

Minute of Meeting



Cabinet

Date	Time	Venue
30 November 2021	11.00 am	Held via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Councillor Muirhead – Depute Convener	Councillor Curran
Councillor Hackett	

Religious Representatives:

Mrs Elizabeth Morton	
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Also Present:

Councillor Alexander	Councillor Cassidy
Councillor Johnstone	Councillor Lay Douglas
Councillor McCall	Councillor Parry
Councillor Wallace	Councillor Winchester

In attendance:

Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive
Kevin Anderson, Executive Director Place
Morag Barrow, Joint Director Health and Social Care
Fiona Robertson, Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships
Gary Fairley, Chief Officer Corporate Solutions
Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place
Joan Tranent, Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities
Myra Forsyth, Quality and Scrutiny Manager
Elaine Johnston, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Saty Kaur, Executive Business Manager
Marco Reece-Heal, Business Analyst
Andrew Henderson, Democratic Services Officer
Mike Broadway, Democratic Services Officer

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf of Councillor Milligan (Convener) and Vic Bourne (Religious Representative). In the absence of the Convener, Councillor Muirhead assumed the role of Chair for this meeting.

2 Order of Business

The Order of Business was as detailed within the Agenda.

3 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1 The Minute of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 19 October 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record.
- 4.2 The Action Log of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 19 October 2021 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

Councillor Muirhead (Chair) expressed his gratitude to all the staff involved in dealing with the extreme weather and handling of the resultant damages.

5. Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Developing an ambitious Midlothian Equally Safe Strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls	Chief Officer, Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
Joan Tranent provided an overview of the report outlining the purpose and recommendations of the report, highlighting the intention to make a commitment to developing an Equally Safe Strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls within Midlothian.		
Joan Tranent acknowledged that it would be beneficial to formulate a plan on how to evidence the impact of the strategy.		
Decision		
A) Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities to formulate plan on how to evidence impact of strategy.		
B) Agree to the recommendation.		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Equally Safe Housing and Homelessness Policy	Chief Officer, Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Derek Oliver provided an overview of the report outlining the purpose and recommendations of the report. Following questions regarding the effectiveness of monitoring the impact Derek Oliver clarified that the policy would be subject to regular review, with residents and tenant's views taken into account in addition to reports collated by Public Protection.</p> <p>It was highlighted that consideration should also be given to promoting the policy through the Community Planning Partnership.</p>		
Decision		
Agree to the recommendation.		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	Authority to Vote on Behalf of Midlothian Council at Annual General Meetings of the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust	Chief Officer, Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Derek Oliver provided an overview of the report outlined the request for authority to be given to Senior Officers from the Planning, Sustainable Growth and Investment Service to vote on behalf of the Council at Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and general meetings of the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, following a change in legislation governing the constitution of charities resulting in founding members, such as Midlothian Council, being no longer able to appoint elected Members as Board members.</p>		
Decision		
Agree that authority to vote on behalf of Midlothian Council be given.		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.4	Adult Health and Social Care Q2 Performance Report 2021/22	Joint Director, Health and Social Care
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Adult Health and Social Care Performance Report Q2 2021/22 was submitted. The Joint Director, Health and Social Care highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within and thereafter answered questions raised by Elected Members.</p> <p>Regarding the implementation of COVID 19 boosters for over 18s following the announcement of the omicron variant, Morag Barrow agreed to feedback following a meeting with the Lothian COVID and flu vaccination oversight board.</p> <p>Regarding the recruitment of vaccination staff, Morag Barrow clarified that there were sufficient vaccination staff and that the model operated by Midlothian included</p>		

permanent staff, additional hours and back filled staff and that there was movement towards establishing a permanent vaccination team.

In response to a suggestion that the army be called to assist, Morag Barrow acknowledged that specific requirements are required for requesting the army to assist and agreed to provide further update following the meeting of the oversight board.

With regard to wage increases for care workers in the third and voluntary sectors, Gary Fairley confirmed that work was being conducted with Morag Barrow's team and care providers to ensure contracts are updated, to ensure that providers have the resources and awareness to cover the coming changes. In response to a further question relating to the provision of funding for external providers who were already offering wages on or above £10.02 an hour, Morag Barrow clarified that in some cases to ensure that demand was met, block contracts with better terms and conditions had been agreed with the intention of minimising future overtime and agency costs and improve staff retention.

Regarding the future of a mass vaccination centres in Midlothian, Morag Barrow confirmed that Gorebridge leisure centre would be used until the end of March and that work was being conducted to find a more permanent location.

Morag Barrow clarified that regarding the recruitment of 20 additional staff, that 14 had been recruited following the first round of interviews.

Decision

- A) Joint Director of Health and Social Care to provide update regarding implementation of COVID 19 vaccination booster programme for over 18s following the announcement of the omicron variant to members.
- B) Joint Director of Health and Social Care to provide update to members regarding the potential need to request British Army support to assist with the vaccination programme.
- C) To otherwise note the report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.5	Children Services, Partnership and Communities Q2 Performance Report 2021/22	Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Children's Services, Partnership and Communities Performance Report Quarter Two 2021/22 was submitted. The Executive Director as well as the Chief Officer Children, Young People and Partnerships highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by Elected Members.

In response to questions regarding difficulties implementing of Scottish Government funding streams due to limited timescales and restrictions on administrative costs, Gary Fairley confirmed that challenges had been discussed at the Directors of Finance and feedback had been submitted to the Scottish Government. Joan Tranent also acknowledged the difficulty of not being able to

carry money forward and the requirement of monthly reporting.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.6	Corporate Solutions Q2 Performance Report 2021/22	Chief Officer, Corporate Solutions

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Corporate Solutions Performance Report Quarter Two 2021/22 was submitted. With reference to the slide deck included as an appendix to the report, the Executive Director: Place highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by Elected Members.

Gary Fairley agreed to provide an update covering the breakdown of rent transactions and the performance of Midlothian Council against other local authorities via a post meeting comment to the minutes and acknowledged that there were a range for payment facilities across Midlothian.

Regarding the drop in calls picked up by the contact centre, Kevin Anderson acknowledged that the abandoned call rate is monitored and that hot spots may be a result of vacancies and that recruitment was in process to rectify this. Kevin Anderson advised no disruption to the web form system and further advised that training was being done to facilitate a chat facility for the contact centre.

Kevin Anderson agreed to provide an update by way of a post meeting comment in the minutes regarding the approval rate for self-isolation grants.

Decision

- A) Gary Fairley to provide an update in relation to the breakdown of rent payments by way of a post meeting comment in the minutes.
- B) Kevin Anderson to provide an update in relation to approved self-isolation grants by way of a post meeting comment in the minutes.
- C) To otherwise note the content of the report.

Post meeting comments:

A) Q2 Rent collection statistics

%	No's	
10.05%	4,938	Online
55.30%	27,176	Direct Debit
22.56%	11,086	Payment Card
5.56%	2,734	Automated Telephone Payment
6.53%	3,209	Others
<u>100.00%</u>	<u>49,143</u>	

B) Table of Self Isolation Grants

Month	Total	Paid	Refused	Matched	Total	Award %
OCT 2020	36	8	28	0	36	22%
NOV	48	7	41	0	48	15%
DEC	31	6	25	0	31	19%
JAN 2021	65	9	56	0	65	14%
FEB	70	20	50	0	70	29%
MAR	52	20	32	0	52	38%
APR	12	5	7	0	12	42%
MAY	27	15	12	0	27	56%
JUNE	240	134	106	0	240	56%
JULY	490	241	249	0	490	49%
AUG	230	118	112	0	230	51%
SEP	332	131	201	0	332	39%
OCT	<u>103</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>48%</u>
Total	1736	763	973	0	1736	44%

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.7	Education Q2 Performance Report 2021/22	Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Education, Performance Report Quarter Two 2021/22 was submitted. The Executive Director: Children, Young People and Partnerships highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by Elected Members.</p> <p>Regarding the plan for the use of digital devices provided to students, Fiona Robertson confirmed an Officer for Professional Learning was also assisting staff with how to use devices appropriately. Fiona Robertson also advised that a liaison officer was also in place to assist parents with getting the most out of devices and that a Central Team was in place to ensure students were safe online and that family and schools would be notified of any concerns.</p> <p>With regards the plan for devices once students had left school, Fiona Robertson acknowledged that a plan was being put in place for students due to leave school in 2022 that would take into account their needs and requirements.</p>		
Decision		
To note the contents of the report.		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.8	Place Q2 Performance Report 2021/22	Executive Director, Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Place, Performance Report Quarter Two 2021/22 was submitted. With reference to the slide deck included as an appendix to the report, the Executive Director: Place highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and</p>		

summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and answered questions raised by Elected Members.

In response to a question regarding the 96% achievement percentage of the Scottish Housing Quality Standards, Kevin Anderson confirmed that in shared flatted blocks, there had been some resistance from residents of non-council owned properties with the implementation of security systems and that outlying settlements did have mains gas supplies.

Kevin Anderson agreed to take forward the suggestion of a communication strategy with regards to new fire alarm legislation, although it was highlighted that Council Housing stock was up to date.

With regard to recycling rates, PME projects and kickstart learning countryside, Derek Oliver advised that he was working closely with council colleagues and that there had been a good uptake within lands and roads in addition to some uptake in building services. Derek Oliver also highlighted that 4 mechanic foundation apprentices had been taken on to modern apprenticeships.

Decision

- a) Executive Director: Place to take forward communication strategy with regard to new fire alarm legislation.
- b) To otherwise note the contents of the report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.9	Midlothian Council Q2 Performance Report 2021/22	Chief Executive

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Chief Executive Officer was heard in amplification of the Midlothian Council Q2 Performance report 2021/22. Grace Vickers also used the opportunity to thank staff for their work in responding to Storm Barra. Following this Dr Vickers opened up to questions from members.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6 Private Reports

No items for discussion

7 Date of the Next

Tuesday 18th of January 2022 at 12.00 pm

The meeting terminated at 12:28pm