

# Minute of Meeting



## Cabinet

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 18 October 2022	11.00 am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

### Present:

Councillor Parry (Convener)	Councillor Cassidy
Councillor McKenzie	Councillor Scott

### Religious Representatives:

Ms Elizabeth Morton	Ms Anne Theresa-Lawrie
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### In attendance:

Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive
Kevin Anderson, Executive Director Place
Fiona Robertson, Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships
Morag Barrow, Joint Director Health and Social Care
Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place
Alan Turpie Legal Services Manager/Monitoring Officer
Martin Bonnar, Manager, Midlothian and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership
Andrew Henderson Democratic Services Officer

## 1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

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Councillor Parry welcomed those in attendance to the meeting of Cabinet. Apologies were then noted on behalf of Councillor Alexander and Councillor Bowen.

## 2 Order of Business

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The Order of Business was as detailed within the Agenda.

## 3 Declarations of interest

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No declarations of interest were received.

## 4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

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- 4.1 The Minute of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 was submitted and approved as a correct record. .
- 4.2 The Action Log of Cabinet was submitted and noted, Kevin Anderson provided a further update in relation to action point 1 confirming that a briefing had been arranged for the afternoon of Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> of November via MS teams.

## 5. Reports

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Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards Implementation in Midlothian	Joint Director Health and Social Care
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
Morag Barrow provided a brief overview of the report, referencing that it been signed off by the Midlothian Integration Joint Board and NHS Lothian and would now be submitted to the Scottish Government. Cabinet agreed to note the report.		
<b>Decision</b>		
Cabinet noted the contents of the report.		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Education Standard & Quality Report 2021-22 and Local Improvement Plan 2022-23	Executive Director Children Young People and Partnerships
<b>Outline of report and summary of discussion</b>		
In speaking to the report Fiona Robertson made specific reference to section 3 of the report and outlined that progress had been made with improvement priorities 2021/22 and this throughout the difficult pandemic period, in particular the successful rollout of digital devices ahead of schedule. Fiona Robertson made further reference to the 4 key areas of improvement and acknowledged that a separate report would be submitted to the relevant performance committee.		
Responding to comments regarding feedback from pupils and teachers in relation to digital devices, Fiona Robertson confirmed that phase 2 had started and that she was due to attend a learner conference and would be able to provide further		

feedback following this. Members then took opportunity to reiterate the importance of ensuring learners are included in the feedback.

#### Decision

- a) Cabinet approved the Education Local Improvement Plan 2022-23 as outlined in Appendix 1.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	South East Improvement Collaborative (SEIC) Improvement Plan 2022-2023	Executive Director People and Partnerships

#### Outline of report and summary of discussion

Fiona Robertson provided a brief overview of the South East Improvement Collaborative (SEIC) Improvement Plan 2022-2023 and highlighted that she was also in engagement with schools in the north of England on account of the successes of the SEIC. Members then took the opportunity to congratulate Fiona Robertson for the success and the interest from other authorities in the project.

#### Decision

- a) Cabinet noted the SEIC Regional Improvement Plan August 2022-23 as outlined in Appendix 1 and;
- b) Noted the priority areas for improvement being taken forward in partnership with members of the SEIC and the progress made towards improving professional collaboration and school empowerment across the SEIC.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.4	Midlothian Families Project	Chief Officer Place

#### Outline of report and summary of discussion

With reference to the report Derek Oliver outlined that in order to comply with the revised Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2020 Midlothian Council would require accommodation available to families for emergency use and highlighted that this would help with the target of ending the use of B&B accommodation and provide greater safety measures to those at risk. Members took the opportunity to thank officers for their work on the project.

#### Decision

- a) Cabinet approved the use of the building as referenced to provide short term emergency accommodation to homelessness households with children or a pregnant person and;
- b) Approved funding the setting up of Midlothian Families Project project through the Ending Homeless Together Funding.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.5	Midlothian Council Statutory Report to Scottish Ministers on Public Bodies Climate Change Duties 2021/22	Chief Officer Place

#### Outline of report and summary of discussion

Derek Oliver provided a brief overview of the report outlining that it would need to be submitted by the end of November and highlighted that whilst the report was embedded within the services of the place directorate this would be a cross council

effort. Derek Oliver then took the opportunity to respond to members questions.

Derek Oliver agreed to come back with further information with regard to the swing in diesel emissions from May 2022 where it had been indicated that Midlothian Council were on target whereas it had that Midlothian Council was now over target. Derek Oliver further highlighted that the Use and size of fleet had increased through hire of vehicles during covid to public health guidelines, the reduction going back to pre covid levels is being phased in.

Derek Oliver continued to respond to further points of clarity, confirming that hire vehicles had been used to augment vehicles during the covid pandemic and that a number are still being used by Building Maintenance Services and that this is being examined as part of the building maintenance service review. In relation to ethical and environmental impacts of electric vehicles Derek Oliver clarified that Midlothian Council was subject to Scottish Government policy to mitigate the use of fossil fuel vehicles and that whilst heavier vehicles utilised hydrogen as a fuel source work was being done to assess how electricity and hydrogen could be attained.

In responding to comments regarding the governance and scrutiny arrangements and the risk with regard to loss of funding streams, Derek Oliver confirmed that climate change was a major component of the Business Transformation Steering Group and that the Climate Change Board offered an opportunity for further governance and scrutiny. Derek Oliver further highlighted that there are currently several funding streams available and that Midlothian Council was active in applying for them.

#### Decision

- a) Cabinet approved the Council's Report on Compliance with the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties for 2021/22 and;
- b) Agreed to the submission of the report to Scottish Ministers by 30 November 2022 and;
- c) Chief Officer Place agreed to provide an update in relation to the increase in Diesel emissions from May 2022 to October 2022.

## **6 Private Reports**

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No items for discussion.

## **7 Date of the Next Meeting**

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The date of the next meeting was noted as Tuesday 29 November 2022 at 11 am.

The meeting terminated at 11.25 pm