



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2013
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

Committee Members Present:

Councillor S Akhtar (Convener)
Councillor S Brown
Councillor D Grant
Councillor J Gillies
Councillor J Goodfellow
Councillor W Innes
Councillor M Libberton
Councillor P MacKenzie
Councillor F McAllister
Mr S Bunyan
Mr M McHugh
Mrs M Goldsmith
Ms G Gillan

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor S Currie

Council Officials Present:

Mr D Ledingham, Executive Director (Services for People)
Mr D Nightingale, Head of Education
Mrs K MacNeill, Corporate Legal Adviser
Ms J Mackay, Media Manager
Mrs F Brown, Principal Officer (Pupil Support)
Ms A Hood, Lead Officer 16+
Ms C Lavelle, Quality Improvement Officer
Ms W Howie, Quality Improvement Officer

Clerk:

Miss F Currie, Committees Assistant

Visitors Present:

Ms S Ingham, Head Teacher, Knox Academy
Mr G Clark, Head Teacher at Preston Lodge High School

Apologies:

Councillor A Forrest
Councillor P McLennan
Councillor M Veitch

Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Brown declared an interest in relation to Item 1 due to his employment with Midlothian Training Services.

1. POSITIVE SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Mr Don Ledingham, the Executive Director (Services for People) presented a report updating the Committee regarding positive school leaver destinations using the recent School Leaver Destination Report (SLDR) and employability activity within East Lothian.

Mr Ledingham invited Ms Alison Hood, Lead Officer 16+, and Ms Sarah Ingham, Head Teacher at Knox Academy, to speak to the paper. Ms Hood began by summarising the main points of the report and highlighting some of the success stories of the past 12 months. She emphasised the importance of working with partner organisations such as Careers Scotland, Jobcentreplus, and West of Scotland Seafish training Association and local organisations and projects to ensure as broad a range of opportunities as possible.

Ms Ingham explained there were a number of reasons for the dip in performance in 2010/11. She indicated that work had been undertaken at Knox Academy to encourage pupils to take part in all available opportunities and to incorporate employability training into the core S2-S6 provision. Next session employability skills and volunteering will be part of the S3-S4 curriculum.

In response to questions from Councillor MacKenzie, Ms Ingham confirmed that the multi-agency 16+ Hubs met once or twice per term and that projects such as Tots & Teens had provided greater opportunities for pupils to gain work experience.

Mr Ledingham drew Members attention to the overall figures for 2011/12 which showed an improvement in positive destinations on the previous year to 88.1% and that employment was 2.2% above the national average.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report and recognise the wide range of activities being undertaken to improve positive leaver destinations in East Lothian.

2. UPDATE ON THE HOSPITALITY & TOURISM ACADEMY

The Executive Director (Services for People) presented a report updating the Committee regarding the Hospitality and Tourism Academy and for the Committee to note the extension to the Academy programme.

Mr Ledingham summarised the progress made by the Hospitality & Tourism Academy in its first year, indicating that it had had a tremendous impact on the young people involved and on the Curriculum for Excellence. He confirmed that following completion of their second year students would have the opportunity to move directly into the second year of the degree course, should they choose to do so. Mr Ledingham also indicated that funding was now in place for two new Academies – Food Industries and Cultural Industries – which would commence in August 2013.

In response to a question from Councillor Goodfellow, Mr Ledingham confirmed that although the Hospitality & Tourism Academy would continue to be open only to pupils

from Musselburgh Grammar, Preston Lodge High School and Ross High School, the two new Academies would be open to all secondary schools in the area.

Councillor Currie asked whether consideration had been given to the Hospitality & Tourism Academy working with the Royal and Ancient in relation to catering for the Open at Muirfield. Mr Ledingham explained that Tom Shearer was looking at all opportunities but no approach had been made by the Academy.

Members welcomed the success of the Hospitality & Tourism Academy and congratulated everyone involved in the project.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

- i. Note the contents of the report.
- ii. Support the involvement of East Lothian schools in the extended “Academy” model.

3. REPORT ON SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE 2012

The Executive Director (Services for People) presented a report informing the Committee of the post-appeal trends in Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) performance in East Lothian.

Mr Ledingham took Members through the ten tables which dealt with exam passes at Standard and Higher Grades. He indicated that the gap between all S4 pupils and those classed as Looked After Children (LACs) had closed over 2011/12. He concluded by saying that, in general, progress had been positive in most areas and that the Council’s aspiration was to move into the top decile for all results.

Mr Gavin Clark, Head Teacher at Preston Lodge High School, told Members that the data available was extensive and could be analysed in a variety of ways. Schools also have available objective testing of S2 pupils which can give an indication of future performance. Mr Clark explained that they want pupils to attain the best qualifications they can and to become independent learners. His school was able to increase the pass rate for 5+ qualifications by focussed work with pupils. They have also made a significant change to the curriculum at S4-S6, by putting many pupils on a two year track to Higher exams.

The Convenor thanked Mr Clark for his presentation and encouraged Members to visit Preston Lodge High School to see the work being done there.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

- i. Note that the East Lothian results represent a continuing good profile in comparison to the national comparator authorities’ averages.
- ii. Allow the Executive Director to write to Head Teachers and colleagues in schools to congratulate them on their achievements.

- iii. Note that there will be an attainment action plan element within the Department's Service Plan which is currently under development.

4. CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

The Executive Director (Services for People) presented a report updating the Committee on progress with Curriculum for Excellence and next steps.

Ms Claire Lavelle and Ms Wendy Howie, Quality Improvement Officers for Curriculum for Excellence, spoke to the report and highlighted a few key areas including assessment, moderation and reporting, P7 and S3 profiles, the Senior Phase and continuing professional development for teachers. Overall, progress has been very positive and Curriculum for Excellence has encouraged collaboration and sharing of good practice between teachers at both local and national level.

Ms Howie commended the work of the Literacy Hubs – East Lothian being partners in one of 5 Hubs along with Mid and West Lothian, Edinburgh and Scottish Borders Councils. A Literacy Action Plan has been developed and Dunbar Primary School would be hosting a Literacy Festival in October this year.

Members commended both Ms Lavelle and Ms Howie for their enthusiasm and inspirational contribution in this area. Both officers would be leaving their posts this year and the Convenor commented that they would be sorely missed.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

- i. Note the progress made in implementing Curriculum for Excellence.
- ii. Note the on-going work to develop practice for implementation of the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence.
- iii. Consider the impact of the departure of the two seconded Quality Improvement Officers, Curriculum for Excellence.
- iv. Continue to support the moderation process, which is key to developing teacher confidence in assessing Curriculum for Excellence.
- v. Continue subject support groups for secondary schools, to allow for sharing good practice and development work across the authority.

5. FOLLOW-THROUGH VISIT OF LORETTO RC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY CLASS BY EDUCATION SCOTLAND

The Executive Director (Services for People) presented a report informing the Committee of the Follow-through visit of Loretto RC Primary School and Nursery Class by Education Scotland.

Mr Ledingham invited Members to note the contents of the report, in particular the good progress which has been made since the original visit by Education Scotland in March 2011. Although there were still areas for improvement the overall tone of the report was very positive.

Councillor Currie welcomed the report and indicated that his experience over the last year had shown the involvement of parents to be crucial in making progress. He offered his thanks to all involved for making a real difference.

The Convenor provided comments from Councillor Grant who wished to congratulate the school staff, the Parent Council and Education Department staff for getting behind the school to help move it forward.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:

- i. Note the content of the Education Scotland report (Appendix 1).
- ii. Note the good progress made by the school since the original inspection.
- iii. Congratulate the Head Teacher and staff on the contents of the report.

6. SUPPLY TEACHING STAFF SHORTAGE

The Executive Director (Services for People) presented a report asking the Committee to note and support the proposal that all part-time teachers in the Authority are offered the opportunity to join the supply list by completing a change of contract form accompanied by a supporting statement from their Head Teacher.

Mr Darrin Nightingale, Head of Education, spoke to the report. He explained that there was an issue with getting supply teachers across the Authority, a position that is similar nationally. A proposal had been put forward to offer teachers on part-time contracts supply work at other schools in the Authority area. In order to facilitate this process the normal recruitment process had been shortened, with the agreement of HR and the EIS, although the standard terms and conditions of employment would still apply.

The Convenor confirmed that East Lothian was one of 17 Authorities having difficulty filling supply requests and that CoSLA was looking at ways to address this at a national level.

Ms Gael Gillan, teachers' representative, noted that the EIS were also looking at this issue.

Decision

The Committee agreed, under Standing Orders, to approve the proposal to ensure adequate and efficient provision of school education and boost the number of supply teachers on both the primary and secondary supply list, hopefully alleviating the issue of being unable to find cover for absent teachers.

7. ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL ROLL CAPPING P1 FOR SESSION 2013-14

The Executive Director (Services for People), presented a report asking the Committee to approve the capping of primary one (P1) at St Mary's RC Primary School for session 2013/14.

Mrs Fiona Brown, Principal Officer, Pupil Support, spoke to the report. She explained that, in March 2012, the Committee had agreed to the capping of the whole school role from August 2012 onwards at a maximum of 125 pupils. If the number of pupils for P1 exceeds a maximum of 20 pupils the school would not have the capacity in future years to accommodate all expected pupils.

Councillor MacKenzie expressed the view that a further briefing on the issue of roll capping would be helpful for him and possibly other Members too. Mr Ledingham agreed to take this forward.

Decision

The Committee agreed to roll cap the number of pupils admitted to P1 in session 2013/14 to a maximum of 20 pupils.

8. ROLL CAPPING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Executive Director (Services for People), presented a report asking the Committee to approve the S1 intake level at Dunbar Grammar School, Knox Academy, Musselburgh Grammar School, North Berwick High School and Preston Lodge High School for session 2013/14 and to continue the capping intake level agreed in March 2011 for S1 into S3 for 2013/14 and onto S4 for 2014/15.

Mrs Brown spoke to this report. She explained to Members that limiting the maximum intake of pupils each academic year allows the Authority to ensure equality of provision throughout the area’s schools.

Councillor Currie raised a concern that schools in the Musselburgh area must be coming near to capacity given the increase in house building and people moving into the area. Mr Ledingham indicated that he was aware of these concerns and had begun discussions with Richard Jennings, Head of Housing and Environment, and colleagues about the development of a 10 year plan for the area which would be brought to Council early in the next session.

Decision

The Committee agreed a maximum intake level in S1 for session 2013/14 in the schools listed below and to continue this level of pupils through to S4 in 2016/17:

School	Maximum S1 intake level
Dunbar Grammar School	180
Knox Academy	140
Musselburgh Grammar School	240
North Berwick High School	160
Preston Lodge High School	220

In addition the Committee agreed the maximum intake level in S3 for session 2013/14 through to S4 in 2014/15 as:

School	Maximum S3 intake level
Dunbar Grammar School	180
Knox Academy	140
Musselburgh Grammar School	240
North Berwick High School	180

9. RESERVING PLACES IN SCHOOLS FOR DISTRICT PUPILS WHO MOVE INTO THE CATCHMENT AREA DURING ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-14

The Executive Director (Services for People), presented a report asking the Committee to approve retaining places for incoming catchment pupils at the schools mentioned below for session 2013/14.

Mrs Brown spoke to this report. She drew Members' attention to the key areas of the report and explained that due to high migration there was a need to reserve all available places in Aberlady and Windygoul Primary Schools for pupils coming into the catchment area.

In response to comments from Councillor Goodfellow over the sustainability of reserving only 4 places at North Berwick High School, it was suggested that the Committee delegate any changes to the number of places held in reserve to the Executive Director, in consultation with the Convener, should the number of pupils requiring a place at a school significantly increase or decrease.

Decision

The Committee agreed to hold in reserve places for incoming catchment pupils for session 2013/14 as detailed below:

i. Aberlady Primary School

Reserve all places within the school due to the limited space available and the number of pupils migrating in to the area. The school has capacity for a maximum of 6 classes and has been capped at 150 to ensure pupils can be accommodated within the school. Currently 144 pupils are expected for 2013/14 which means there will only be six places available in the whole school.

ii. Windygoul Primary School

Reserve all places within the school due to limited number of classrooms and the house building in the catchment area which is producing an extensive number of pupils migrating in requiring places at various stages throughout the school.

iii. Primary schools

Reserve the number of places detailed below in each year group between Primary One and Primary seven. The class organisation may be a mixture of straight and composite classes.

School	Number of reserved places per stage						
	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
Campie Primary School	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cockenzie Primary School	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dunbar Primary School	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
East Linton Primary School	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Haddington Infant School	2	2	2	-	-	-	-

Law Primary School	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Longniddry Primary School	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Musselburgh Burgh Primary School	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ormiston Primary School	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pencaitland Primary School	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pinkie St Peter's Primary School	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
St Martin's RC Primary School	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanderson's Wynd Primary School	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stoneyhill Primary School	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Reserve the number of places detailed below in each composite class:

School	No of composite classes	No of reserved places per class
Macmerry Primary School	5	1
Saltoun Primary School	3	1
St Mary's RC Primary School	5	1
Whitecraig Primary School	4	1

iv. Secondary Schools S1 and S2

Reserve the number of places in as detailed in the table overleaf.

School	Maximum number of places in S1 including reserved places	Number of reserved places in S1	Maximum number of places in S2 including reserved places	Number of reserved places in S2
Dunbar Grammar School	180	6	160	5
Knox Academy	140	5	140	3
Musselburgh Grammar School	240	8	240	8
North Berwick High School	160	6	160	5

v. Secondary Schools S3 and S4

Reserve the number of places as detailed in the table below:

School	Maximum number of places in S3 including reserved places	Number of places reserved in S3	Maximum number of places in S4 including reserved places	Number of places reserved in S4
Dunbar Grammar School	180	3	160	3
Knox Academy	140	4	160	4
Musselburgh Grammar School	240	5	240	5
North Berwick High School	180	4	180	4

In addition, the Committee agreed to delegate any changes to the number of places held in reserve to the Executive Director, in consultation with the Convener, should the number of pupils requiring a place at a school significantly increase or decrease.

Signed

Councillor Shamin Akhtar
Convener of the Education Committee