

# Report

Report to: **Executive Committee**  
Date of Meeting: **10 February 2021**  
Report by: **Chief Executive**

Subject: **Recommendations Referred by the Education Resources 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 19 January 2021

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the recommendation referred by the Education Resources Committee in relation to the Acquisition of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School be approved
- (2) that the recommendations referred by the Education Resources Committee in relation the Review of Admissions Policy for Early Learning and Childcare Establishments be approved (policy attached as an appendix to the report)

## 3. Background

### 3.1. Acquisition of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School— Extract of Minute

A report dated 17 December 2020 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on a proposal to acquire the accommodation at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School Building, East Kilbride.

At its meeting on 27 October 2020, the Committee agreed that consideration of the report on the proposed acquisition of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School be deferred to allow for further information to be provided detailing costs in respect of all options in relation to the school building. Appendix 1 to the report provided additional information on estimate costs of:-

- ◆ required capital investment in the existing building
- ◆ additional accommodation due to population growth
- ◆ a new build

On the basis that the purchase of the property would deliver control to the Council to decide when and how it wished to invest in the building, provisional negotiations had resulted in terms being offered, as outlined in section 5 of the report. Consideration had been given to all the property options and it was considered that the acquisition of the accommodation at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, East Kilbride represented best value for money.

The total cost to take ownership of the building was £0.627 million. It was proposed that the Council borrow to fund the purchase, with the repayments being made annually from the available Education Resources lease budget of £0.059 million. Education Resources had the annual revenue budget to pay for the acquisition over a period of time, however, the matter required to be referred to the Executive Committee which had the authority to borrow the initial funding and agree a capital programme.

**The Committee recommended to the Executive Committee:** that approval be given to add the project in respect of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School into the capital programme and to initiate the borrowing of funds.

*[Reference: Minutes of 27 October 2020 (Paragraph 6)]*

### **3.2 Review of Admissions Policy for Early Learning and Childcare Establishments – Extract of Minute**

A report dated 23 December 2020 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 10 December 2019.

The Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2014 committed to delivering 1,140 hours of early learning and childcare per year to eligible 2 to 5 year old children from August 2020. However, in March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government revoked this legislation and a date of August 2021 had been recommended for the statutory duty to be reinstated.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

The Early Years' Manager and ELC Lead Locality Officers now had responsibility for direct contact on any admissions enquiries as part of a strategy to support effective communications.

A consultation exercise had been undertaken with a range of stakeholders, in the period October and November 2020, on the current Admissions Policy and the proposed amendments. The main priorities 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 those priorities. If approved, the admissions policy priorities 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 1140 hours of early learning and childcare
- ◆ deferred entry to primary school

**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;
- (2) that the admissions policy and process for the allocation of places to all Early Learning and Childcare Establishments be implemented from March 2021.

*[References: Minutes of Education Resources Committee of 10 December 2019 (Paragraph 7) and Executive Committee of 29 January 2020 (Paragraph 9)]*

**4. Employee Implications**

- 4.1. All employee implications were highlighted as part of the original reports to Resource Committees.

**5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1. All financial implications were highlighted as part of the original reports to Resource Committees.

**6 Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

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

**7 Other Implications**

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

**8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. Equality impact assessment and consultation arrangements were highlighted as part of the original report to the Climate Change and Sustainability Committee.
- 8.2. 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**

21 January 2021

**Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent

**Previous References**

- ◆ Minutes of Education Resources Committee, 19 January 2021

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Reports to Education Resources Committee

**Contact for Further Information**

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

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