

Minute of Meeting

Midlothian Council
Tuesday, 26 March 2024
Item No 5.1



Midlothian Council

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 27 February 2024	11:00 am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House/Hybrid

Present:

Provost McCall (Chair)	Depute Provost Bowen
Councillor Parry (Council Leader)	Councillor Cassidy (Depute Council Leader)
Councillor Alexander	Councillor Curran
Councillor Drummond	Councillor Imrie
Councillor McEwan	Councillor McKenzie
Councillor McManus	Councillor Milligan
Councillor Pottinger	Councillor Russell
Councillor Scott	Councillor Winchester
Councillor Virgo	

Religious Representatives:

Anne-Theresa Lawrie	
---------------------	--

In attendance:

Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive	Kevin Anderson, Executive Director Place
Morag Barrow, Director of Health & Social Care: Midlothian HSCP / Chief Officer to Midlothian IJB	Fiona Robertson, Executive Director Children, Young People & Partnerships
Alan Turpie, Legal and Governance Manager / Monitoring Officer	David Gladwin, Chief Financial Officer (Section 95 Officer)
Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place	Saty Kaur, Chief Officer Corporate Solutions
Joan Tranent, Chief Officer, Children's Services / Chief Social Work Officer	Hannah Forbes, Assistant Democratic Services Officer

Janet Ritchie, Democratic Services Officer	Lucy Roddie, Democratic Services Officer
--	--

1. Welcome and Apology for Absence

The Provost welcomed everyone to this meeting of the Midlothian Council and advised that the meeting was open to the public and would be webcast live.

2. Order of Business

The Democratic Services Officer advised that the minute of the Community Asset Transfer Committee meeting of Tuesday 30 January 2024 had been withdrawn and would be re-presented at the meeting of Midlothian Council on Tuesday 26 March 2024.

The order of business was otherwise as per the agenda previously circulated.

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were intimated at this stage of the proceedings.

4. Deputations

None received.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Item No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
5.1	Minute of Meeting of Midlothian Council 19 December 2023	Executive Director Place
Outline and Summary of Discussion		
The Minute of Meeting and Private Addendum of Midlothian Council held on 19 December 2023 was submitted and approved as a correct record.		
Councillor Parry moved. Councillor McManus seconded.		
Decision		
Minute of Meeting and Private Addendum of Midlothian Council held on 19 December 2023 was approved.		
Action		
Democratic Services		

Item No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
5.2	Minute Volume Index	Executive Director Place
Outline and Summary of Discussion		

The following minutes were previously circulated to Elected Members and subsequently noted and/or the recommendations contained therein approved:

- Minute of Audit Committee of 30 October 2023
- Minute of Special Audit Committee of 5 December 2023
- Minute of Local Review Body of 13 November 2023
- Minute of Local Review Body of 11 December 2023
- Minute of Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee of 7 November 2023
- Minute of Police Fire and Rescue Board of 15 November 2023
- Minute of MIJB of 24 August 2023
- Minute of Special MIJB of 21 September 2023
- Minute of MIJB of 21 December 2023
- Minute of MIJB – Audit and Risk of 7 September 2023
- Minute of MIJB – Audit and Risk of 23 November 2023

Moved by Councillor Parry. Seconded by Councillor Cassidy.

Decision

Minute Volume Index noted.

Action

Democratic Services

Item No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
5.3	Action Log	Executive Director Place
Outline and Summary of Discussion		
It was requested that Action 1 – Capital Plan Prioritisation, remain open.		
Decision		
The Action Log was noted, with all actions recommended for closure to be closed except Action 1 which remains open.		
Action		
Democratic Services		

6. Questions to the Leader of the Council

None received.

7. Motions

Item No.	Notice of Motion	Submitted by:
7.1	Flood Risk Management	Councillor Imrie and Councillor Milligan
Outline and Summary of Discussion		
<p>The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Imrie and seconded by Councillor Milligan.</p> <p>Councillor Imrie and Councillor Milligan in support of the Motion highlighted climate change, extreme weather events and the devastation flooding can cause around Scotland and all over the world and the importance of an update on the flood risk management and therefore proposed as a matter of priority the actions as detailed in the Motion.</p> <p>The Motion was welcomed by Councillors. The Executive Director Place in responding advised that there is a flood risk plan and as part of the continuing review agreed with the motion being presented to Officers.</p>		
Decision		
The Notice of Motion was moved.		
Action		
Executive Director Place		

8. Reports

Report No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
8.1	Financial Monitoring 2023/24 – General Fund Revenue	Chief Financial Officer and Section 95 Officer
Outline and Summary of Discussion		
<p>The purpose of this report was to provide Council with information on projections of performance against service revenue budgets in 2023/24 and to provide commentary on areas of material variance against budget. The budget performance figures as shown in Appendix B result in a projected net underspend of £0.128 million which is an improvement of £1.396 million from projections at quarter 2. The projected underspend represents 0.04% of the revised budget.</p> <p>The Chief Financial Officer in presenting the report highlighted the main sections contained within the report and outlined the recommendations as detailed.</p> <p>The Council Leader thanked the Chief Financial Officer and council officers who have worked hard to improve the financial position and commented positively on the ability to track the progress and pace of previously agreed recovery actions and the delivery of transformation projects and agreed with the recommendation to increase the funding for the Midlothian Integration Joint Board.</p> <p>During discussion issues were raised with regards to the overspends and Scotland Excel not having accurate figures with regards to energy, and it was confirmed by</p>		

the Chief Financial Officer that there were issues with Scotland Excel and if agreeable he would bring back with further information. Also highlighted by Members were the issues with pupil transport and timescales, overspends and slippage on last year budget and their concerns regarding Hillend.

The Executive Director Children, Young People & Partnerships provided an update on the work being undertaken with regards to pupil transport and advised that they will have a list of recommendations for consideration within 6 – 8 weeks.

Moved by Councillor Parry, seconded by Councillor Milligan.

Decision

Council:

- a) Approved increased funding of £0.794 million for the Midlothian Integration Joint Board in 23/24 to cover unbudgeted pay costs (section 4.2);
- b) Noted projections of revenue costs and income in 2023/24 against budget;
- c) Noted the projected General Fund Reserve Balance at 31st March 2024;
- d) Noted recovery actions agreed by the Corporate Management Team in response to areas of projected overspend (section 3.3); and
- e) Noted the contents of this report.

Action

Chief Financial Officer/Section 95 Officer

Councillor Curran declared an interest in the above item regarding pupil transport and his personal interest and therefore left the meeting at 11:25 am and returned at 11.30 am.

Report No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
8.2	Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget 2023/24	Chief Financial Officer & Section 95 Officer
Outline and Summary of Discussion		
<p>The purpose of this report was to provide Council with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of expenditure and income to the end of quarter 3 in 2023/24 for the Capital Plan and a projected outturn for both the Revenue Account and Capital Plan for 2023/24; • An update on the Capital Plan and Revenue budget 2024/25 - 2026/27. <p>The Chief Financial Officer in presenting the report highlighted the main sections contained within the report and outlined the recommendations as detailed.</p> <p>There followed a brief discussion in which Members commented positively on the report.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Cassidy.</p>		
Decision		

Council:

- Approved the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Plan for 2024/25 - 2026/27 as detailed in Appendix D;
- Approved the HRA Revenue Budget for 2024/25;
- Noted the indicative HRA Revenue Budget for 2025/26 and 2026/27 as detailed in Appendix E; and otherwise
- Noted the remaining contents of this report.

Action

Chief Financial Officer & Section 95 Officer

Report No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
8.3	General Services Capital Plan 2023/24 Quarter 3 Monitoring and 2024/25 to 2027/28 Budgets	Chief Financial Officer & Section 95 Officer

Outline and Summary of Discussion

The purpose of this report was to provide Council with:

- An update of the GSCP incorporating information on further additions to the Capital Plan for approval (Section 3).
- Information on the projected performance against budget for 2023/24 (Section 4).
- Forecast expenditure and income for the GSCP for 2024/25 through to 2027/28 (Section 5)
- Update on the Capital Fund (Section 6).

The Chief Financial Officer in presenting the report highlighted the main sections contained within the report and outlined the recommendations as detailed.

Members raised concerns on the Capital Plan prioritisation, particularly regarding the removal of schools and removal of school refurbishment/extensions and if there would be a full catchment review. The Chief Financial Officer explained that removal was relating to the context of the present Capital Plan and not any future projects and apologised that this wording was confusing. With regards to the full catchment review the Executive Director, Children, Young People & Partnerships confirmed that they are at present working on the current Local Development Plan and that a review across Midlothian may be required when they explore the next Development Plan.

During further discussion clarification was sought on improvements to existing schools to ensure they have the facilities they require, and the Executive Director Place confirmed that this would be elaborated further in the private paper.

Members highlighted their concerns and confusion regarding the information contained in this paper and the private paper and having to note something in this paper but deciding in the private paper. The Executive Director Place explained that the private paper is a wider scope in terms of some of the governance process and

the Legal and Governance Manager / Monitoring Officer confirmed that with regards to Para 9 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government Scotland Act 1973 covers the terms that are proposed in the private paper and discussion on the figures presented in the later report require it to be considered in private.

Moved by Councillor Parry, seconded by Councillor Scott

Decision

Council:

- Noted the inclusion of the projects listed in Section 3.1 in the General Services Capital Plan (GSCP).
- Approved the adjustment to the project expenditure and funding budgets for the projects as outlined in Section 3.2.
- Approved the addition of the new projects to the GSCP, as outlined in Section 3.3.
- Noted the changes to the GSCP in respect of the Learning Estate Strategy as outlined in Section 3.4 and as per the Capital Plan Prioritisation report.
- Noted the forecast outturn for 2023/24 for expenditure, funding and borrowing as outlined in Section 4.
- Noted the planned expenditure and funding levels in the GSCP for 2023/24 to 2027/28 (as outlined in Section 5 and shown in Appendices B and C), prior to reaching a financially sustainable outcome from the Capital Plan Prioritisation exercise.

Action

Chief Financial Officer & Section 95 Officer

Report No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
8.4	Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2024/25 & Prudential Indicators	Chief Financial Officer & Section 95 Officer
Outline and Summary of Discussion		
<p>The purpose of this report to Council is to provide an update on the implementation of the Council's TMIS 2023/24, and to make recommendations to facilitate consideration of the 2024/25 Strategy, the Prudential and Treasury indicators contained therein, and the approach to the statutory repayment of loans fund advances.</p> <p>In accordance with the Treasury Management Code of Practice, the annual Treasury Management & Investment Strategy (TMIS) & Prudential Indicators report is required to be adequately scrutinised before being recommended to the Council. For Midlothian, this role is undertaken by the Audit Committee, with this report being approved as presented to Audit Committee on 29 January 2024.</p> <p>Councillor Parry moved the report. It was also requested that a review of the policy is undertaken in 6 months to 1 year to mitigate any unforeseen circumstances.</p>		

The Chief Financial Officer in presenting the report highlighted the main sections contained within the report and outlined the recommendations as detailed.

Councillor Parry and Councillor Milligan commented positively on the Treasury Management Report and expressed their congratulations and thanks to the Chief Financial Officer and the Finance Team.

Moved by Councillor Parry, seconded by Councillor Milligan

Decision

Council:

- Approved the restriction of the Authorised Limit to the value of the Capital Financing Requirement at 31 March 2025 (£534.105 million), pending finalisation of the General Services Capital Plan Prioritisation;
- Note that there are no other material changes proposed to the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy (TMIS) for 2024/25 from the strategy currently in place, other than to update the Prudential Indicators (Section 5 and Appendix C), to reflect the revised capital plans.
- Note the retention of the current approach for the repayment of loans fund advances as outlined in Section 6 and that any changes arising from the Scottish Government's consultation on the Amendment to the Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Scotland) Regulations 2016 will be reflected in a revised TMIS if required; and
- Accordingly approve the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2024/25.

Action

Chief Financial Officer & Section 95 Officer

Report No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
8.5	Foster Carer Additional Funding	CSWO and Chief Officer, Children's Services
Outline and Summary of Discussion		
<p>This report advises of additional financial requests that have been requested by foster carers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A 5.5% increase in fostering fees for 2024/25• All foster carers move from Level 1 fees to Level 2 fees following a one-year probationary period.• The two items mentioned below are for noting only as they shall be incorporated within base budget and have been accepted and approved.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- An increase in mileage payments from 45p per mile to 61p per mile.- Reinstate birthday and Christmas allowance for each child and an agreed amount to go towards holiday activities.		

The Chief Officer Children's Services / Chief Social Work Officer in presenting the report outlined the main sections of the report and highlighted the importance of Foster Carers and highlighted that there is still a lack of foster carers and this will contribute to the recruitment of foster carers.

Members commented positively on the report and commented on the importance of foster carers and also kinship carers and their critical role. The Chief Officer Children's Services / Chief Social Work Officer advised that the rate of allowance in this report was for foster carers and kinship carers across all of Scotland. However this report was relating to additional fees and only foster carers receive fees and advised that they would need to look at how they could recompense kinship carers if this is a request from members, as they are not entitled to a fee, and further discussion was required offline to see how this could be managed.

The request for the financial impact to be included in the executive summary was noted.

Councillor Parry commented as being a care experience person was delighted at the comments from her colleagues on the importance of this paper.

Moved by Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Milligan.

Decision

Council approved additional funding for foster carers as highlighted within the report.

Action

Chief Officer Children's Services / Chief Social Work Officer

Report No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
8.6	A Council Tax charges on second homes and empty properties	Chief Officer Corporate Solutions
Outline and Summary of Discussion		
<p>The purpose of this report was to provide Council with information on the recent legislative change on Council Tax charges for second and empty homes and present a recommended policy for approval.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Corporate Solutions in presenting this paper highlighted the main sections contained within the paper and the recommendations as detailed.</p> <p>Members commented positively on this report and the policy change was welcomed. It was also noted that council tax fee was for services and that empty houses do not use council services.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Curran.</p>		
Decision		
Council:		

- Agreed to apply a 100% increase in respect of Council Tax charges for second homes as proposed in 3.8.
- Agreed that no discount be applied for empty properties as referred to in 3.12 and 3.13.
- Agreed to extend the initial six-month grace period on empty homes referred to in 3.12 for up to a maximum of an additional six months, therefore in total up to 12 months grace period can be applied as proposed in 3.13.
- Delegated authority to the Executive Director Place to apply the discretionary six-month extension to the grace period on empty properties referred to in 3.12, on a case-by-case basis following recommendation from the Chief Officer Corporate Solutions as proposed in 3.13.

Action

Chief Officer Corporate Solutions

Report No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
8.7	Fees and Charges 2024/25	Chief Officer Corporate Solutions
Outline and Summary of Discussion		
<p>The purpose of this report was to provide Council with the proposed fees and charges table for 2024/25 for consideration and approval.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Corporate Solutions in presenting this paper highlighted the main sections contained within the paper and the recommendations as detailed.</p> <p>Members commented on the work put into this report and appendices and that there was a good balance in what was changing and what wasn't changing. Also highlighted was the condition of St Andrew's car park and that this required resurfacing.</p> <p>The Chief Officer Corporate Solutions in responding to a question regarding charges for events and the concerns for Gala Days advised that the charges were for marques, generators and PAs and was a minimum increase of 10% and this was detailed in the appendix to the report. With regards to the increase in bulky uplifts and fly-tipping the Chief Officer advised that benchmarking was done with other local authorities and private organisations to ensure they were providing a service that covers the Council's cost but still cheaper than some areas and advised on the monitoring of fly-tipping.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Parry, seconded by Councillor Virgo.</p>		
Decision		
<p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to the officer recommendations for new, revised and frozen charges as outlined within the report; and 		

- Noted the final agreed fees and charges register will be published on the Council's website.

Action

Chief Officer Corporate Solutions

Report No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
8.8	Medium Term Financial Strategy – 2024/25 to 2028/29	Chief Financial Officer & Section 95 Officer

Outline and Summary of Discussion

The main purpose of this report was to provide Council with the budget position for 2024/25 to allow discharge of their statutory duties to set a balanced budget for 2024/25. The report also provides budget projections for financial years 2025/26 through to 2028/29.

Commentary is provided to Members on the latest position on Scottish Government funding for Midlothian Council in 2024/25 and government timescales to finalise this.

The Chief Financial Officer in presenting the report highlighted the main sections contained within the report and outlined the recommendations as detailed.

The Council Leader expressed her thanks to the Chief Financial Officer and the finance team and all officers involved in the work not just in the run up to the budget but the continual work they do to ensure Midlothian residents get the best possible service and thanked the Elected Members who contribute a great deal of hard work for Midlothian residents. The Council Leader commented positively on all the work done to present a balanced budget and some of the positive aspects of the report and highlighted some of the challenges that the Council will face and moved the report with the Amendment.

Councillor Cassidy in seconding the report also commented positively on this report.

Members also commented further on some of the positive aspects for this year but also highlighted the challenges the council still face to balance the budget in years to come. Comments were made on the good transformational work done by all Elected Members together to put the people of Midlothian first no matter what political party and congratulations were expressed further to the Finance Team and Officers. It was noted that while we have the reprieve this year the Council needs to bring in more money and receive additional funding to reflect the huge growth Midlothian is seeing and the challenges with the Council Tax freeze this year.

Councillor Milligan highlighted an amendment which was circulated to Group Leaders prior to the meeting and on a request from the Legal and Governance Manager/Monitoring Officer for purpose of transparency and openness for the constituents of Midlothian, Councillor Milligan read out the Amendment.

Moved by Councillor Parry, seconded by Councillor Cassidy with the Amendment presented by Councillor Milligan. (attached to the minute)

Decision

Council:

- a) Noted that the financial outlook remains challenging for this term of Council and recall the recommendation in the External Auditors report in 2022 that *“as a matter of urgency, officers and elected members need to work together to develop and agree the medium-term financial strategy and progress the Council’s transformation plans”*.
- b) Noted the position relating to Scottish Government funding for Councils in 2024/25 and the associated grant settlement for Midlothian Council.
- c) Noted that the projected budget gap over the life of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) through to 2028/29, as shown in an amended table 6 (as attached), is £2.562 million.
- d) Approved a freeze in Council Tax rates for 2024/25 thus accepting the Scottish Government Grant offer of £2.870 million to support a freeze. Council Tax bandings are shown at Appendix B.
- e) Approved the 2024/25 budget as shown in the amended table 6 and an amended Appendix D (attached), noting that it contains a £2.680 million utilisation of reserves and one-off funding of £4.093 relating to retrospective service concessions. It is also recommended that the Council receive additional funding as expected from UK Government consequential flowing from the budget on 5 March, that funding will be fully applied to reduce the £2.680 million utilisation of Reserves.
- f) In the context of severe financial pressures in the Midlothian Integration Joint Board (MIJB), an additional £2.680 million of recurring funding to that outlined in table 8 in section 3.46 is provided in 2024/25 as detailed below thus approving an allocation to MIJB of £63.546 million.
 - £0.500 million to support costs of children and young people with complex care needs transitioning to Adult Services;
 - £1.000 million to offset costs associated with an increasing number of older people; and
 - £1.180 million to cover contractual and other inflation costs.
- g) Noted that a further MTFS report with updated financial projections and a specific focus on progress with Transformation Blueprint work will be presented to Council no later than 25th June 2024.
- h) Noted that ongoing work on Capital Plan Prioritisation, including the updating of asset management plans, will be finalised and presented to Council no later than 25th June 2024.
- i) Otherwise, noted the remainder of the report.

Action

Chief Financial Officer

Item No.

Report Title

Submitted by:

8.9	Bus Partnership Fund Grants Awarded, Fund freeze and Community Bus Fund Award	Executive Director Place
Outline and Summary of Discussion		
<p>The Executive Director Place introduced the report.</p> <p>It is recommended that Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agree to accept the award of £178,336.80 from the Bus Partnership Fund (BPF) for the purchase of 24 upgraded Real Time Passenger Information screens, in 2023/24. as part of a SEStran region-wide upgrade project. b) Note the announcement of a freeze to the BPF in 2024/25, c) Note the completion of the BPF funded Orbital routes study, appended to this report. d) Note work by officers to explore other funding opportunities to support delivery the appraised measures from the Orbital study. e) Note the need to form a strategic view of the sustainability of bus services in Midlothian and officers will scope out the work required. f) Approve acceptance of £101,000 Transport Scotland's Community Bus Fund grant award and allocates the £101,000 grant award to purchase 13 real-time passenger information screens as part of a SEStran region-wide upgrade project. <p>Councillor Cassidy, seconded by Councillor Alexander, moved the paper, with addition of a recommendation that the dividend received from Lothian Buses be reinvested back into Midlothian transport resources.</p> <p>It was noted that there is a lack of new or enhanced services supplying Midlothian, in addition to service reductions. This will have an adverse effect on the environment, in the context of rapid population growth. Councillor Imrie moved an amendment to the motion, namely, that the Council Leader to write to the cabinet secretary for transport to articulate the effects of a freeze to the BPF on Midlothian. Councillor Cassidy and Councillor Alexander accepted Councillor Imrie's amendment and as such it became part of the substantive motion.</p> <p>The Strategic Transport Planning Manager, in responding to a comment regarding the sustainability of bus services, reported that new powers are available under the Transport Scotland Act 2019, which allows Local Authorities to investigate incorporating local bus suppliers. It was noted that many residents of Midlothian contribute to the City of Edinburgh's economy and should therefore be supported with reliable and affordable bus services. The significant overspend on school transport was noted and it was suggested that transport supply needs to be considered holistically. se of dividend to address issue. It was suggested that developers should contribute to the bus development fund.</p>		
Decision		
<p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agreed to accept the award of £178,336.80 from the Bus Partnership Fund (BPF) for the purchase of 24 upgraded Real Time Passenger Information screens, in 2023/24. as part of a SEStran region-wide upgrade project. b) Noted the announcement of a freeze to the BPF in 2024/25, 		

- c) Noted the completion of the BPF funded Orbital routes study, appended to this report.
- d) Noted work by officers to explore other funding opportunities to support delivery the appraised measures from the Orbital study.
- e) Noted the need to form a strategic view of the sustainability of bus services in Midlothian and officers will scope out the work required.
- f) Approved acceptance of £101,000 Transport Scotland's Community Bus Fund grant award and allocates the £101,000 grant award to purchase 13 real-time passenger information screens as part of a SEStran region-wide upgrade project.
- g) Agreed that the dividend received from Lothian Buses be reinvested back into Midlothian transport resources.
- h) Instructed the Council Leader to write to the cabinet secretary for transport to articulate the effects of a freeze to the BPF on Midlothian.

Action

Executive Director Place

Item No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
8.10	'Midlothian on the Move' Draft Strategy for Consultation and new bids to the Active Travel Infrastructure Fund	Executive Director Place

Outline and Summary of Discussion

The Executive Director Place introduced the report.

It is recommended that Council:

- a) Agrees to public consultation on the draft 'Midlothian on the Move' Strategy (Active Travel Strategy - ATS) 2024-34, commencing in March 2024.
- b) Agrees to receive a further report in summer 2024 presenting the Council with the final ATS for adoption.
- c) Agrees to extend the validity of the previous ATS to 2024 providing coverage for ongoing projects, until the new ATS is adopted,
- d) Notes that due to short timescales, four bids totalling £899,000 were submitted on 2 February 2024 to the Active Travel Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) for 100% of the costs of school route improvements on Morris Street, Nivens Knowe/A701, Carlops Road and Sherwood Crescent.
- e) Agree the proposals for the four projects as set out in paragraph 3.19.
- f) Agrees expenditure of up to £899,000 in the General Services Capital Plan, subject to successful ATIF grant award(s) by Transport Scotland, to be fully phased in 2024/25.

Councillor Alexander, Seconded by Councillor Cassidy, moved the paper.

Decision

Council:

- a) Agreed to public consultation on the draft 'Midlothian on the Move' Strategy (Active Travel Strategy - ATS) 2024-34, commencing in March 2024.
- b) Agreed to receive a further report in summer 2024 presenting the Council with the final ATS for adoption.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Agreed to extend the validity of the previous ATS to 2024 providing coverage for ongoing projects, until the new ATS is adopted, d) Noted that due to short timescales, four bids totalling £899,000 were submitted on 2 February 2024 to the Active Travel Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) for 100% of the costs of school route improvements on Morris Street, Nivens Knowe/A701, Carlops Road and Sherwood Crescent. e) Agreed the proposals for the four projects as set out in paragraph 3.19. f) Agreed expenditure of up to £899,000 in the General Services Capital Plan, subject to successful ATIF grant award(s) by Transport Scotland, to be fully phased in 2024/25.
Action
Executive Director Place

Report No.	Report Title	Submitted by:
8.11	200th Anniversary of Braille	Executive Director Place
Outline and Summary of Discussion		
<p>The Chief Officer Corporate Solutions introduced the report.</p> <p>Council is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Note the 200th anniversary of Louis Braille; and b) Endorse the officer recommended actions to recognise the 200th anniversary. <p>Councillor McManus, seconded by Councillor Scott, moved the paper. Elected Members commended the Chief Officer Corporate Solutions for recognising the importance of Braille.</p>		
Decision		
<p>Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Noted the 200th anniversary of Louis Braille; and b) Endorsed the officer recommended actions to recognise the 200th anniversary. 		
Action		
Chief Officer Corporate Solutions		

The Public section of the meeting concluded at 13:46pm.

9. Private

Exclusion of Members of the Public

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Committee agreed that the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the undernoted item, as contained in the Addendum hereto, as there might be disclosed exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3, 6 and 14 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

- 9.1** A701 Relief Road and A702 Spur Road – Phasing, report by Executive Director Place
- 9.2** Midlothian House Building Fabric Upgrades, report by Executive Director Place
- 9.3** Capital Plan Prioritisation and Strategic Investment Framework, report by Executive Director Place

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 11.00am.

The meeting concluded at 14.16pm.