

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, HOWDEN SOUTH ROAD, LIVINGSTON, EH54 6FF, on TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2010.

Present – Leader of the Council Peter Johnston (Chair), Councillors Andrew Miller (Vice-Chair), Frank Anderson, Willie Boyle, John Cochrane, Robert De Bold, Laurence Fitzpatrick, Ellen Glass, Isabel Hutton, Gordon Beurskens (substituting for Robert De Bold), Danny Logue and Jim Walker; Mrs Elsie Aitken and Mrs Myra MacPherson

Apologies – Councillor Robert De Bold and Rev. W Richard Houston.

Absent - Mr Bob Birrell

## 1 MINUTE

The Education Executive confirmed the Minute of its Meeting held on 24 November 2009. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

## 2 ENHANCED CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORMAL SCHOOL CONSULTATION PROCESSES – REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (DEVELOPMENT)

The Education Executive considered a report by the Head of Education (Development), {which had been circulated} advising the Executive of enhanced consultation arrangements contained in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Bill as passed in Parliament during November 2009 and expected to come into force no later than April 2010. A copy of the Bill as passed was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The report outlined the current requirements for consulting on relevant proposals including school closures and school catchment area adjustments are set out in the Education (Publication and Consultation etc) (Scotland) Regulation 1981.

These regulations had been applied in an enhanced format in West Lothian since 1996. The Scottish Government had recently passed the schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Bill in November 2009, which would replace the current regulations for formal school consultations. It was anticipated that the new requirements would be in place no later than April 2010.

Arrangements for consultation with staff and pupils would be prepared in discussion with Head Teachers and Professional Association and Trade Unions and detailed in the forthcoming consultation reports.

The Head of Education (Development), recommended that the Education

Executive approve the adoption of the enhanced standards for formal school consultation processes with immediate effect in order that these arrangements can be put in place for the forthcoming formal consultations to take place early in 2010 pending completion of the parliamentary process and enactment of the Bill before April 2010.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.