

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, LIVINGSTON, EH54 6FF, on 26 JUNE 2024.

Present – Councillors Andrew McGuire (Chair), Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Tony Boyle, Tom Conn, Peter Heggie, Maria MacAulay, Anne McMillan (substituting for Craig Meek), Sally Pattle, George Paul, Veronica Smith; and Pauline Stafford

Apologies – Councillors Danny Logue, Moira McKee Shemilt, Craig Meek, Andrew Miller, Tony Pearson; and Kirsteen Sullivan; and Kent Ballantyne, Heather Hughes; and Lynne McEwen (Appointed Representatives)

Absent – Peter Doolan and Andy Walker (Appointed Representatives)

Councillor Pearson was absent due to leave authorised under the Leave Scheme for Elected Members.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Education Executive agreed to hear a presentation from officers with respect to Agenda Item 8 (Summer Holiday Provision 2024 Update) as listed on the agenda for information only.

3. MINUTE

The Education Executive confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 7 May 2024 as a correct record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

4. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL IN CRAIGSHILL, LIVINGSTON

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Primary, Early Years and Resources) seeking approval following public consultation on proposals to :-

- Establish a new primary school in Craigshill, Livingston
- Review the catchment area for the new school
- Close Riverside Primary School
- Close Letham Primary School

In addition, the Head of Education (Primary, Early Years and Resources) presented details of the outcome of the formal consultation, stakeholders views on the naming of the new school and the comments of Education

Scotland on the consultation.

It was recommended that the Education Executive :-

1. Notes the outcome of the formal consultation, and the comments of Education Scotland on the consultation.
2. Approves the proposal to establish a new non-denominational primary school in Craigshill, the catchment area for the new school and subsequent closure of Riverside Primary School and Letham Primary School.
3. Considers the stakeholders views on the naming of the new school and approves the name of the new school as Craigshill Primary School.

Decision

To approve the recommendations of the report

5. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO MOTHBALL DECHMONT INFANT SCHOOL

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Primary, Early Years and Resources) seeking approval, following public consultation, to mothball Dechmont Infant School and Dechmont Infant Nursery Class and to present details of the outcome of the formal consultation.

It was recommended that the Education Executive :-

1. Notes the outcome of the formal consultation
2. Approves the proposal to mothball Dechmont Infant School and Dechmont Infant School Nursery Class for the duration of school year 2024/25 as set out in the consultation
3. Agrees that these arrangements will be reviewed annually, with the next review to take place in early 2025 in order to enable re-opening in school year 2025/6 should that be the outcome of the review

Decision

To approve the recommendations of the report

6. SCHOOL ROLL FORECASTS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration advising of the latest School Roll Forecasts.

It was noted that the forecasts included scenarios which were used for future revenue and capital planning, pupil placement decisions, and as a starting point for responses to developers on planning proposals which would have an impact on education capacity

In addition, the forecasts were also used to inform decisions on education infrastructure required to support the development strategy set out in the West Lothian Local Development Plan.

It was recommended that the Education Executive :-

1. Note the forecasts have been updated and incorporate the 2023 School census as the base;
2. Note that the forecasts include scenarios based on projected house completions from Housing Land Audit 2023;
3. Agree the updated forecasts of pupil rolls, including the assumptions and methodology applied in producing these data; and
4. Note that further investment in the school estate will be necessary in the future but the timing of that investment will be influenced by house building rates and the commitment of developers to fund additional school capacity.

Decision

To approve the recommendations of the report

7. SUMMER HOLIDAY PROVISION 2024 UPDATE

Prior to consideration of the following item of business an update report was circulated to the members of Education Executive

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Secondary, Community Learning and Inclusion) providing an update of the developments and plans for the Summer Holiday Provision to support targeted groups and wider provision (following the report to Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 4 June 2024).

It was recommended that the Education Executive :-

1. Note the progress of the plans in place to deliver targeted summer activities to support targeted groups and wider provision for young people in West Lothian for Summer 2024.
2. Note that an evaluation of the 'Get into Summer 2024' programme will be reported to a future meeting of the Education Executive.

Decision

1. To note the content of the report.
2. To agree that officer's include in future report comparisons with previous years summarising details of contact made with appropriate groups and service delivery.