

## **EDUCATION, SKILLS AND EARLY YEARS CITY POLICY COMMITTEE'S MINUTES.**

By video conference, 18th August 2022.

### **Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee.**

Present: Graham Campbell (Chair), Imran Alam, Blair Anderson, Richard Bell, Jill Brown, Bill Butler, Elaine Gallagher, Zen Ghani, Fiona Higgins, Fyeza Ikhlq, Ruairi Kelly, Malcolm Mitchell and Catherine Vallis.

Also present: Christina Cannon.

Attending: D Brand (Clerk); D Hutchison, Executive Director of Education Services; and F Ross (for the Head of Communication and Strategic Partnerships).

### **ParentPay and Parents Portal – Progress noted etc.**

1 There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Education Services regarding the progress made on the implementation of ParentPay and Parent Portal, advising that

- (1) following approval of the business case in March 2021, ParentPay, an online payment solution with integration to a new and upgraded cashless catering solution across the school estate had been created, and that the purpose of the implementation of these solutions was to enable parents and carers to pay for all school related items online at any time of day and to enable parents in primary schools to pre-order their child(ren)'s meals;
- (2) the rollout of the project had met its timescale and implementation of the complete solution had been rolled out to 177 schools by mid-June 2022;
- (3) in order to enhance communication with parents and carers, Parents Portal was an application that enabled and created a digital relationship between parents, pupils and schools, and was designed to provide online access to a range of school related services to parents and carers, providing them with information about their child's school and would allow 24-hour online access to other services within education;
- (4) the portal had a soft launch in 2 primaries and 1 secondary in the North East and results from this were gathered via a Smart Survey, that these encouraging results would form a baseline by which to measure future rollouts, and that the remaining schools in the North East had gone live on 3rd May, with the North West and South following on 6th June 2022; and
- (5) that the next steps would include planned targeted communications for the new academic term to drive sign up and use of the annual data check process

to encourage this, and to progress with extra functionality to provide additional services which take into account the requirements of parents.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted the progress to date; and
- (b) requested a further progress report be brought back to a future meeting of this committee.