

REPORT TO: Education Committee
MEETING DATE: 10 November 2015
BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)
SUBJECT: Attainment Challenge and the Attainment Scotland Fund

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the Attainment Challenge, a Scottish Government initiative, and the Attainment Scotland Fund.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to authorise me to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning to put forward a case for East Lothian to be considered for future allocations of the Attainment Scotland Fund.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 9 February 2015 the First Minister announced the Scottish Attainment Challenge.
- 3.2 The Attainment Challenge is supported by an Attainment Scotland Fund of £100 million over four years.
- 3.3 The aim of the Attainment Scotland Fund is to take forward improvements on educational outcomes in Scotland's most disadvantaged communities.
- 3.4 It was outlined that the four year fund would initially target schools in local authorities with the biggest concentrations of households in deprived areas.
- 3.5 Its focus is to improve literacy, numeracy, health & well-being in primary schools in these areas. With the objective being to give all primary-school age pupils regardless of their background the best start in life.
- 3.6 The first allocation from the fund was announced on 2 July 2015 and included seven local authorities. The seven local authorities were as follows: Glasgow, North Lanarkshire, Inverclyde, Clackmannanshire, West Dunbartonshire, North Ayrshire and Dundee.

- 3.7. On the current criteria set for the Attainment Scotland Fund East Lothian Council is not able to access any of the funding. Other Local Authorities in a similar position are making representations to the Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning.
- 3.8 There is a strong case to be put forward for East Lothian to be considered for future allocations from the Attainment Scotland Fund as certain areas within the authority fall within the 20% most deprived communities in Scotland.
- 3.9 The aim of the fund reflects the priorities of East Lothian Council's Education Committee having recently agreed strategies on literacy, numeracy and health & well-being in order to improve the educational outcomes of all our young people.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. This report is not applicable to the well-being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. Finance - none.
- 6.2 Personnel – none.
- 6.3. Other – none.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Raising Attainment Press Release outlining the first schools to be allocated resources from Attainment Challenge Fund 2nd July 2015
<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Focus-on-raising-attainment-1add.aspx>
- 7.2 World Leader in Education Press Release outlining a further 57 schools to be allocated Attainment Challenge Fund 18th August 2015
<http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/A-world-leader-in-education-1c10.aspx>
- 7.3 East Lothian Strategic Assessment
http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/downloads/file/9793/east_lothian_strategic_assessment_2015

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