was recommended that the Education Executive approve the contents of the West Lothian National Improvement Framework Progress Report and Plan as West Lothian Council's strategic approach to driving forward improvement in the key priorities: raising attainment, closing the attainment gap, improving health and well-being, and improving employability.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

4. OCTOBER CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive (Education, Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration) seeking approval for the attendance of the three Religious Representatives at the 2019 October Conference for Local Authority Representatives in Edinburgh on Friday 4 October 2019.

The conference would be based around the theme of health and wellbeing. The report noted that previous attendees had found the conferences organised by the Church of Scotland to be valuable opportunities to discuss their role and contribution with representatives from other parts of Scotland.

It was recommended that the Education Executive approve the attendance of the three Religious Representatives at the 2019 October Conference for Local Authority Representatives in Glasgow on Friday 4 October 2019.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

5. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL AT WINCHBURGH AND ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) seeking approval to commence formal public consultation with initial pre-consultation exercise on the proposals to establish a new 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 report set out current and proposed admission arrangements based on school roll forecasts, and noted that a formal consultation was required for any proposal to create a new educational establishment and the subsequent proposals to determine the catchment area for the proposed new school, alter admission arrangements as a result of variation to the catchment area of a school and review transition arrangements from primary to secondary school. A draft timeline and a draft consultation document were attached to the report as Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

The proposed new school catchment area would include existing and new properties in Winchburgh and developed areas in the existing catchment areas of St Margaret's Academy and St Kentigern's Academy. A preferred site had been identified which would provide scope for a vibrant learning hub for the Winchburgh community. Maps showing the relevant areas were attached to the report as Appendices 3 to 6.

It was also noted that the changes outlined in the draft consultation paper would make best use of existing and future school capacities, provide an educational infrastructure to support future housing developments and enable West Lothian Council to meet statutory responsibilities for denominational secondary education.

In response to questions, officers undertook to conduct a strategic review of the St Margaret's Academy, St Kentigern's Academy and Winchburgh secondary school catchment areas.

It was recommended that Education Executive:

1. Note the terms of the draft Consultation Document; and
2. Approve commencement of public consultation on the proposals identified in Section A of the report.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

6. DECHMONT INFANT SCHOOL - PROPOSED RELOCATION, INTRODUCTION OF YEAR STAGES P4-P7 AND REVIEW OF PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL ALIGNMENT

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) seeking approval to commence formal public consultation with initial pre-consultation on the proposals to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4–P7 and review non-denominational primary to secondary school alignment.

Dechmont Infant School currently delivered P1–P3 education followed by progression to Kirkhill Primary School for P4–P7 education. As part of the proposed development of the former Bangour Hospital site, it was

proposed to construct a new non-denominational P1–P7 primary school incorporating Dechmont Infant School to cover both the existing village of Dechmont and the new development site at Bangour.

The report indicated proposed location sites, shown in Appendix 2, as well as proposed options for non-denominational secondary school alignment. Both would be consulted on; the draft consultation document was attached to the report as Appendix 1.

It was recommended that Education Executive:

1. Note the terms of the draft Consultation Document; and
2. Approve commencement of public consultation on the proposals to relocate Dechmont Infant school, introduce year stages P4–P7 and review primary to secondary school alignment.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

7. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NON-DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL AT WINCHBURGH AND ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) seeking Education Executive approval to commence formal Statutory Consultation on the proposals to Establish a new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh and associated proposals.

The creation of a new education establishment, development of an associated catchment area and alteration of existing school catchment areas would alleviate current and future capacity pressures and enable opportunity to create flexible learning spaces in schools improving the range of learning environments across the existing non-denominational secondary school estate in West Lothian.

Following approval by the Education Executive in April 2019, a pre-consultation exercise was conducted in May 2019. The initial proposal for creation of a new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh was well received by the community. A draft timeline was attached to the report as Appendix 1, while a note of the pre-consultation was attached as Appendix 2.

It was proposed the new non-denominational secondary school be populated on a phased basis commencing with S1 intake in August 2022. The report noted that implications for sibling links would be taken into consideration; it also set out the educational benefits of phased population. Further logistical information relating to the proposed phased population of the new school was detailed in Appendix 3.

The proposed catchment area for the new non-denominational secondary school in Winchburgh would include new and existing properties in

Winchburgh and developed areas located in the existing catchments at Linlithgow Academy and Broxburn Academy. Current and proposed location maps were shown in Appendices 4 to 9.

It was noted that running in parallel to the Winchburgh non-denominational secondary school pre-consultation exercise was a separate public pre-consultation engagement on the proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school at Calderwood with primary to secondary association to the catchment of the proposed new secondary school at Winchburgh. This pre-consultation engagement indicated that Calderwood Primary School should remain in the West Calder High School catchment area.

It was recommended that Education Executive:

1. Note the terms of the draft Consultation Document; and
2. Approve commencement of Statutory Public Consultation on the proposals identified in Section A of the report.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

8. RELOCATION OF HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY SCHOOL, WINCHBURGH

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) seeking approval to commence formal Statutory Public Consultation on the proposal to relocate Holy Family Primary School.

Holy Family Primary School was currently in shared premises with Winchburgh Primary School at Glendevon Park, Winchburgh. As part of the continuing expansion of the Winchburgh Core Development Area, it was proposed to relocate Holy Family Primary School to a newly built, developer-funded school on the B9080 to the west of Winchburgh village centre.

At the pre-consultation engagement, approved by Council Executive in April 2019 and conducted in May 2019, the proposal to relocate Holy Family Primary School was well received by the community. Note of the pre-consultation exercise was attached to the report as Appendix 1. The changes outlined in the draft Consultation Document, attached as Appendix 2, highlighted best use of existing and future school capacities and addressed predicted demand from forthcoming housing developments. A draft timeline was attached as Appendix 3, while a proposed location map was shown in Appendix 4.

It was recommended that Education Executive:

1. Note the terms of the draft Consultation Document; and
2. Approve commencement of Statutory Public Consultation on the

proposal to relocate Holy Family Primary School to a proposed identified site in Winchburgh.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

9. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL AT CALDERWOOD, EAST CALDER AND ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) seeking approval to commence formal Statutory Consultation on the proposal to create a new non-denominational primary school at Calderwood, East Calder and associated proposals.

A site for a new non-denominational primary school at Calderwood, East Calder was identified in the 2009 West Lothian Local Development Plan. The identified site allowed for children from the entire Calderwood housing development to be educated at a new primary school within the development area. The developer would transfer the land to the council at no cost and would pay in full for the construction and delivery of the new primary school.

Pre-consultation engagement was approved by Council Executive in April 2019 and conducted in May 2019. Feedback attained during the pre-consultation process indicated that whilst the Calderwood community were in full support of the main proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school, the associated proposal of primary to secondary school alignment to the proposed new non-denominational secondary school at Winchburgh was not favoured.

Council officers had reviewed this element of the initial proposal and moving forward to Statutory Consultation they would propose primary to secondary school alignment with West Calder High School. Notes of the pre-consultation sessions were attached to the report as Appendices 1 and 2. A draft timeline was shown in Appendix 3, while the draft consultation document was attached as Appendix 4. Current and proposed catchment area maps were shown in Appendices 5 to 7.

It was recommended that Education Executive:

1. Note the terms of the initial draft Consultation Document; and
2. Approve commencement of Statutory Consultation on the proposals highlighted in Section A of this report.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

10. REVIEW ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM PROPOSED VARIATIONS TO SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS AT SEAFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, PARKHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIVINGSTON VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL, BANKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND DEDRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) seeking approval to commence formal public consultation on the proposal to review admission arrangements arising from proposed variations to the school catchment areas at Seafield Primary School, Parkhead Primary School, Livingston Village Primary School, Bankton Primary School and Dedridge Primary School.

As part of the Gavieside housing development, a new non-denominational primary school was planned. In the interim, the proposal would ensure that the entire development was located within the same non-denominational primary school catchment area.

Details were provided of the proposed changes to each of the schools' catchment areas. Maps showing the current catchment areas and the proposed catchment areas were attached to the report at Appendices 2 and 3 respectively. The draft consultation document was attached to the report as Appendix 1.

It was also proposed to associate each of the identified area changes to a designated secondary school to ensure all secondary school catchments aligned with primary school catchments.

It was recommended that Education Executive:

1. Note the terms of the draft Consultation Document; and
2. Approve commencement of public consultation on the proposals identified in Section A of this report.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

11. REVIEW ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM PROPOSED VARIATIONS TO SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS AT ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL POLBETH, OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ST NINIAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) seeking approval to commence formal public consultation on the proposal to review admission arrangements arising from proposed variations to the school catchment areas at St Mary's Primary School Polbeth, Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School and St Ninian's Primary School.

The report indicated that Gavieside development was a major development with over 2,000 new dwellings planned in the West Lothian Local Development Plan. At present, almost the entire site was split between Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School and St Mary's Primary School Polbeth catchment areas for denominational primary school education. The proposed review of school catchment areas was to ensure that the entire Gavieside development site was located in the same denominational primary school catchment area.

Details were provided of the proposed changes to each of the schools' catchment areas. Maps showing the current catchment area and the proposed catchment areas were attached to the report as Appendices 2 to 5. The draft consultation document was also attached as Appendix 1.

It was recommended that Education Executive:

1. Note the terms of the draft Consultation Document; and
2. Approve commencement of public consultation on the proposals identified in Section A of this report.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

12. REVIEW ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS ARISING FROM PROPOSED VARIATIONS TO SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS AT DEANS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, WEST CALDER HIGH SCHOOL, INVERALMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL AND THE JAMES YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) seeking approval to commence formal public consultation on the proposal to review admission arrangements arising from proposed variations to the school catchment areas at Deans Community High School, West Calder High School, Inveralmond Community High School and The James Young High School.

The houses planned as part of the Gavieside housing development were split between the Deans Community High School and West Calder High School catchment areas for non-denominational secondary school education. It was therefore proposed to review the catchment areas to ensure that the entire development was located within the same non-denominational secondary school catchment area.

Details were provided of the proposed changes to each of the schools' catchment areas. Maps showing the current and proposed catchment areas were attached to the report as Appendices 2 to 4. The draft consultation document was also attached as Appendix 1.

The report also noted that there would be no impact on pupils currently

attending the schools and that a sibling link would be maintained after the changes to allow siblings to continue to attend the same school. It was also proposed to associate each of the catchment areas to a non-denominational primary school to ensure all secondary school catchment areas aligned with those of the primary schools. A separate consultation would be commenced to review this.

It was recommended that Education Executive:

1. Note the terms of the draft Consultation Document; and
2. Approve commencement of public consultation on the proposals identified in Section A of this report.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.