

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held within MS TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 18 JANUARY 2022.

Present – Councillors David Dodds (Chair), Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Stuart Borrowman, Harry Cartmill, Pauline Clark, Tom Conn, Peter Heggie, Charles Kennedy, Sarah King, John McGinty, Andrew McGuire, Dom McGuire, Andrew Miller, Cathy Muldoon, George Paul, Moira Shemilt, Kirsteen Sullivan, Dom McGuire

Apologies – Councillor Chris Horne and Appointed Member Myra MacPherson

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 8 - Relocation of Beattie School, Livingston

Councillor Andrew Miller declared an interest in that he was a Director of West Lothian Leisure. He would not participate in the item of business.

Agenda Item 13 - Learning Spaces Scotland Conference

Councillor Pauline Clark stated that she had a child at West Calder High School. However, having applied the objective test she considered that this did not amount to an interest and so took part in the item of business.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair ruled, in terms of Standing Order 11 that he was promoting Item 12 (Secondary School Success in COP26 Climate Change Competition), Item 13 (Learning Spaces Scotland Conference) and Item 10 (West Lothian (Placing in Schools) Appeal Committee - Recruitment) so they could be considered before Item 5 (Review of Non-Denominational Primary School Catchments at Seafield, Parkhead, Livingston Village, Bankton and Dedridge Primary Schools). Item 12 would be considered first followed by Item 13 and Item 10 respectively.

3. SECONDARY SCHOOL SUCCESS IN COP26 CLIMATE CHANGE COMPETITION

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Secondary) informing of the recent successes by pupils from St Margaret's Academy and The James Young High School in a national competition as part of COP26. The report was accompanied by a presentation from the pupils of St Margaret's Academy.

The pupils provided a presentation on their Climate Change Dragon's Den competition entry "Be the Solution, not the Pollution" which was based on the impact of litter and concentrated on addressing litter within their school. Following the presentation, the Education Executive were given the opportunity to ask questions before concluding by congratulating the students on their success.

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report and the presentation by pupils of St Margaret's Academy.

4. LEARNING SPACES SCOTLAND CONFERENCE

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Heads of Education informing of the success of the students of West Calder High School in delivering the closing keynote session at the Learning Spaces Scotland Conference at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC). The report was accompanied by a presentation from the pupils of West Calder High School.

The students presentation explained further the content of their keynote session which included their; learning experiences in both a traditional school layout compared to that of their new school building, experiences of being educated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and vision for education in the future. With regards to future education, the Education Executive asked if the students were engaged in the Scottish Government review of national qualification assessments. Although not currently involved, Education Executive requested that pupils be given the opportunity to participate in the process for reformation of exams and national qualifications.

It was recommended that the Education Executive note the success of the West Calder students.

Decision

1. To note the terms of the report and the presentation by pupils of West Calder High School; and
2. To request that students were provided the opportunity to engage in the Scottish Government review of national qualification assessments.

5. WEST LoTHIAN (PLACING IN SCHOOLS) APPEAL COMMITTEE - RECRUITMENT

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Corporate Services seeking agreement to carry out a recruitment exercise to attract additional members to the West Lothian (Placing in Schools) Appeal Committee prior to the May 2022 Local Government Elections.

It was recommended that the Education Executive:

1. approve of the plan to recruit additional members to the West Lothian (Placing in Schools) Appeal Committee; and

2. note that the final outcome of the recruitment exercise would be reported to the first meeting of West Lothian Council following the May 2022 local government elections.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

6. MINUTE

The Education Executive confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on Tuesday 16 November 2021 as a correct record.

7. REVIEW OF NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL CATCHMENTS AT SEAFIELD, PARKHEAD, LIVINGSTON VILLAGE, BANKTON AND DEDRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) seeking Education Executive approval, following formal public consultation, of the proposal to vary admission arrangements by altering the catchment areas of the following non-denominational primary schools:

- Seafield Primary School
- Parkhead Primary School
- Livingston Village Primary School
- Bankton Primary School
- Dedridge Primary School

The report also presented 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 vary admission arrangements by altering the catchment areas of the following non-denominational primary schools:
 - Seafield Primary School
 - Parkhead Primary School
 - Livingston Village Primary School
 - Bankton Primary School

- Dedridge Primary School; 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.

8. REVIEW OF DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL CATCHMENTS AT ST MARY'S POLBETH, OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND ST NINIAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) seeking Education Executive approval, following formal public consultation, of the proposal to vary admission arrangements by altering the catchment areas of the following denominational primary schools:

- St Mary's Polbeth Primary School
- Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School
- St Ninian's Primary School

The report also presented 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 vary admission arrangements by altering the catchment areas of the following denominational primary schools:
 - St Mary's Polbeth Primary School
 - Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School
 - St Ninian's Primary School; 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.

9. REVIEW OF NON-DENOMINATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL CATCHMENTS AT DEANS, WEST CALDER, INVERALMOND AND JAMES YOUNG SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) seeking Education Executive approval, following formal public consultation, of the proposal to vary admission arrangements by altering the catchment areas of the following non-denominational secondary schools:

- Deans Community High School,
- West Calder High School,
- Inveralmond Community High School
- The James Young High School

The report also presented details of the outcome of the formal consultation, and the comments of Education Scotland (HMI) on the consultation.

It was recommended that Education Executive:

1. approve the proposal to vary admission arrangements by altering the catchment areas of the following non-denominational secondary schools:
 - Deans Community High School
 - West Calder High School
 - Inveralmond Community High School
 - The James Young High School; 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.

10. RELOCATION OF BEATLIE SCHOOL, LIVINGSTON

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 relocate Beatlie School to purpose built accommodation at a site east of the Xcite Craigswood Leisure Facility off Grange Road, Livingston.

The report also presented details of the outcome of the formal consultation, and the comments of Education Scotland (HMI) on the consultation.

It was recommended that Education Executive:

1. approve the proposal to relocate Beattie School; 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.

11. OUTCOME OF PRE-CONSULTATION ON DECHMONT / BANGOUR PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Learning, Policy and Resources) seeking approval to commence formal public consultation following the initial pre-consultation on the proposals to relocate Dechmont Infant School, introduce year stages P4-P7 and review admission arrangements at Dechmont Infants School & Kirkhill Primary School.

The report also presented the draft Consultation Document prepared by Council officers.

It was recommended that Education Executive:

1. note the terms of the draft Consultation Document; and
2. approve commencement of Statutory Public Consultation on the proposals identified in Section A of the report.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

12. DISCRETIONARY CHARGING - EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE (ELC)

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Primary) seeking approval for the introduction of discretionary charging in council provisions as part of the council's ELC framework.

Education Executive noted that consultation had commenced with partner providers in November 2021 and would be ongoing as part of the overall delivery of early learning and childcare. Officers advised that future reports to Education Executive would include the outcomes of this ongoing engagement.

It was recommended that the Education Executive:

1. approve the introduction of discretionary charging in council provisions as part of the council's ELC framework;
2. agree that the fee charged for discretionary early learning and childcare would be set annually at the average of all fees charged by partner providers based in West Lothian, and that this annual fee would be reported to elected members for scrutiny; and
3. delegate authority to the Depute Chief Executive to progress the arrangements set out in the recommendations and body of the report, in order to ensure that the proposed new service could be implemented by the target date of August 2022.

Decision

1. To approve the terms of the report; and
2. To note the outcome of ongoing partner provider consultation and engagement would be included in future reports to Education Executive.

13. EDUCATION RECOVERY UPDATE

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive informing 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. The report also updated members on HM Inspectors of Education (HMIE) updated scrutiny programme for academic session 2021-22 and Scottish Qualification Agency contingency planning, and the plans in place in each secondary school in relation to the 2022 examination diet.

It was recommended that Education Executive note the:

1. 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;
2. HM Inspectors of Education (HMIE) updated scrutiny programme for academic session 2021-22; and
3. Scottish Qualification Agency contingency planning, and the plans in place in each secondary school in relation to the 2022 examination diet.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.