

MINUTE of MEETING of the EDUCATION EXECUTIVE of WEST LoTHIAN COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LoTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE on 27 OCTOBER 2015.

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

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTE

The Education Executive approved the Minute of the meeting held on 15 September 2015 as being a correct record. The Chair thereafter signed the Minute.

3. REPORT ON THE ATTAINMENT SCOTLAND FUND SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) providing details of the inclusion of two West Lothian schools in the Scottish Attainment Scotland Fund Schools Programme. Details of the Scottish Attainment Challenge – Attainment Scotland Fund Schools Programme, was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Head of Education (Quality Assurance) advised that the Schools Programme was part of the national Scottish Attainment Challenge, the aim of which was to accelerate improvement by scaling up successful activity and by facilitating and spreading experience and practice of what works at local and national level.

Bridgend Primary School and St Thomas' Primary School, Addiewell, were identified by the Scottish Government as recipient schools based on 70% of the children on the school roll living in post codes in Deciles 1 and 2 of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) (2012).

The funding to support improvement initiatives would be over a four year period, however, it was noted that the levels of funding had not yet been confirmed by the Scottish Government. The Head of Education (Quality Assurance) advised that Education Scotland has confirmed that West Lothian would be allocated an attainment adviser for 75 days a year throughout the four year programme to assist in building the capacity of practitioners and leaders to undertake self-evaluation and to plan

effectively to support continuous improvement in raising attainment.

In conclusion, West Lothian has a proven track record in raising attainment and contributes well to local and national collaborative enquiry and shared learning opportunities. While the attainment challenge funds only two schools, Education Services would continue to prioritise and implement activity to achieve improvements in literacy, numeracy and wellbeing outcomes for all children and young people experiencing less advantage, wherever they lived in West Lothian, in line with the council's Raising Attainment Strategy.

The Head of Education (Quality Assurance) then responded to questions from members. In response to a request for information relating to SIMD rankings the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) undertook to provide members with details of the SIMD rankings and school rolls for all primary schools in West Lothian.

The Education Executive was asked to:

1. Note that Bridgend Primary School and St Thomas' Primary School were selected by the Scottish Government to be included in the Attainment Scotland Fund Schools programme; and
2. Agree to consider the schools' progress in 'closing the gap' through further reports to the Education Executive throughout the four year programme.

#### Decision

Approved the terms of the report.

#### 4. A DRAFT NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR SCOTTISH EDUCATION

The Education Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Education (Quality Assurance) providing details of the Scottish Government's Draft National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education, details of which was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Head of Education (Quality Assurance) advised the Education Executive that the Scottish Government announced that it intended to bring forward a National Improvement Framework which would include standardised tests in literacy and numeracy at P1, P4, P7 and S3. West Lothian Council carries out adaptive online assessments at P1, P3, P5, P7 and S2 with performance reported annual to the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel. The assessments provided diagnostic information to teachers on the performance of individual children or different cohorts of children and data for performance management and scrutiny by Education Services.

The Scottish Government's view was that the new standardised tests would replace the range of assessments currently undertaken by thirty

local authorities. The assessment results from the National Improvement Framework would be comparable between all schools in Scotland and pupil level data for children in broad general education would be available to the Scottish Government. Data from the assessments would be made public in some yet to be agreed way. A series of national and regional engagement events were being held till the end of 2015 to discuss and provide views on the National Improvement Framework.

Schools would continue to build on the improvement strategies for raising attainment and closing the gap already in place in implementing the West Lothian Raising Attainment Strategy. As more information became available a further report would be provided on the implementation of the framework in light of the current West Lothian practice on adaptive tests.

The Education Executive was asked to note the Draft National Improvement Framework and to note that a further report would be submitted when more information became available relating to the published amendments to the Education Bill, the engagement events and the details of the specification of the new standardised tests.

#### Decision

Noted the terms of the report.