

EDUCATION RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 10 December 2019

Chair:

Councillor Katy Loudon

Councillors Present:

Councillor Alex Allison, Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Stephanie Callaghan, Councillor Graeme Campbell, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Councillor Peter Craig (Depute), Councillor Fiona Dryburgh, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Eileen Logan (*substitute for Councillor Lynsey Hamilton*), Councillor Ian McAllan, Councillor Gladys Miller, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Carol Nugent, Councillor Mo Razzaq, Councillor David Shearer (*substitute for Councillor Julia Marrs*), Councillor Graham Scott, Councillor Bert Thomson (*substitute for Councillor Monique McAdams*), Councillor Margaret B Walker, Councillor David Watson

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Margaret Cooper, Councillor Mary Donnelly, Councillor Joe Fagan, Councillor Lynsey Hamilton, Councillor Ian Harrow, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Monique McAdams, Councillor John Ross, Councillor Jared Wark

External Members Present:

Andy Harvey, Dr Iskander, John Mulligan

External Members' Apologies:

Gillian Coulter, Christine Hall, Ann Marie Hobson, Hilary Kirby

Attending:

Education Resources

T McDaid, Executive Director; D Dickson, Operations Manager; A Donaldson, Head of Education (Inclusion); 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 M Cairns, Legal Services Manager; L Harvey, Finance Manager (Resources); 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 1 October 2019 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 2019/2020

A joint report dated 21 November 2019 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted comparing actual expenditure at 11 October 2019 against budgeted expenditure for 2019/2020 for Education Resources, together with a forecast for the year to 31 March 2020.

The Committee decided:

- (1) that the breakeven position on Education Resources' revenue budget at 11 October 2019 be noted;
- (2) that the forecast to 31 March 2020 of a breakeven position be noted; and
- (3) that the budget virements, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be approved.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 October 2019 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Education Resources – Capital Budget Monitoring 2019/2020

A joint report dated 21 November 2019 by the Executive Directors (Education Resources) and (Finance and Corporate Resources) was submitted advising of progress on the Education Resources' capital programme for 2019/2020 and summarising the expenditure position at 11 October 2019.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 October 2019 (Paragraph 4)]

5 Education Resources – Workforce Monitoring – August and September 2019

A joint report dated 1 November 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 August and September 2019:-

- ◆ attendance statistics
- ◆ occupational health statistics
- ◆ accident/incident statistics
- ◆ disciplinary hearings, grievances and Dignity at Work cases
- ◆ analysis of leavers
- ◆ Staffing Watch as at 14 September 2019

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 October 2019 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Education Resource Plan – Quarter 2 Progress Report 2019/2020

A report dated 18 November 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the Education Resource Plan 2019/2020 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 2019, in implementing the actions and measures identified in the Resource Plan.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 28 August 2019 (Paragraph 19)]

7 Review of Admissions Policy for Early Learning and Childcare Establishments

A report dated 19 November 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on a review of the policy for the admission of children into Early Years' 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 6 February 2018.

A consultation exercise had been undertaken with a range of stakeholders, in the period October and November 2019, on the current Admissions Policy and the proposed amendments, which took account of the views received from parents/carers and early years' providers in terms of early learning and childcare provision. 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.

The Admissions Policy would be used for the allocation of early learning and childcare places. As the Council moved towards the implementation of 1,140 hours, a number of Early Learning and Childcare establishments might be able to offer additional hours, free for children who fell within the Council's exemption criteria and paid by other parents/carers in terms of the Council's Nursery Fees' Policy.

In 2020, the Annual Admissions' allocation would move from May to March, with places allocated on a first come, first served basis. Parents would be informed of their child's early learning and childcare place, in writing, by the end of May each year.

Should a parent/carer apply for deferred entry to primary school for their child, they might be able to access an additional year of funded Early Learning and Childcare, however, this would only be considered where either of the following applied:-

- ◆ children whose 4th birthday fell in the January or February of the year they were due to start primary school (considered as returning children)
- ◆ children whose 4th birthday fell between August and December, and their application had been considered and approved by the Admissions Scrutiny Group

The Committee recommended to the Executive Committee:

(1) that the priorities for admission to Early Years' establishments be revised as follows:-

<i>Proposed Policy Children aged 0-3 years</i>	<i>Proposed Policy Children aged 3-5 years</i>
<i>Priority 1</i>	<i>Priority 1</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Children affected by Abuse ◆ Children with additional support needs ◆ Looked after and Accommodated Children from birth up to 2 years old ◆ Children who at any time from the age of 2 years have been <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a) Looked after and Accommodated or – b) subject to a Kinship Care Order ◆ Children affected by Domestic Violence ◆ Children affected by Substance Misuse ◆ Children affected by a disability within the home <p><i>All applications within Priority 1 must be substantiated by a wellbeing assessment/single agency assessment</i> *2 year olds as required by relevant legislation from time to time applying</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Children affected by Abuse ◆ Children with additional support needs ◆ Children who at any time have been <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a) Looked after and Accommodated or – b) subject to a Kinship Care Order ◆ Children affected by Domestic Violence ◆ Children affected by Substance Misuse ◆ Children affected by a disability within the home <p><i>All applications within Priority 1 must be substantiated by a wellbeing assessment/single agency assessment</i></p>
<i>Priority 2</i>	<i>Priority 2</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ New applications: (0-3 year olds) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Children in their pre-school year – new applications ◆ Deferred entry children Aug/Dec ◆ Transfer application pre-school year children – change in circumstances
<i>Priority 3</i>	<i>Priority 3</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Transfer applications – change in circumstances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Children in their ante pre-school year - new applications ◆ Transfer applications ante-pre-school year – change in circumstances
<i>Priority 4</i>	<i>Priority 4</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Transfer applications – parental choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Transfer application pre-school year children - parental choice ◆ Transfer applications ante-pre-school year – parental choice
<i>Priority 5</i>	<i>Priority 5</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All children resident outwith South Lanarkshire Council who are not within a catchment area of a primary school within the Council Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All children resident outwith South Lanarkshire Council who are not within a catchment area of a primary school within the Council Area
Priority 6 Additional Hours	

- Priority 1 All Priority 1 Children
- Priority 2 Children whose parents and/or carer were in employment or education
- Priority 3 All children allocated a place in the nursery including those children returning to nursery for a further year which included deferred children approved by the Council

- ◆ Priorities 1 to 4 would apply to children who were resident within the Council Area and those children who were considered catchment pupils for a Council Primary school
- ◆ all children residing (non South Lanarkshire Council primary school catchment children) outwith the Council area, no matter the circumstances, would be considered priority 5
- ◆ eligible children would have access to Early Learning and Childcare regardless of age, gender, race, religion or need
- ◆ Early Learning and Childcare would be provided on a non-denominational basis
- ◆ securing a place in a school nursery class would not guarantee a primary school place within the primary school
- ◆ children deferring entry from Primary 1 January and February birthdays where an additional year of funding had been agreed by the Council were considered to be returning children
- ◆ children deferring entry from Primary 1 August to December birthdays who had been approved for a deferred year of funding were considered to be returning children
- ◆ additional hours were only considered once all eligible children had been allocated their entitlement

- (2) that the Admissions Policy for the allocation of places to all Early Years' Establishments be implemented from March 2020.

[Reference: Minutes of the Executive Committee of 28 February 2018 (Paragraph 13)]

Councillor Horsham left the meeting following consideration of this item

8 Education Resources – Risk Register and Risk Control Plan

A report dated 19 November 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.

It was noted that when the report was written, 4 residual risks had been identified within the Resource as falling within the high category score 7 to 9, which were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. One of those risks included 'failure to meet commitment to meet teacher numbers and pupil/teacher ratios', however, this commitment had now been met for 2019/2020. The 3 remaining risks, which included the commitment to deliver 1,140 hours of early learning and childcare by August 2020, would be monitored closely.

The Committee decided: that the systems and controls in place to monitor risks within Education Resources be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 19 February 2019 (Paragraph 10)]

9 Youth Employability and Work Based Learning

A report dated 15 November 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted providing an update on:-

- ◆ work based learning opportunities developed to support young people 'at risk' of not achieving or sustaining a positive post school destination
- ◆ the vocational learning provision available in the senior phase

Following work to consolidate and align the delivery and management of youth employability services within Education Resources, a range of services and supports had been developed which assisted young people to develop the vocational and work readiness skills required to progress to sustained and appropriate post-school destinations.

In 2017/2018, positive destinations achieved for young people in the 20% most deprived areas was 93.2%, the highest figure recorded since figures became available and was above the national average of 90.4%. The difference in South Lanarkshire between the 20% most deprived areas and 20% least deprived areas was 4.6%, which was better than the national average of 6.8%.

Detailed information was provided on the following programmes:-

- ◆ ASPIRE Youth Employability
- ◆ Gradu8
- ◆ Foundation Apprenticeships (FA)

It was noted that a breakdown of the figures provided within the report, in terms of gender, care experienced young people and those with a disability, would be detailed in future reports.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 27 November 2018 (Paragraph 10)]

10 Education Resources – Notification of Contracts Awarded – 1 April to 30 September 2019

A report dated 29 October 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on contracts awarded by Education Resources in the period 1 April to 30 September 2019.

In terms of Standing Order Nos 21.8 and 22.5 of the Standing Orders on Contracts, Resources were required to notify the relevant Committee of contracts awarded. Details of the contracts awarded by Education Resources were provided in the appendix to the report.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

11 Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy – Supporting Family Learning and the Sharing of Best Practice

A report dated 21 November 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the revised Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy.

On 6 August 2019, the Committee endorsed the draft document entitled 'Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy – Working together to Make a Difference to Children's Learning'. The new Strategy was launched at the Parents as Partners Conference on 13 November 2019. The event showcased:-

- ◆ a film which featured parents discussing their individual learning stories, how the Strategy could be put into practice and how they were now confident in supporting their children's learning at school and at home
- ◆ a 'Parents Guide' on the role of a Parent Council, a copy of which would be provided to all schools and Parents Councils
- ◆ best practice on family learning, with a number of schools in attendance, along with Dyslexia Scotland and the National Parent Forum for Scotland

Next steps would include:-

- ◆ the roll-out of the Strategy to schools through learning community meetings, with case studies shared to show what worked well and to build momentum for improvement
- ◆ arrangements to support and empower parents and carers to give them confidence and skills to support their children's learning and improve the quality of learning at home
- ◆ provision of training and support for parents and carers delivered jointly with parents in localities

Education Resources acknowledged the work of the Parents Focus Group, which included the Committee's 2 parent representatives, for planning the well received conference. They would now use the evaluations to guide the next steps in promoting and supporting family learning and learning at home.

The Committee decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 6 August 2019 (Paragraph 12)]

12 Completion of the Schools' Modernisation Programme

A report dated 15 November 2019 by the Executive Director (Education Resources) was submitted on the successful completion of the Council's 15 years Schools' Modernisation Programme.

In 2004, the Council commenced its ambitious building programme to improve and invest in its school estate. This included the modernisation, refurbishment and new building of 128 primary schools, which included 4 ASN schools and 1 Gaelic unit and 12 standalone nurseries, at a cost of £866 million. Within the primary school builds, 62 nursery classes, 16 ASN units and 15 community rooms or wings had been established. Within the secondary school estate, 19 new school buildings had been delivered through a Public-Private Partnership arrangement and completed by 2009.

The completion of the Schools' Modernisation Programme was a key element in the delivery of a range of the Council's Connect objectives, which included aspirations to 'ensure schools and other places of learning were inspirational' and 'improve achievement, raise educational attainment and support lifelong learning'.

Black Mount Primary, the last primary school build following the completion of the Early Learning Unit in Hamilton, marked a huge milestone in terms of the Council's significant commitment and investment to modernise the whole of its school estate.

The completion of the programme meant that South Lanarkshire's 46,000 children and young people were now all being taught within a modernised education estate, which enhanced the learning and teaching experience and, therefore, the opportunity to achieve maximum educational benefit for pupils.

The Schools' Modernisation Programme had been the largest of its kind in the UK. Many members referred to the former Leader of the Council, Eddie McAvoy, who had the ambition and drive, along with Council members, to deliver this ambitious Programme. Tribute was also paid to all those involved with the design, construction and funding of the Programme, including former, as well as current, Directors of Education and Chairs/Deputies of this Committee and officers from other Resources across the Council.

The Committee decided: that the successful completion of the Schools' Modernisation Programme be noted.

13 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.