

EDUCATION RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 19 February 2019

Chair:

Councillor Katy Loudon

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Councillor Peter Craig (Depute), Councillor Fiona Dryburgh, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Richard Lockhart (*substitute for Councillor Ian Harrow*), Councillor Ian McAllan, Councillor Mark McGeever, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Carol Nugent, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor Graham Scott, Councillor Collette Stevenson (*substitute for Councillor Julia Marrs*), Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor Sheena Wardhaugh, Councillor Jared Wark, Councillor David Watson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor John Ross

External Members Present:

Christine Hall, Andy Harvey, John Mulligan

External Members' Apologies:

Gillian Coulter, Ann Marie Hobson, Dr Nagy Iskander, Hilary Kirby

Attending:

Education Resources

T McDaid, Executive Director; D Dickson, Operations Manager; E King, Principal Psychologist; C McKenzie, Head of Education (Broad General Education); S Nicolson, Head of Education (Senior Phase); L Sherry, Head of Education (Support Services and School Estate)

Finance and Corporate Resources

M Lunny, Legal Services Manager; J Jenkins, Finance Adviser (Resources); M Milne, HR Business Partner; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Strategy); L Paterson, Administration Officer

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Resources Committee held on 27 November 2018 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Committee decided: that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 Education Resources – Revenue Budget Monitoring 2018/2019

A joint report dated 23 January 2019 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 4 January 2019 against budgeted expenditure for 2018/2019 for Education Resources, together with a forecast for the year to 31 March 2019.

As at 4 January 2019, there was an underspend of £3.873 million. After the transfers to reserves were taken into account, there was an underspend of £0.030 million.

Following the Council's final Probable Outturn exercise, there was an underspend of £4.462 million on the Education Resources' revenue budget. On 13 February 2019, the Executive Committee approved transfers to reserves of £4.424 million and, after those transfers, there would be an underspend of £0.038 million.

The main factors contributing to the underspend on the Education Resources' revenue budget and proposed budget virements were detailed in the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the underspend of £3.873 million before transfers to reserves, as detailed in the appendix to the report, and underspend of £0.030 million, after transfer to reserves, be noted;
- (2) that the forecast to 31 March 2019 of an underspend of £4.462 million, before transfers to reserves of £4.424 million, as detailed in the appendix to the report, and the forecast underspend of £0.038 million, after transfers to reserves, be noted; and
- (3) that the budget virements, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 November 2018 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Education Resources – Capital Budget Monitoring 2018/2019

A joint report dated 30 January 2019 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted advising of progress on the Education Resources' capital programme for 2018/2019 and summarising the expenditure position at 4 January 2019.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 November 2018 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Education Resources – Workforce Monitoring – October to December 2018

A joint report dated 21 January 2019 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the following employee information for Education Resources for the period October to December 2018:-

- ◆ attendance statistics
- ◆ occupational health statistics
- ◆ accident/incident statistics
- ◆ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ◆ analysis of leavers
- ◆ Staffing Watch as at 8 September 2018

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 November 2018 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Education Resource Plan 2018/2019 – Quarter 2 Progress Report

A report dated 28 January 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the Education Resource Plan 2018/2019 in relation to the actions and measures within the Resource.

Details were provided on progress made at the end of quarter 2, covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2018, in implementing the actions and measures identified in the Resource Plan.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 18 September 2018 (Paragraph 6)]

7 Outcome of Consultation to Re-name Walston Primary School to Black Mount Primary School, Elsrickle

A report dated 21 January 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the outcome of a consultation process on a proposal to re-name Walston Primary School, Elsrickle, following its relocation to a new site.

On 13 February 2018, the Planning Committee granted approval for the erection of a new primary school building at land at Elsrickle, Biggar to replace the existing rural Walston Primary School. The new build represented a further phase of the Council's Schools' Modernisation Programme and was scheduled to open in August 2019.

The new location had prompted requests from the school and local community to consider a new name for the school. The school and Parent Council undertook an initial consultation with parents, pupils, employees, the local community and local elected members, inviting proposals for the re-naming of the school. Following this consultation, the following 3 names were proposed:-

- ◆ Walston Primary School
- ◆ Elsrickle Primary School
- ◆ Black Mount Primary School

Stakeholders were asked to vote on the proposals and Black Mount Primary School had been put forward as the preferred option. It was noted that the local area was known as Black Mount and incorporated all the villages and settlements within the school catchment area.

The Committee decided: that, at the start of the new school session in August 2019, Walston Primary School be renamed as Black Mount Primary School.

[Reference: Minutes of the Planning Committee of 13 February 2018 (Paragraph 6)]

8 Teachers' Pension Scheme Consultation

A joint report dated 5 February 2019 by the Executive Directors (Finance and Corporate Resources) and (Education Resources) was submitted on the recent consultation issued by the Scottish Public Pensions Agency (SPPA) in relation to the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

On 18 December 2018, the SPPA issued a draft Teachers' Superannuation and Pension Scheme (Scotland) Amendment Regulation 2019. Details of the proposed changes and the impact on the Council's budget were outlined in the report which included:-

- ◆ with effect from 1 April 2019, an increased employer contribution rate from 17.2% to 22.4%
- ◆ a reduction in the Discount Rate set by HM Treasury to 2.4%, which effectively tripled the cost to councils

The Council's response to the consultation, submitted to the SPPA on 11 January 2019, was as follows:-

- ◆ the increase in employer contribution rate due to the reduction in discount rate was significantly higher than that quoted in the Government's initial budget announcement
- ◆ the increase amounted to a significant pressure on councils' budgets, with the impact on the Council's budget being in excess of £7 million
- ◆ the Council would, therefore, ask that the Scottish Government provide the necessary funding to meet this pressure and allow Council resources to be focused on delivering key frontline services

On 13 February 2019, the Executive Committee noted that the Council's Budget Strategy had assumed that funding would be provided in relation to the discount changes as this had been the approach taken previously by the Scottish Government. Discussions were still ongoing between COSLA and the Scottish Government.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

9 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training in Secondary Schools

A report dated 23 January 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on Education Resources' commitment to extend the delivery of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training for all pupils in South Lanarkshire secondary schools, through partnership with the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

In June 2018, the BHF invited the Council to consider introducing CPR training in all of its secondary schools. This opportunity to work in partnership with the BHF was welcomed by Education Resources and, building on already established links, it was agreed to progress this proposal through the Health and Wellbeing approaches to keeping children and young people safe in school. The programme would provide an opportunity to develop awareness and skills in young people in a very practical way that might save lives at some point in the future.

Of the Council's 17 secondary schools, 10 schools and all 3 secondary ASN schools had already engaged with the BHF by delivering either Heartstart training or had made use of Call, Push, Rescue training kits.

Education Resources' aim was to offer the opportunity of CPR training to all pupils during their learning journey through schools. The majority of schools had indicated that they would target a single year group each year which would allow all pupils to access training at some point during their secondary school experience. Arrangements would be made to inform Parent Councils, parents and families on the planned introduction of the CPR training.

The Committee decided: that Education Resources' commitment to further extend CPR training for pupils in all secondary schools, in the coming year and beyond, be noted.

10 Update on the Education Resources' Risk Register and Risk Control Action Plan

A report dated 22 January 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on:-

- ◆ the systems and controls in place within Education Resources to manage and minimise risks
- ◆ the details of Education Resources' current Risk Control Register

The Resource had followed Council guidance in developing, monitoring and updating its Risk Control Register on an ongoing basis. The Register had been developed to ensure that the Resource was fully aware of the main risks it had, was able to prioritise those risks and had controls in place to eliminate or minimise the impact of the risk.

The risks were scored in accordance with the Council's scoring mechanism which scored risks based on likelihood and impact of risk. This resulted in risks being scored between 1 to 9 (low to high). Risks were scored on their inherent risk (risk if nothing was done) and their residual risk (risk after applying controls).

The Risk Register for the Resource had been developed and was monitored on a quarterly basis to add new risks and to review the score of existing risks. The Register was monitored and updated by the Resource Risk Management Group

There were 5 residual risks identified within the Resource as falling within the high category score of 7 to 9, which were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and those risks were monitored closely.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 February 2018 (Paragraph 7)]

11 Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence Levels 2017/2018

A report dated 18 January 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the Curriculum for Excellence levels in literacy and numeracy at stages P1, P4, P7 and S3 across all South Lanarkshire schools.

The Scottish Government had published the Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Levels 2017/2018 which was based on teacher professional judgements as at June 2018. An analysis was provided on the results for South Lanarkshire, together with a comparison of the national level for the literacy organisers (reading, writing, listening and talking) and numeracy. The percentage of children who had achieved the expected CfE level relevant to their stage was reported.

Pupils who had long-term significant and complex additional support needs, which meant that they would be unlikely to progress through the CfE levels, were recorded as 'child following individual milestones'.

It was reported that the basis of teacher judgement on having achieved a CfE level was not on a single assessment or piece of evidence, but rather on a holistic view of a child's achievements, and through the use of standardised assessments. As part of a school's quality assurance process, teacher judgement levels were also moderated, as outlined in the report.

A summary of the results, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, showed that over the 3 year period 2015/2016 to 2017/2018:-

- ◆ performance in South Lanarkshire had increased in all indicators
- ◆ the increase in South Lanarkshire was greater than that at the national level in 16 out of 20 organisers

The results for 2017/2018 were not directly comparable to those for 2015/2016 or 2016/2017 as they continued to be based on a new and developing data source. Performance in South Lanarkshire during 2017/2018 was also above the national level in 16 out of 20 organisers.

Achievement of CfE levels would continue to be reported through the Resources' planning and reporting mechanisms, linked to both the Council Plan, 'Connect' and the Resource Plan.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels for 2017/2018, based on teacher judgement levels, be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that future reporting to take place through the Education Resources' planning and reporting mechanisms, linked to both the Council Plan, 'Connect' and the Resource Plan.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 February 2018 (Paragraph 10)]

12 Active Literacy Implementation Programme

A report dated 23 January 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on progress on the implementation of the Active Literacy programme and the impact for learners during 2017/2018.

Feedback from a literacy audit conducted across South Lanarkshire in 2016, identified the need for a more cohesive, evidence-based approach to literacy learning in primary schools. Active literacy, a tried and tested research-based approach, could support schools in developing high quality literacy teaching and learning in phonics, spelling and reading. Stemming from this, the Curriculum Quality Improvement Service (CQIS) had supported establishments to deliver improved outcomes through the Active Literacy programme.

In 2017/2018, 18 schools had been selected to form the first tranche of schools for the Active Literacy programme. Those schools in Phase 1 had been asked to measure pupil attainment in reading before they embarked on the Active Literacy approach and after an initial period of implementation. An analysis of 1,163 assessment scores demonstrated that the Active Literacy programme had delivered a positive impact within its first year.

Information was provided on National Group Reading Test (NGRT) scores for pupils at P4 to P7 and also the impact for learners by primary stage, gender and by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and Free Meal Entitlement. A new cohort of 9 schools would be identified to be involved in the Active Literacy implementation programme in session 2018/2019.

The positive impact that training and involvement in the implementation project had had on teacher confidence in teaching reading was noted.

The next steps to support Education Resources' commitment to raise literacy were detailed in the report.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the progress on the implementation of the Active Literacy programme during 2017/2018 and the impact it had for learners be noted; and
- (2) that the arrangements for the further implementation of the programme in 2018/2019 be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 February 2018 (Paragraph 11)]

13 Give us a Break! - Update

A report dated 21 January 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted providing an update on 'Give us a Break!', an innovative therapeutic programme to help children and young people, aged 8 years and over, who had experienced bereavement, loss and major negative changes in their lives and were showing signs of difficulties in managing the emotional consequences. Since its launch in 2009, more than 747 children and young people had taken part in the programme.

A research study was established in 2012 to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme in supporting the wellbeing of children and young people. From 2012 to 2016, when the report was finalised, information was obtained from 15% of young people who had participated in the programme. The research report demonstrated that 'Give us a Break!' had had an immediate positive effect on the lives of children and young people through increasing the factors which contributed to their personal resilience.

It was anticipated that by March 2019, over 400 facilitators will have been trained and, to ensure the sustainability of the programme, a training for trainers' programme had been developed.

The 'Give us a Break!' materials were also being revised and trialled for use with children and young people with Additional Support Needs.

The Committee decided: that the support provided to children and young people through the 'Give us a Break!' programme be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 17 March 2015 (Paragraph 10)]

14 Year of Young People 2018 Update

A report dated 19 January 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted providing details of achievements during the Year of Young People (YoYP) 2018.

The YoYP 2018 had offered an opportunity to celebrate the amazing talents and achievements of young people. The YoYP focused on the following 6 themes:-

- ◆ Participation – how young people could influence public services and decisions that affected their lives
- ◆ Education – create a stronger role for young people in shaping their learning
- ◆ Health and Wellbeing – support young people to lead healthier, active lives and provide opportunities to learn about and improve their mental health and resilience
- ◆ Equality and Discrimination – promote the value of young Scots, challenge negative perceptions of young people and support young people to take leading roles in challenging discrimination in all its forms

- ◆ Enterprise and Regeneration – celebrate young people’s role in innovation, entrepreneurship and the Scottish economy, as well as making Scotland a greener and more pleasant place to live
- ◆ Culture – celebrate young people’s talent and contribution to Scottish culture and arts

The YoYP 2018 had presented a platform for young people to showcase their talent, perform publicly, lead, design and host a range of activities. Details on the range of activities that had taken place to take forward the themes and objectives of the YoYP 2018 were provided in the appendix to the report. Engagement would continue with young people which would draw on the good practice throughout YoYP 2018.

A key aspect of YoYP 2018, was the legacy that it would leave behind and, for South Lanarkshire, this included:-

- ◆ recognition by the Council of the importance of young people’s rights by signing the Scottish Youth Parliament’s ‘Right Here, Right Now’ campaign pledge
- ◆ an event to bury a time capsule at Chatelherault Park, Hamilton and a memorial bench placed over the burial site
- ◆ arrangements to replicate the Youth Summit model following the success of a Rural Youth Summit which had been held in the Biggar Learning Community

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 February 2018 (Paragraph 13)]

15 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.