

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



## **COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

### **EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE MEETING TIMETABLE**

#### **REPORT BY DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

##### **A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek Council Executive approval for the cancellation of the Education Quality Assurance Committee scheduled for 8 June 2021.

##### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

The Council Executive is asked to agree to the cancellation of the Education Quality Assurance Committee, scheduled for 8 June 2021, in light of the postponement of individual school scrutiny and inspections from Education Scotland during the Covid-19 pandemic.

##### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs; Being honest, open and accountable; Developing employees; Making best use of our resources; Working in partnership
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	Education (Scotland) Act 1980 Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2014
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	Education Scotland quality indicators are used to measure the performance of schools – How Good Is Our School?4 (HGIOS?4).
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	Positive inspection reports are used as a key outcome measure in the Single Outcome Agreement. Positive is measured by satisfactory or better in the quality indicators used by Education Scotland.
<b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	None
<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	None
<b>VIII Other consultations</b>	None

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D1 Background**

The Education (Quality Assurance) Committee carries out a scrutiny role in relation to internal and external schools' assessment and inspection reports. It provides a dedicated and specialised forum for scrutiny of performance and inspection outcomes for schools and educational establishments.

### **D2 Impact of Covid-19 on school inspections and Validated Self-Evaluation Programme**

Since March 2020, following the first national lockdown and period of school closure, Education Scotland, which provide the national scrutiny body, postponed all individual school inspection activities.

The council's Quality Improvement Team has engaged in alternatives methods for ensuring ongoing improvements in West Lothian schools, which was reported to Education (Quality Assurance) Committee on 9 March 2021. Covid restrictions and risk mitigations has resulted in the West Lothian Validated Self-evaluation (VSE) programme being limited.

Education Scotland's national scrutiny inspection report outcomes and West Lothian VSE outcomes form the core business of the Education (Quality Assurance) Committee and these have been significantly affected by the pandemic.

At this time, Education Scotland are engaging with local authorities and national bodies to review and plan for the resumption of elements of scrutiny, however the date for individual school inspections remains unknown.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

Education (Quality Assurance) Committee's scrutiny role, in relation to internal and external schools' assessment and inspection reports, has been impacted due to the postponement of Education Scotland inspections and therefore has no business to scrutinise at the committee meeting scheduled for 8 June 2021.

## **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

EQAC Report – Impact of Quality Improvement Team Supporting School Closure Period, Re-opening of Schools and Remote Learning  
<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Di%8Ej%7E%8A>

Appendices/Attachments: None

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**26 May 2021**