

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE of WEST Lothian COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST Lothian CIVIC CENTRE, on 10 FEBRUARY 2015.

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

Apologies – Councillors Peter Johnston and Frank Toner.

1. OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair referred with sadness to the recent passing of Jak Trueman, a 15 year old student at West Calder High School. He also spoke of the passing of Iman Yousuf, a Primary 3 pupil at St John Ogilvie Primary School, Livingston. The Chair expressed sympathy to the family and friends of Jak and Iman and invited the Education Executive to observe one minute's silence in their memory.

Those present at the meeting then joined the Chair in observing a minute's silence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTE

The Education Executive approved the minute of its meeting held on 16 December 2014. The minute was then signed by the Chair.

Matter Arising

Home Education Children and Young People Policy (Minute Page 127)

The Depute Chief Executive reported that, since the December meeting of the Education Executive, officers had met with Mrs Davidson. An adjustment to the wording within the policy had been requested by Mrs Davidson and it was the intention of officers to take the revised policy back to the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel for consideration.

4. PRIMARY SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION - SIMPSON PRIMARY SCHOOL, BATHGATE

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Schools With Education Support outlining proposals to address accommodation pressure in Simpson Primary

School, Bathgate.

The Education Executive was informed that it was necessary to increase the capacity at Simpson Primary School in the medium term. The current roll was 458 with a design capacity of 462. The size of each year group required 17 teaching spaces, and 16 class bases were currently available. The school had access to the community wing for general purpose activities to compensate for the loss of a general purpose classroom to accommodate the current class organisation. The maximum intake that could be sustained year on year in a two stream primary school was 66. The intakes over the previous three years were well in excess of those that could be sustained at a two-stream primary school.

The Head of Schools with Education Support proposed to increase accommodation in Simpson Primary School by eight additional classrooms for session 2015/16 to deal with medium term demographic pressure.

Officers from Construction, Education, Planning and Finance and Estates services were liaising on options to deliver the additional capacity early in school year 2015/16. It was likely that additional accommodation would be formed within the school through conversion of existing wet changing rooms to provide general purpose spaces to free up classroom accommodation. It was proposed that this be completed by August 2015 to ensure that the projected increase in pupil numbers could be accommodated.

The report provided the following appendices:-

Appendix 1 – Proposed Class Organisation

Appendix 2 – Indicative Site Plan

Finally, the Education Executive was informed that the costs for providing the additional accommodation and internal works had been estimated at approximately £1.85m by Construction Services. Funding for the project was included in the revised capital programme for 2015/16 to 2017/18 being reported to Council.

It was recommended that the Education Executive agree that additional classroom accommodation be provided in Simpson Primary School, Bathgate and note the provision for this in the General Services capital programme report to Council.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

5. YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE YEAR 13 PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Area Services enclosing an application to Creative Scotland for Year 13 funding for the YMI programme for 2015-16.

The Education Executive was informed that the application included 18 projects plus investment in management, promotion and evaluation. West Lothian's allocation of YMI funding was £246,228. The projects, and the outline cost for each project, was outlined in the report.

The Head of Area Services considered that the projects outlined in the YMI application would be extremely beneficial to the young people who would participate, providing opportunities for them to work closely with professional musicians, creating performance opportunities and developing their listening, creative and critical thinking skills, increased self-confidence and self-esteem as well as having an enjoyable experience. The projects would also make a significant contribution to enabling the participants to embrace the principles and capacities of Curriculum for Excellence.

It was recommended that the Education Executive approve the proposal for submission to Creative Scotland.

In response to a question raised, officers undertook to provide Headteachers with information on uptake of each of the projects.

Decision

1. To approve the proposal for submission to Creative Scotland as recommended by the Head of Area Services; and
2. To note that information on the uptake of each of the projects would be provided to Headteachers.

6. SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) providing details of School Leaver Destination Results (SLDR) for 2013/14.

The Education Executive was informed that the SLDR were published annually by Skills Development Scotland, with results of a follow up survey published around six months later. The 2013-14 survey had been carried out during September 2014 and October 2014 and had produced a snap shot of destinations as at 6 November 2014.

Appendix 1 to the report provided SLDR figures for each mainstream secondary school in West Lothian, and Appendix 2 provided Scottish local authority SLDR figures.

Key points in the December 2014 results were as follows:-

- In 2013/14, 93.0% of West Lothian's school leavers progressed into positive destinations, an increase of 1% on the 2012/13 level. This was the highest ever level of positive destinations for West Lothian.
- West Lothian's performance overall was above the Scottish average

of positive destinations for school leavers.

- Over the previous seven years, West Lothian had seen year on year improvements in the numbers of school leavers achieving a positive destination.
- Since 2007/08, the proportion of school leavers entering a positive destination (higher education, further education, training, volunteering or employment) had increased by 12.2%.
- Analysis of individual schools no longer showed a distinct east to west split, with schools in the west of West Lothian achieving lower positive destinations than other schools.
- The percentage of leavers entering higher education was 41.1% which was 2.5% higher than the national average of 38.6%. In comparison to 2012/2013 this was a rise of 3.9% within West Lothian.
- Out of 32 local authorities, West Lothian was in 14th position, an increase of two places on the position in 2012/13.

The Head of Education (Quality Assurance) advised that a full analysis of the Council's positive results had been carried out. It demonstrated that the key strategies which had been put in place over the previous seven years were proving to be effective and successful in targeting key groups of young people in West Lothian, in raising their aspirations for the future and in supporting them to attain positive destinations.

Finally, the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) reported that schools would continue to develop programmes, ensuring that young people would be equipped with the necessary Skills for Learning, Life and Work and would also extend the provision of vocational experiences for young people as part of the 16+ Senior Phase West Lothian Campus.

It was recommended that the Education Executive note the continuing improvement in the proportion of young people achieving a positive destination on leaving school.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.