

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held within MS TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 16 NOVEMBER 2021.

Present – Councillors David Dodds (Chair), Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Alison Adamson (substituting for Councillor Peter Heggie), Stuart Borrowman, Harry Cartmill, Pauline Clark, Tom Conn, Chris Horne, Charles Kennedy, Sarah King, John McGinty, Andrew McGuire, Andrew Miller, Cathy Muldoon, George Paul, Moira Shemilt and Kirsteen Sullivan; Appointed Representatives Derek Cornwall, Heather Hughes, Lynne McEwen and Myra Macpherson

Apologies – Councillors Peter Heggie and Dom McGuire

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 6 - Education Reform Consultation

Heather Hughes declared an interest in that she was the national President of the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS). She would take part in the item of business.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Education Executive noted that Item 7 (Appointment of Religious, Teacher and Parent Council Representatives) was for information only. The Chair intimated that officers would present the report in order to address an additional matter on this subject.

In terms of Standing Order 10(4) the Chair made a statement regarding the regular update on education recovery, informing members that no update was necessary on this occasion as national guidance had been extended and risk assessments remained unchanged. A spokesperson for each of the opposition parties, including the independent member, were given the right of reply.

3. MINUTES

The Education Executive confirmed the Minutes of its meeting held on Tuesday 07 September 2021 as a correct record.

4. SCHOOL ROLL FORECASTS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development & Regeneration informing of the latest School Roll Forecasts. 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. 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 that the forecasts had been updated and incorporated the 2020 School census as the base;
2. note that the forecasts included scenarios based on projected house completions;
3. agree the updated forecasts of pupil rolls, including the assumptions and methodology applied in producing the data; and
4. note that further investment in the school estate would be necessary in the future but the timing of that investment would be influenced by house building rates and the commitment of developers to fund additional school capacity.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and
2. To note the figure in appendix 1 for Woodmuir Primary School in 2030-31 should be 14 rather than zero.

5. EDUCATION REFORM CONSULTATION

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Secondary) inviting members to consider and approve of the draft response to the Education Reform Consultation, included as Appendix 1 to the report.

It was recommended that the Education Executive approve the draft response to the Education Reform Consultation included as Appendix 1 to the report.

Following discussion it was agreed that the wording in the appendix at section 7 should be redrafted in order to provide clarity.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report subject to rewording of the following, detailed under section 7 of the appendix ".....making skills-based courses with skills-based assessments and not written papers as an example".

6. APPOINTMENT OF RELIGIOUS, TEACHER AND PARENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Corporate Services outlining the arrangements to be made for the appointment of religious, teacher and parent council

representatives to any committee set up to deal with education following the May 2022 council election.

It was recommended that the Education Executive:

1. note the report on the arrangements for the appointment of three religious representatives, two teacher representatives and one parent council representative to any committee set up to deal with education following the May2022 council election; and
2. note that members appointed to any committee set up to deal with education would be invited to accept the terms of the Councillors' Code of conduct and abide by its requirements.

The Chair informed the Education Executive of the retirement of Elsie Aitken and thanked her for working tirelessly on behalf of teachers in her capacity as Primary/Early Years Teaching Staff representative on Education committees. Officers advised Elsie's retirement left a vacancy and sought opinion on whether representation should be obtained for the remainder of the term. Education Executive agreed the vacancy would be carried prior to commencement of the May 2022 election appointment process.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report; and.
2. To agree to carry the Primary/Early Years Teaching Staff representative vacancy created by Elsie Aitken's retirement until the appointment process commences for the May 2022 election.