

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 23 JUNE 2020.

Present – Councillors David Dodds (Chair), Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Stuart Borrowman, Harry Cartmill, Pauline Clark, Tom Conn, Angela Doran (substituting for Councillor Cathy Muldoon), Carl John (substituting for Councillor Sarah King), Peter Heggie, Chris Horne, Charles Kennedy, Dave King, John McGinty, Andrew McGuire, Andrew Miller, George Paul, Moira Shemilt and Kirsteen Sullivan; Appointed Members Elsie Aitken, Heather Hughes, Eric Lumsden, Myra MacPherson, Lynne McEwen and Margaret Russell

Apologies – Councillors Sarah King and Cathy Muldoon

The Education Executive agreed for the meeting to be audio broadcast live.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda item 5 - Re-opening of Schools and Early Learning and Childcare

Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan declared an interest in this item of business in that she was a scheme volunteer.

Heather Hughes declared an interest in that, although she was attending Education Executive as the Secondary/Special Education Teaching Staff representative, she was also joint Chair of the LNCT and would be speaking as such under this item.

Agenda item 7 - School Session Dates 2021/22

Heather Hughes declared an interest in that, although she was attending Education Executive as the Secondary/Special Education Teaching Staff representative, she was also joint Chair of the LNCT and would be speaking as such under this item.

2 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Education Executive agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 8(3), that agenda items 12 (COVID-19: Use of Emergency Decision-Making Powers) and 13a (Establishment of New Denominational Secondary School at Winchburgh and Associated Proposals) were to be taken as read and their recommendations noted without further consideration.

The Education Executive agreed that information agenda items 11 (Curriculum - Recovery and Re-exploring) and 13b (Revised School Session Dates 2020/21 – Altered August Start Date) would be considered.

3 MINUTE

The Education Executive confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 21 January 2020. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4 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.

5 SCOTTISH SCHOOLS (PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT) ACT 2006 - UPDATED STATUTORY GUIDANCE CONSULTATION

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Curriculum, Quality Improvement and Performance) inviting members to consider the Scottish Government consultation on the updated draft of the statutory guidance of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006, and approve the draft response to the consultation.

It was recommended that the Education Executive consider the updated draft of the statutory guidance of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 consultation and approve the draft response to the consultation, which was intended for submission to the Scottish Government by the extended deadline of 30 June 2020.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

6 SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2021/22

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) informing members of the proposed school session dates for 2021/22.

It was recommended that the Education Executive approve the proposed dates for 2021/22.

It was agreed that the decision would be deferred to the September meeting of the Education Executive in order to allow further discussion between the LNCT and the council before the proposed school dates were finalised.

Decision

To defer decision to the next meeting of the Education Executive.

7 OUTCOME OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF S2 STAGE EDUCATION WITHIN OGILVIE SCHOOL CAMPUS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) informing members of the outcome of the public consultation on the proposal to establish S2 stage education within Ogilvie School Campus.

It was recommended that Education Executive:

1. Note the Final Report on the Statutory Consultation including the report from Education Scotland; and
2. Approve the proposal to introduce S2 stage education at Ogilvie School Campus.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

8 NAMING OF THE NEW DENOMINATIONAL AND NON-DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS AT WINCHBURGH AND NEW NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL AT CALDERWOOD, EAST CALDER

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) informing members of the views of stakeholders on the names of the new secondary schools at Winchburgh and new non-denominational primary school at Calderwood, East Calder, and asking the Education Executive to determine the names of the schools.

It was recommended that the Education Executive consider and determine the names of the new secondary schools at Winchburgh and

new non-denominational primary school at Calderwood, East Calder.

Decision

1. To approve the terms of the report.
2. To agree the names of the schools as emerged from the consultations.

9 WEST LOTHIAN (PLACING IN SCHOOLS) APPEAL COMMITTEE - RECRUITMENT AND APPEAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Corporate Services informing members of the outcome of a recent exercise to recruit additional members to the West Lothian (Placing in Schools) Appeal Committee, asking them to agree the new appointments and seeking approval to delegate authority to the Chief Solicitor to make recommendations in relation to Placing in Schools Appeals hearings for the 2020/21 academic year.

It was noted that Councillors Jim Dickson, Andrew Miller and Moira Shemilt had been appointed to the Placing in Schools Appeals Committee and were to undergo training before being able to attend meetings of the committee.

It was recommended that the Education Executive:

1. Note the outcome of the recent exercise to recruit additional members to the West Lothian (Placing in Schools) Appeal Committee;
2. Appoint the new members and note the list of existing members to the committee as shown in the Appendix to the report; and
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Solicitor to identify and fix such dates as may be necessary for the conduct of Appeals.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

10 CURRICULUM - RECOVERY AND RE-EXPLORING

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 recovery plans for delivering the curriculum and the council's aspirational vision for re-exploring the curriculum offer.

During discussion, officers answered a number of questions from members and reiterated the council's approaches to ensuring effective

curriculum delivery.

It was recommended that the Education Executive note the recovery plans for delivering the curriculum and note future plans for evolving the curriculum offer as illustrated in the accompanying presentation.

Decision

To note the terms of the report and presentation.

11 COVID-19: USE OF EMERGENCY DECISION-MAKING POWERS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Chief Executive on the use of emergency and other delegated powers in tackling the impact of the coronavirus emergency.

It was recommended that the Education Executive note the use made of delegated powers in tackling the coronavirus emergency.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

12 FOR INFORMATION ALL REPORTS APPROVED UNDER STANDING ORDER 31 SINCE 24 MARCH 2020

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL AT WINCHBURGH AND ASSOCIATED PROPOSALS

12a Decision

To note the action taken in terms of Standing Order 31 (Urgent Business).

REVISED SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2020/21 – ALTERED AUGUST START DATE

12b The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) informing members of the proposed revised school session start date for 2020/21.

It was noted that consultation with parents on the end-of-term date for June 2021 was currently under way and the proposed dates emerging from the consultation would be brought to the next meeting of the Education Executive.

The Council Executive was asked to note the action that had been taken

in terms of Standing Order 31 (Urgent Business) with regard to this report.

Decision

To note the action taken in terms of Standing Order 31 (Urgent Business).