

Report

Report to: **Executive Committee**
Date of Meeting: **17 May 2023**
Report by: **Chief Executive**

Subject: **Recommendations Referred by Resource Committees**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ request approval of the following recommendations referred to this Committee by the:-
 - ◆ Education Resources Committee of 2 May 2023
 - ◆ Finance and Corporate Resources Committee of 3 May 2023

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the recommendations referred by the Education Resources Committee of 2 May 2023 in relation to the Review of Admissions Policy for Early Learning and Childcare Establishments 2023 be approved; and
- (2) that the recommendation of the Finance and Corporate Resources Committee of 3 May 2023 in relation to the Procurement Strategy 2023 to 2028 be approved.

3. Recommendation Referred by Education Resources Committee of 2 May 2023 – Review of Admissions Policy for Early Learning and Childcare Establishments 2023– Extract of Minute

3.1. A report dated 6 April 2023 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on a review of the policy for the admission of children into Early Learning and Childcare establishments in South Lanarkshire.

Since 1996, the Council's Admissions Policy for Early Years' Establishments had been regularly reviewed to reflect changes in legislation and national policy development.

The last review of the Admissions Policy had been presented to the Education Resources Committee on 19 January 2021.

The Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2014 committed to delivering 1,140 hours of early learning and childcare per year to eligible children aged 2 to 5 years from August 2020. However, in March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the

Scottish Government revoked this legislation and the statutory duty was subsequently reinstated in August 2021. The Scottish Government had also advised of a plan to introduce legislation to expand full implementation of revised deferral eligibility in 2023.

The Council approved 'early access for 3 year olds' in March 2019 and this had been fully implemented since August 2019. Across the Council area, children could commence free early learning and childcare provision from the Monday following their 3rd birthday.

Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Lead Locality Officers had responsibility for direct contact on any admissions enquiries as part of a strategy to support effective communications.

In March 2023, a consultation exercise was undertaken with a range of stakeholders on the current Admissions Policy. The main points which had emerged from the consultation process were outlined in the report and the proposed revised Policy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, had taken account of a number of those points. If approved, the admissions policy would be used for the allocation of all early learning and childcare places.

Details were provided on:-

- ◆ proposed priorities for allocation of additional hours
- ◆ options available in respect of delivering 1,140 hours of early learning and childcare
- ◆ deferred entry to primary school

In response to a member's question on nursery provision, officers undertook to investigate the matter further.

The Committee recommended to the Executive Committee:

- (1) that the priorities for admission to all Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) establishments, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and
- (2) that the admissions policy and process for the allocation of places to all Early Learning and Childcare Establishments be implemented from August 2023.

[References: Minutes of 19 January 2021 (Paragraph 7) and Minutes of the Executive Committee of 10 February 2021 (Paragraph 9)]

4. Recommendation Referred by Finance and Corporate Resources Committee of 3 May 2023 –Procurement Strategy 2023 to 2028– Extract of Minute

A report dated 3 April 2023 by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted on the Procurement Strategy 2023 to 2028.

The Procurement Reform Act (Scotland) required the Council to develop a Procurement Strategy and undertake an annual review of strategic objectives. The statutory guidance detailed the areas that the strategy must include.

The Council's previous Procurement Strategy covered the period 2020 to 2023 and was approved on 13 May 2020.

The Procurement Strategy 2023 to 2028 was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The Strategy communicated the Council's vision for procurement based on the following 7 key strategic objectives:-

- ◆ compliance
- ◆ value for money
- ◆ collaborative
- ◆ contract and supplier management
- ◆ Fair Work First
- ◆ sustainable and ethical
- ◆ community wealth building

The Strategy promoted continuous improvement in all procurement activities and aimed to ensure that they were performed effectively while delivering efficiencies where possible.

In addition to detailing how the Council would maintain and improve upon its core procurement capability, it also considered how the Council would meet its obligations in term of the Sustainable Procurement Duty and Fair Work First and acknowledged its wider responsibilities in respect of the Council's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy and Community Wealth Building Strategy.

An annual action plan would be developed each year for the life of the Strategy to support the strategic objectives. Regular updates on progress against both strategic outcomes and the annual action plan would be reported to the Corporate Management Team and this Committee. The draft action plan for 2023/2024 was detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

Officers responded to a member's question on the report.

The Committee recommended to the Executive Committee:	that the Procurement Strategy 2023 to 2028, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
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[Reference: Note of Delegated Decisions taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, on items of business relating to the Executive Committee Agenda of 13 May 2020 (Paragraph 6)]

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. All employee implications were highlighted as part of the original reports to Resource Committee.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. All financial implications were highlighted as part of the original reports to Resource Committee.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. Any risks or other implications were highlighted as part of the original reports to the Resource Committee.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. Equality impact assessment and consultation arrangements were highlighted as part of the original reports to the Resource Committees.
- 9.2. There is no requirement to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment or consultation in terms of the proposals contained in this report.

Cleland Sneddon
Chief Executive

3 May 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ♦ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

Previous References

- ♦ Education Resources Committee of 2 May 2023 (Paragraph 7)
- ♦ Finance and Corporate Resources Committee of 3 May 2023 (Paragraph 10)

List of Background Papers

- ♦ Individual reports to Resource Committee
- ♦ [..\..\Education Resources\Education Resources Committee\230502\7 - Review of Admissions Policy for Early Learning and Childcare Establishments 2023.docx](#)
- ♦ [..\..\Finance and Corporate Resources\Finance and Corporate Resources Committee\230503\10. Procurement Strategy 2023 to 2028.docx](#)

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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