

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held within MS TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 7 SEPTEMBER 2021.

Present – Councillors David Dodds (Chair), Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Stuart Borrowman, Harry Cartmill, Tom Conn, Peter Heggie, Chris Horne, Charles Kennedy, Sarah King, John McGinty, Andrew McGuire, Andrew Miller, Cathy Muldoon, George Paul, Moira Shemilt and Kirsteen Sullivan; Appointed Members Elsie Aitken, Heather Hughes, Myra MacPherson and Margaret Russell

Apologies – Councillor Pauline Clark; Appointed Member Lynne McEwen

Absent – Appointed Member Derek Cornwall

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Education Executive noted there were three items marked for information only; these being agenda items 5, 11 and 12. The Chair intimated he would ask officers to present item 5 and take questions on item 11. Therefore, agenda item 12 was to be taken as read with its recommendation noted.

3 MINUTES

The Education Executive approved the minutes of its meeting held on 22 June 2021 as a correct record.

4 SQA MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING AWARD

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Secondary) and a presentation by Broxburn Academy providing information about the SQA Mental Health and Wellbeing award and its impact on young people in West Lothian.

During their presentation, Broxburn Academy pupils who had participated in the award provided details about the contents of the award, which included guidance on how to access a range of supports and covered different topics. Participants had developed awareness and a better understanding of mental health conditions. The course was flexible, allowing participants to focus on elements they had a specific interest in.

During discussion, the pupils confirmed that they would highly recommend the award and would encourage other participants to fully utilise all resources available. Skills developed were valuable currently but

would also be useful as young people moved on from school to join the workforce. They also indicated that although the course was structured in a self-learning format, support was available throughout and as needed.

The Chair on behalf of the Education Executive thanked the Broxburn Academy for their excellent presentation.

It was recommended that the Education Executive note the award and its impact on young people in West Lothian.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report and presentation.

### 5 REVIEW OF ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL: POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

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 revision to the Attendance at School: Policy and Operational Procedures (2017) in line with the introduction of the Inclusion and Support Service.

It was recommended that Education Executive approve the terms of the revised Attendance at School Policy and Operational Procedures document presented as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Education Executive was also asked to approve an additional recommendation to delegate authority to the Head of Service to update the operational procedures in order to allow them to function effectively and reflect minor changes to legislation.

#### Decision

1. To approve the recommendation in the report.
2. To approve an additional recommendation to delegate power to the Head of Service to update the procedures as required.

### 6 CONSULTATION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF S3 AND SUBSEQUENT ROLL OUT UP TO S6 SECONDARY 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) seeking approval, following formal public consultation, of the proposal to introduce S3 and subsequent roll out up to S6 stages of education at Ogilvie School Campus, and presenting details of the outcome of the formal consultation, and the comments of Education Scotland (HMI) on the consultation.

It was recommended that the Education Executive:

1. Approve the proposal to introduce S3 and subsequent roll out up to S6 stages of education at Ogilvie School Campus; and
2. Note the outcome of the formal consultation and the comments of Education Scotland (HMI) on the consultation.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

7 COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2021-24

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 Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan 2021–24 which requires to be published by September 2021.

It was recommended that the Education Executive approve the proposed CLD Partnership Plan 2021–24.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

8 ANNUAL PLAN AND REPORT

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Heads of Education seeking approval for the publication of the West Lothian Annual Report for 2020/21 and the Annual Plan for the National Improvement Framework (NIF) and Reducing Inequalities of Outcome 2021/22.

Officers agreed to provide a further update once the exercise of exploring practices on establishing youth-led participation models has been completed.

It was recommended that the Education Executive approve the West Lothian Annual Report for 2020/21 and the Annual Plan for the National Improvement Framework (NIF) and Reducing Inequalities of Outcome 2021/22 for publication.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

9 ADDITIONAL SCHOOL HOLIDAY TO MARK QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive seeking agreement to arrangements for schools to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, within the framework proposed in the report.

Subject to the Education Executive agreeing that all Council staff be granted an additional day of annual leave on Friday 3 June 2022, it was recommended that schools and early learning and childcare establishments close on this date, and that the permission of Scottish Ministers be sought to reduce the number of days of education to 189.

#### Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

### 10 EDUCATION RECOVERY UPDATE

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive informing members of the updated Scottish Government Guidance on reducing the risk in schools from coronavirus (COVID-19), and the implications for mitigations in place in West Lothian Schools.

It was recommended that the Education Executive note:

1. The updated Scottish Government Guidance on reducing the risk in schools from coronavirus (COVID-19), and the implications for mitigations in place in West Lothian Schools; and
2. The expectation that revised guidance would be issued at the end of September.

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.

### 11 FORTH VALLEY & WEST LOTHIAN REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive providing an update on the work of the Forth Valley & West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative including West Lothian, Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils.

It was recommended that the Education Executive note and consider the contents of the Forth Valley & West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative next phase plan (2021-2022).

#### Decision

To note the terms of the report.