

## **Education Convener Advisory Group**

Report by Mary Smith, Director, Education, Communities and Economy

### **Purpose of Report**

- 1** The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Cabinet on the Education Convener Advisory Group. As outlined to Cabinet on both 16 April and 27 August 2013, this forum was to be used informally as a platform for the Education Convener to help inform and explore developments in relevant policy.

This report provides a short summary on progress made and forward planning in relation to this group.

### **2 Background**

The Group has been formed to provide ongoing recognition of, and dialogue with, key stakeholders in education for Midlothian. Parties identified for inclusion are young people, parents and staff. Key principles of operating include working together in an open forum, members offering their views, and encouraging a collective and inclusive process relating to key education policy issues.

### **3 Progress report**

The Group's membership was determined by the Group Convener and the Head of Education and an initial meeting was held. Key stakeholders - pupils, teachers, religious representation and council officers participated in the initial meeting.

In the interim, a new Cabinet holder has since been appointed for Education and has revisited the purpose and constitution of this group. As such, the follow up meeting, arranged for January 2014, was postponed until further notice. Members have been advised accordingly.

It is now the intention of the incoming Cabinet Member to form an Education Committee in place of the Education Convener Advisory Group. The necessary scoping to determine the nature and function of this Committee is underway and the recommended purpose, membership and terms of reference will be brought to Midlothian Council in March 2014.

## **4 Report Implications**

### **4.1 Resource**

There are no human resource implications.

### **4.2 Risk**

There are no risk implications arising directly.

### **4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

This report addresses the theme of Getting it Right for Every Midlothian Child and will assist us in addressing our three key priorities.

### **4.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

The revised recommendation will prioritise performance and outcomes within Education for children and young people in general.

### **4.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

The preventative approach will permeate discussions and provide a context for agenda setting.

### **4.6 Ensuring Equalities**

An equalities impact assessment is not required in relation to this report.

### **4.8 IT Issues**

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

## **5. Recommendation**

Cabinet is recommended to note the content of this report.

**11 February 2014**

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### *Declaration Box*

*Instructions: This box must be completed by the author of the report. The box will be copied and saved by the Council Secretariat who will delete it from the report prior to photocopying the agenda.*

*Title of Report: Education Convenor Advisory Group*

*Meeting Presented to: Cabinet 25 February 2014*

*Author of Report: Mary Smith*

*I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-*

- ☒ *All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Human Resources.*
- ☒ *All risk implications have been addressed.*
- ☒ *All other report implications have been addressed.*
- ☒ *My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.*

*For Cabinet reports, please advise the Council Secretariat if the report has an education interest. This will allow the report to be located on the Cabinet agenda among the items in which the Religious Representatives are entitled to participate.*

*Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for Midlothian Council has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair.*