

## RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS AND EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive informing members of the plans to re-open schools and early learning and childcare in line with the Scottish Government Direction, Strategic Framework and Guidance. The report also informed members of the key strategic decisions on blended learning with reduced school capacity, facilities management including cleaning and catering and school transport required to enable implementation of the Local Phasing Delivery Plan and the School Recovery Plans.

Members were reassured of the council's robust and resilient procedures regarding addressing issues referred to in the report and of the adaptability of the council's response depending on further guidance from the Scottish Government. All members would be kept updated of developments and further meetings might be scheduled as required.

Teachers and officers were thanked for the way they had adapted to the challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was recommended that the Education Executive:

1. Approve the Local Phasing Delivery Plan, noting that the Plan was a dynamic document that would continue to evolve in response to legislation, national guidance and in consultation with stakeholders including Headteachers, Parents/Carers, Pupils, Staff and Professional Associations and Trades Unions and give delegated authority to the Depute Chief Executive to implement further changes to the plan;
2. Note that each school would have in place a School Recovery Plan by 24 June 2020 to reflect local and establishment-specific circumstances and that these would also be dynamic;
3. Note the model of blended learning, and that each pupil would be allocated two extended days of in-school learning each week (during Monday-Thursday) and that would equate to 50% of curriculum time;
4. Note the transition arrangements currently under way in schools;
5. Agree the model of school transport provision, subject to approval by the Council Executive in relation to financial resources, and note that the social distancing requirements for public transport had significant cost implications and capacity risks for both mainstream and ASN school transport.
6. Agree the model of provision of free school meals for all eligible pupils subject to approval by the Council Executive in relation to financial resources;

7. Note that within each School Recovery Plan arrangements for school catering were being developed that maintained the breakfast option and the provision of a hot meal option in all schools;
8. Note the enhanced cleaning currently being implemented in schools;
9. Submit the Plan to Education Scotland by 24 June; and
10. Note a separate report would be presented to Council Executive, which included a request for authority to write to the Scottish Government to request full funding for the cost implications of the re-opening schools plan which were set out in section D3 of the report.

#### Decision

1. To approve the terms of the report.
2. The Education Executive made the commitment that all members would be kept updated on any requirements emerging from Scottish Government guidance and how the council would propose to fulfil them.