

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 16 DECEMBER 2014.

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

Apologies – Myra MacPherson, Appointed Representative

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTE

The Education Executive confirmed the minute of the meeting held on 11 November 2014 as being a correct record. The minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

Matters arising

Re: Home Educated Children and Young People Policy

The Depute Chief Executive advised that it was recorded in the minute of the meeting held on 11 November 2014 that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Education Executive regarding the Home Educated Children and Young People Policy following consultation with Mrs Davidson. However, due to the senior officer dealing with this policy being on annual leave, a delay occurred contacting Mrs Davidson. The report would therefore be available for submission to the meeting of the Education Executive on 10 February 2015.

3. TOBACCO FREE GENERATION - CREATING A WORLD WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE CHOOSE NOT TO SMOKE

Pupils from Falla Hill Primary School were invited to attend the Education Executive to carry out a presentation on the positive work carried out in relation to the Tobacco Education Project.

The Public Health Nurse, Regeneration Team and the Depute Head Teacher (Acting) Windyknowe Primary School, introduced the presentation and provided details of how the project began. Fauldhouse was identified as an area where a large percentage of the population had smoking related illnesses. An event to raise awareness about the effects of tobacco on income, health and the environment was held around No Smoking Day. This led to Falla Hill Primary School and the Regeneration

Team working in partnership to deliver a project to raise awareness.

The pupils then advised that a number of workshops were held which allowed pupils to explore all aspects of smoking. Class debates, school assembly talks and community exhibitions were held. A DVD was then created, part of which was played to the Education Executive. Details of the history of tobacco were also provided looking at how people's views regarding tobacco had changed over the years. Pupils gained experience in engaging with members of the public during two tobacco exhibitions held for No Smoking Day, one in the local community and the other representing West Lothian at Livingston Centre.

The work carried out by the pupils had a positive impact on the wider community and their families. As well as meeting initial aims the team continued to support the children in their campaign to make their local play park smoke free.

In conclusion, the Education Executive was advised that Falla Hill Primary School won the following awards:

- Action Against Tobacco Award in the UK Community Education awards 2014;
- The Outstanding Achievement Award in the Youth Tobacco Action awards run by ASH Scotland;
- A West Lothian Stellar Award.

ASH Scotland has also endorsed the resource and intended to promote this on their website. The high level of national recognition for the resource would also be promoted across all schools in West Lothian.

Following the conclusion of the presentation the Education Executive considered a joint report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Schools with Education Support and Head of Area Services. The Head of Schools with Education Support advised that the project demonstrated the power of the involvement of young people in tackling a significant public health issue. The next step would be to publicise and support schools. A resource pack funded by the Regeneration Team in Area Services was available for distribution across schools to support learning across West Lothian.

The Education Executive thanked the pupils and staff for attending the meeting and congratulated them for the worthwhile work carried out to raise awareness of the effects of smoking.

The Education Executive was asked to note the success of the project by Falla Hill Primary School and acknowledge the awards won by them in promoting the understanding of the use and misuse of tobacco. The Education Executive was also asked to note that ASH Scotland had endorsed the resource and would promote this on their website and note the high level of national recognition for the resource and to recommend that this was promoted across all schools in West Lothian.

Decision

Noted the contents of the report.

4. PRIMARY SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION - KIRKNEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Schools with Education Support providing details of the proposals to decant the pupils at Kirknewton Primary School for the academic year 2015/16 to East Calder Primary School, in order to facilitate the refurbishment of the school building.

The report explained that the aim of the project was to refurbish the school building at Kirknewton Primary School to ensure that the building continued to meet with statutory requirements.

The Strategic Resource Manager advised that the scope of the works agreed within the project included upgrade to the heating system, full re-wiring, statutory compliance works and some internal re-configuration to the current accommodation. Given the age of the building and the extent of the works required, it would be necessary to decant the pupils from Kirknewton Primary School to East Calder Primary School for the academic year from August 2015 to enable the project to be completed.

Separate temporary accommodation for the nursery pupils would be provided at the local recreation park in Kirknewton, as it would not be feasible to provide transportation for such young children. The accommodation at the park could potentially be utilised in the future as a changing pavilion following completion of the project and vacation of the nursery. This would be subject to the necessary applications for statutory approvals.

Transportation would be provided to take pupils from Kirknewton to East Calder each day, escorted by school support staff. The pick-up and drop off points at each location would be agreed with both schools and transportation, along with a full risk assessment.

The Head of Schools with Education Support then advised that the Headteachers and Parent Councils of both Kirknewton Primary School and East Calder Primary School had been advised of the proposals. There would also be ongoing engagement with parents and parent forums to provide updates regarding decant arrangements.

In conclusion, the Education Executive was advised that in order to progress the refurbishment works required at Kirknewton Primary School building it was necessary to decant the pupils to East Calder Primary School for the academic year from August 2015.

The Education Executive was asked to:

- Approve the decant proposals for Kirknewton Primary to East Calder

Primary School whilst property planned improvements were undertaken at the school; and

- Approve the decant proposals for the Kirknewton Nursery School to accommodation to be located at the recreation park in Kirknewton.

Decision

Approved the terms of the report.

5. EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE - PLAN TO INCREASE FLEXIBLE PROVISION

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Schools with Education Support providing details of the proposed Plan to Increase the Flexibility of Pre-School Provision, made in terms of Section 50 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

The report explained that the Education Executive, at its meeting held on 4 February 2014, considered the outcome of the first consultation undertaken under the terms of Section 50 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The Act recognises that the introduction of flexibility and choice, following consultation, would require significant reconfiguration of services by education authorities which would be best achieved through year on year incremental change. It was expected that following the introduction of 600 hours of pre-school provision (early learning and childcare) in August 2014, further improvements to flexibility and choice were built up. The statutory guidance associated with the Act stated that appropriate choice was intended to be around models and not individual providers.

The Head of Schools with Education Support then advised that action had already been taken to extend availability of part-time places within available resources in the August 2014 and January 2015 pre-school intakes. It was planned to increase flexibility and choice following consultation in school year 2015/16 by the introduction of a pilot provision at Bonnytown Nursery, Linlithgow; Linlithgow Primary School Nursery Class; Glenvue Nursery, Dedridge and Knightsridge Early Years Centre, based on providing 600 hours of early learning and childcare across two days with attached wraparound care. The provision would therefore be available from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Monday to Thursday. The provision of the 600 hours of early learning and childcare across two days avoided the reduction in capacity that would arise from providing it across 2.5 days. The report went on to outline the plans for the delivery of the planned provision, staffing and financial issues.

In conclusion, the proposed Plan to Increase Flexible Provision was in line with Statutory Guidance and addressed the issues raised in the consultation in terms of Section 50 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

The Education Executive was asked to endorse the further development of the proposed Plan to Increase the Flexibility of Pre-school Provision.

Decision

Approved the terms of the report.

6. FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE LOCATION OF A REPLACEMENT WEST CALDER HIGH SCHOOL

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning and Economic Development providing details of the findings from a site search exercise for the location of the replacement school.

The Head of Planning and Economic Development highlighted a typographical error on page 3, point D3 of the report, which referred to the consultation document as being appendix 2 instead of appendix 1 to the report.

The report explained that at its meeting of 28 October 2014 the Council Executive agreed to take forward a revised investment project for a new build West Calder High School, subject to formal approval of the costs and funding package and that a report be brought forward to the Education Executive in order to commence formal consultation on the proposed location of the new school in line with statutory requirements. The funding agreement for the new school required the project to be complete by March 2018. In order to meet this timescale, consultation was required to commence in early 2015. A proposed location for the site needed to form part of that consultation.

The Head of Planning and Economic Development advised that the site of the proposed new school would require to be within the existing catchment area for West Calder High School. The site had to be free from infrastructure constraints and, given the short timescale for delivery, it had to be immediately available.. A number of sites, including some in private ownership, were considered and it was concluded that the proposed site for the new build school be land owned by the council immediately east of Parkhead Primary School in West Calder. A plan showing the extent of the preferred site was included in appendix 1 to the report.

The Educational Benefit Statement outlined on page 5 of the consultation document highlighted that the provision of a new school building for West Calder High School, rather than extension and refurbishment of the current school building, provided the opportunity to make available to pupils the most modern standard of school facilities and resources and support the delivery of the curriculum for excellence. The new facilities would offer flexible learning experiences and the condition of the new school building would be a significant improvement on the current establishment. The new school would be fully accessible and equipped

with modern Information Technology solutions to ensure the best learning opportunities were afforded to every child.

The changes outlined in the draft consultation document proposed a solution that would allow the building of a replacement West Calder High School. The draft consultation paper was put forward as the basis for formal consultation in terms of the requirements of the School (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010.

Decision

The Education Executive:

1. Noted the findings of the site search exercise; and
2. Agreed to commence the consultation process on the proposal to relocate the High School to a site at West Calder subject to delegated power being given to the Depute Chief Executive, Education Planning and Area Services, in consultation with the Chair, to add to the consultation document information concerning the educational benefit which would result from the proposed relocation of the school and the sites looked at in choosing the proposed site.

The Education Executive further agreed that the Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Area Services, should keep the members of the Education Executive and local ward members up to date with the consultation process.