

MINUTE of the SPECIAL MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE on 14 OCTOBER 2014.

Present – Councillors Lawrence Fitzpatrick (Chair), David Dodds, Tony Boyle, Harry Cartmill, Tom Conn, Alexander Davidson, Carl John, Dave King, Danny Logue, John McGinty, Anne McMillan, Andrew Miller, Angela Moohan and Frank Toner; Appointed Representatives Elsie Aitken, Myra MacPherson, Lynne McEwen and Eric Lumsden.

Apologies – Councillors Stuart Borrowman, Peter Johnston and Jim Walker; Appointed Representative John Hendrie.

Absent – Councillor George Paul.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL EDUCATION SERVICES: ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS REVIEW 2014

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) seeking authorisation to progress to formal public consultation from 16 October 2014 on proposals to ensure equitable, high quality and sustainable provision to meet the needs of increasing numbers of pupils with additional support needs.

The Education Executive was advised that in recent years, additional support needs provision within West Lothian Council had increased to meet the demand of a rising population and an increase in the number of pupils with significant additional support needs. It was anticipated that there would continue to be an increasing demand for places within specialist provision. Formal public consultation on proposals to review Additional Support Needs (ASN) education in West Lothian commenced in November 2013 which was withdrawn by the decision of the Education Executive at its meeting held in February 2014. Interim arrangements to accommodate the P1 intake of pupils with Severe and Complex Needs (SCN) from August 2014 were then agreed. The proposals which were developed were outlined within the report with a view to carrying out formal public consultation in order to meet longer term service requirements.

The Head of Education (Quality Assurance) then advised the Education Executive that Ogilvie School Campus faced the challenge of providing education for the following three distinct profiles:

- Social Emotional and Behavioural Needs provision – 4 primary special

classes (maximum class size 6 pupils)

- Autistic Spectrum Disorder provision – 3 primary special classes (maximum class size 6 pupils); and
- Severe and Complex Needs provision – 4 primary special classes (maximum class size 8 pupils).

The Education Executive was then provided with an update on the proposals outlined in the review of existing ASN provision undertaken to consider the most appropriate provision for pupils, to meet their needs and to ensure efficient deployment of resources which provided optimal use of provision for the benefit of pupils and their families within West Lothian. The Consultation Document October 2014, attached as appendix 1 to the report, contained West Lothian Council's proposals on how to help achieve this. A pre-consultation stakeholder engagement in advance of a statutory consultation was carried out, details of which was attached as appendix 2 to the report. Appendix 3 to the report provided details of the proposed formal consultation timeline.

In conclusion, the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) advised that implementation of the proposals would create an equitable, high quality and sustainable provision across West Lothian for pupils with additional support needs, providing the highest quality of learning and teaching experiences that would enable children and young people to enjoy their education and develop positive attitudes towards learning.

Recommendation

The Education Executive was asked to:

1. Authorise Education Services to undertake a formal consultation exercise commencing on 16 October on the following:
 - a) A proposal to establish Connolly School Campus, a new primary school for Additional Support Needs (ASN) located at Connolly House, Blackburn from August 2015 containing 4 primary special classes (for the provision of Social, Emotional and Behavioural Needs (SEBN) education across P1 to P7) under the management of the Principal of the West Lothian Behaviour Support Service;
 - b) A proposal to re-locate the existing 4 Social, Emotional and Behavioural Needs (SEBN) primary special classes (providing education across P1 to P7) from Ogilvie School Campus, Knightsridge, Livingston to Connolly School Campus, Blackburn; this relocation process from Ogilvie School Campus to Connolly School Campus to be completed by August 2015;
 - c) A proposal to establish 3 primary special classes at St Mary's Primary School, Polbeth (for the provision of primary education for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) across P1 to P7) under the management of the Head Teacher of St Mary's Primary School, Polbeth; 2 classes commencing from August 2015 and a

3rd class commencing from August 2018; and

- d) A proposal to re-locate the existing P1 to P3 pupils from the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) special classes at Ogilvie School Campus, Knightsridge, Livingston to St Mary's Primary School, Polbeth with effect from August 2015; the existing P4 to P6 pupils from the ASD classes at Ogilvie School Campus to complete their primary schooling within Ogilvie School Campus.
2. It was recommended that the above individual proposals be published in a single consultation paper (attached as Appendix 1 to this report), due to the strong links between them. Following the consultation, the council could consider the appropriateness of implementing all or any one or more of the proposals and adjust the timetable of individual proposals separately if necessary.
3. It was recommended that the Education Executive
- a) Note the intention for Pinewood School Campus to continue as a 5-18 all-through school;
 - b) Note the intention for Ogilvie School Campus to become a 5-18 all-through school for children with severe and complex needs which will necessitate a further consultation, to be brought by Education Services to a future meeting of the Education Executive, on the establishment of secondary education within special classes for children with severe and complex needs in Ogilvie School Campus; and
 - c) Note the intention to bring a further report to a future meeting of the Education Executive regarding the formal naming of the Connolly School Campus provision following appropriate discussion with stakeholders.

Decision

The Education Executive approved the terms of the report.