East Lothian
Council

REPORT TO:	Education Committee
MEETING DATE:	31 May 2016
BY:	Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)
SUBJECT:	National Improvement Framework (NIF)

1 PURPOSE

1.1 The Committee is asked to consider the implications that the National Improvement Framework will have on the Education Service and schools across East Lothian.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to:-

i. Note the Education Service will review its approach to improvement planning and reporting to reflect the National Improvement Framework priorities and key drivers for improvement, as well as current local priorities.

ii. Approve that the Head of Service reports back to Committee as and when appropriate on progress made with the implementation of the National Improvement Framework.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The National Improvement Framework (NIF) for Scottish Education was published by the Scottish Government 6 January 2016.

3.2 The NIF is designed to address one of the key issues identified by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the need to develop an integrated framework for assessment and evaluation that encompasses all system levels and ensures all partners are focused effectively on key priorities.

3.3 The NIF has been created to align our collective improvement activities, across all partners in the education system to address current key priorities:

- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy;

- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children;

- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing; and

- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations for all young people.

3.4   The NIF also sets out six key drivers for improvement which will be instrumental to achieving the key priorities and inform the evidence and data gathered at school, local authority and national level to determine how well Scottish education is improving.   The six key drivers for improvement are:

- School leadership

- Teacher professionalism

- Parental engagement

- Assessment of children's progress

- School improvement

- Performance information

3.5   As part of the Education (Scotland) Act 2016, the reporting procedures for the NIF have been placed on a statutory footing. The Act requires local authorities to fulfil their existing duty to secure improvement in school education in a way which achieves the key priorities set out in the NIF. This means from 2017 there will be a requirement to report on aspects of the NIF at school and local authority level, and Standards and Quality reporting will need to change.

3.6   The Education Local Improvement Plan and Strategy is being updated to ensure it takes into account the NIF key priorities, drivers for improvement and reporting arrangements for the NIF from 2016/17 onwards.

3.7   The Quality Assurance Policy 2015 approved by the Committee 16 June 2015 will be amended to include revised approaches to improvement planning which reflect the NIF priorities and key drivers for improvement, as well as current local priorities.

4   POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1   The Education (Scotland) Act 2016 places the NIF and reporting arrangements on a statutory footing. The Act will require the Education

Service to fulfil its existing duties to secure improvement in school education in a way which achieves the key priorities set out in the NIF.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial - None

6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 The National Improvement Framework
http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/01/8314

7.2 Improving Schools in Scotland : An OECD Perspective OECD, 2015
http://www.oecd.org/edu/school/improving-schools-in-scotland.htm

AUTHOR'S NAME	Fiona Robertson
DESIGNATION	Head of Education
CONTACT INFO	Tel: 01620 827834 e-mail: frobertson@eastlothian.gov.uk
DATE	2 May 2016