

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE held within MS TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 7 JUNE 2022.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), Stuart Borrowman, Tom Conn, Ann Davidson, Peter Heggie, Danny Logue, Maria MacAulay, Craig Meek, Andrew Miller, Cathy Muldoon (substituting for Councillor Andrew McGuire), Sally Pattle, George Paul, Tony Pearson, Veronica Smith, Pauline Stafford, Kirsteen Sullivan; Appointed Members Kent Ballantyne, Mark Bonallo, Derek Cornwall, Heather Hughes, Lynne McEwen

Apologies – Councillors Andrew McGuire, Moira McKee Shemilt; Appointed Member Margaret Russell

1        OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed those newly elected councillors attending Education Executive for the first time and the two new Appointed Representatives; Kent Ballantyne and Mark Bonallo.

2.        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 5 - School Session Dates 2023/24 - Appointed Member Heather Hughes stated that she had a connection with this item resulting from her positions as the National President of The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS), the EIS Local Authority Secretary for West Lothian and Joint Chair of the Local Negotiating Committees for Teachers. However, having applied the objective test she considered that this did not amount to an interest and would participate in the item of business.

Councillor Pauline Stafford stated that she had a connection with all items of business as a result of her position as a peripatetic teacher at a school in Edinburgh. However, having applied the objective test she considered that this did not amount to an interest and would participate in the items of business.

3.        MINUTES

1. The Education Executive confirmed the Minutes of its meeting held on held on 22 March 2022 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair; and
2. The Education Executive noted correspondence arising from previous decisions.

4.        SCHOOL SESSION DATES 2023/24

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Primary Schools, Early Years, and Resources) seeking approval of the proposed school session dates for

2023/24.

In response to a query regarding equalities and inclusivity, in relation to the reference to Christmas and Easter within the school session dates documents, officers advised that to allow further discussion on the subject a report would be prepared and presented to a future meeting of both the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel (PDSP) and Education Executive.

It was recommended that the Education Executive approve the proposed school session dates for academic session 2023/24.

#### Decision

1. To approve the contents of the report; and
2. To note that officers undertook to provide a report to the next appropriate Education PDSP and Education Executive regarding the reference to Christmas and Easter holidays within the school session dates documents.

### 5. EDUCATION RECOVERY UPDATE

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive updating members on changes to national guidance on COVID-19 in schools and early learning and childcare, and the impact on COVID-19 related measures in schools; and to update members on arrangements for 2022 examinations and 2022/23 assessment.

It was recommended that the Education Executive note:

1. the changes to national guidance on COVID -19 in schools and early learning and childcare, and the impact on COVID-19 related measures in schools; and
2. the arrangements for 2022 examinations and 2022/23 assessment.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

### 6. SUMMER HOLIDAY PROVISION 2022

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Secondary, Community Learning and Inclusion) informing of funding announced by the Scottish Government to support the Summer Holiday Provision 2022, to vulnerable children and young people in West Lothian.

It was recommended that the Education Executive note the development

of targeted summer provision to support vulnerable children and young people in West Lothian, which would complement the direct payments to be made to the families of children and young people entitled to free school meals, and build on the 'Summer of Play 2021' seeking to ensure the sustainability of support for vulnerable children and young people in the longer term within West Lothian.

During discussion, members were advised that a further report on this subject would be provided at the next meeting of Education Executive on 21 June 2022. It was requested that this report detail the differentiation between the funding from the Scottish Government to support the Summer Holiday Provision 2022 and West Lothian Council's revenue budget provision of £235,000 for summer activities. In this respect, officers advised that the current focus was to ensure vulnerable children and young people were able to access the provision with spaces then opened for universal use. A request was also made for a presentation to be included with this further report to demonstrate the activities on offer within ward areas.

#### Decision

1. To note the contents of the report;
2. To note the request for information relating to the West Lothian Council revenue budget provision of £235,000 for summer activities to be detailed within the 'Purpose' and 'Recommendations' section of the update report to Education Executive on 21 June 2022; and
3. To note the officers undertaking to include a presentation of the activities on offer within ward areas when providing the update report to Education Executive.