

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 21 AUGUST 2012.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), David Dodds, Stuart Borrowman, Tony Boyle, Tom Conn, Alexander Davidson, Carl John, Dave King, Danny Logue, John McGinty, Anne McMillan, Andrew Miller, Angela Moohan, Frank Toner, Jim Walker and Martyn Day (substituting for Councillor Johnston); John Hendrie; Eric Lumsden, Myra MacPherson, Lynne McEwen and Graham Stormont.

Apologies – Councillors Peter Johnston and George Paul

Absent – Harry Cartmill

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor David Dodds declared a non-financial interest as a member of the Educational Institute for Scotland. Councillor Dodds also declared a non-financial interest in that his wife was employed as a nursery nurse in West Lothian and his son was employed as a teacher within West Lothian Council;

Councillor Stuart Borrowman declared a non-financial interest in that his wife was employed as a teacher within West Lothian Council.

2. MINUTE

The Minute of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012 was approved. The Chair thereafter signed the Minute.

3. INCLUDED, ENGAGED AND INVOLVED - A POSITIVE APPROACH TO MANAGING SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) providing information on the draft policy 'Included, Engaged and Involved – A Positive Approach to Managing School Exclusions', which was attached as an appendix to the report.

The report advised that the Scottish Government had issued revised Guidance on Exclusion from Schools, as part of its Included, Engaged and Involved policy guidance. As a result of this it was necessary for West Lothian to revise its policy on exclusion in line with this guidance and also in line with emerging best practice within the authority.

The main change from existing policy was that exclusion was placed within the context of Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and the entitlements of Curriculum for Excellence. The purpose of the policy was to:

- Support schools in ensuring a positive learning environment for all children and young people;
- Identify strategies to support schools in minimising the need to use exclusion procedures; and
- Ensure that all schools meet the legal requirements in application of exclusion procedures in the context of national and local government responsibilities and aims for children and young people.

The detailed procedures for schools to follow were contained within Chapter 7 of the policy guidance. The policy was also considered in conjunction with other Council policies which included Managing Behaviour, Safe Environment at School and Health and Safety.

During the course of the discussion it was recommended that the first paragraph on page 19 of the draft policy be amended to confirm that 'National data indicated that learners were more likely to be excluded where....'.

In conclusion, the report advised that the draft policy 'Included, Engaged and Involved – A Positive Approach to Managing School Exclusions' was intended to replace the existing Exclusion From School policy.

#### Decision

To approve the draft policy 'Included, Engaged and Involved – A Positive Approach to Managing School Exclusions' subject to amending the first paragraph on page 19 to confirm that 'National data indicated that learners were more likely to be excluded where...'.

#### 4. NEW NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL IN ARMADALE: CONSULTATION ON SITE POSITION, CATCHMENT AREA AND NAME - OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Service – Schools with Education Support providing details of the outcome of the public consultation on the site position, catchment area and name for a new primary school in the south of Armadale.

The report advised that the Education Executive agreed at its meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 that a formal consultation was to be undertaken, in line with the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010, on the site of, the formation of the catchment area and a name for a new primary school for the south of Armadale.

Armadale has two non-denominational primary schools with the catchment areas divided by the Main Street – Eastertoun Primary School to the north and Armadale Primary School to the south.

The formal consultation period began on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and continued until Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012, a period of 44 days including 31 school days. The consultation paper was made available in the schools involved in the consultation, local nurseries and libraries and on-line. The consultee details and consultation arrangements were detailed in the report. It was proposed that the new school was built on the site identified by the developers as it was in a prominent central position for the new housing developments. This would also limit the travel distances to school and support children and families walking to school. The catchment area for the new school would be formed from the south portion of the existing Armadale Primary School catchment area, which would include the new housing sites as well as a number of existing houses.

Stakeholders consultations were carried out with schools, parent councils, parents/carers and other interested parties. The key issues raised by the stakeholders during the consultation were detailed in the report. A number of suggestions were made for the name of the school, which were also detailed in the report.

In conclusion, the consultation on the proposal followed the requirements of the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 and attracted a low level of response in relation to the number of families who would be directly affected by the proposal.

### Motion

The Education Executive in consideration of the proposals detailed in section 4 of the Public Consultation Paper “New non-denomination primary school in Armadale. Consultation on site position, catchment area and name” March 2012, hereby agrees that:

1. The proposed site of the new school is that as shown in the map attached to the consultation paper at Appendix 3,
2. The proposed catchment area arrangements for the new school and for Armadale Primary School are as shown in the maps attached to the consultation paper at Appendix 4 and Appendix 4(a) and the streets that would be affected by the proposal – through transfer from the existing Armadale Primary School catchment area to that of the new school, are those as detailed within paragraph 4.5 of the consultation paper,
3. The new catchment area would take effect for the start of the new school session following the completion of the school,
4. Agree the list of suggested school names as detailed in para 3.6 in the paper, with the addition of Station Road Primary, and undertake further public consultation on this list of approved names with a further paper to the Education Executive to take a final decision on the school name

- Moved by the Chair

Decision

To unanimously agree to the terms of the motion subject to amending item 4 to include Sunny Dale on the list of suggested school names as detailed in para 3.6 in the report.

5. ACTION TAKEN UNDER TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 31 (URGENT BUSINESS):

a) Church of Scotland: Local Authority Representative Conference:

The Education Executive noted the approval provided for West Lothian Council's Church Representative to attend a one day conference on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

Decision

To note the action taken in terms of Standing Order No. 31.