

Minute of Meeting



Midlothian Council

Date	Time	Venue
16 August 2016	2pm	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Provost Wallace	Depute Provost Coventry
Councillor Johnstone – Leader of the Council	Councillor Constable – Depute Leader of the Council
Councillor Baxter	Councillor Bennett
Councillor Bryant	Councillor de Vink
Councillor Imrie	Councillor Milligan
Councillor Montgomery	Councillor Muirhead
Councillor Pottinger	Councillor Rosie
Councillor Russell	Councillor Young

Religious Representatives (Non-voting observers for Education Business):

Mr V. Bourne	Rev. R. Halley
Mrs M. Harkness	

In attendance:

1. Apologies

- 1.1 It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillor Parry.

2. Order of Business

- 2.1 The order of business was confirmed as outlined in the agenda that had been circulated.

3. Declarations of interest

- 3.1 The Provost requested that any Elected Member who had to declare an interest in a particular item to do so as the item arose.

4. Deputations

- 4.1 It was noted that no deputations had been received for consideration at this meeting.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 5.1 The minutes of the meeting of Midlothian Council on 17 May 2016 were submitted and approved as a correct record so moved by Councillor Rosie and seconded by Councillor Johnstone.
- 5.2 The minutes of the meeting of Midlothian Council on 28 June 2016 were submitted and approved as a correct record so moved by Councillor Johnstone and seconded by Councillor Constable.
- 5.3 The minutes of the Midlothian Integration Joint Board meeting of 16 April 2016 were presented to the Council for noting and consideration of any recommendations therein.

6. Questions to the Leader of the Council

- 6.1 It was noted that no questions had been submitted to the Leader for consideration.

7. Notices of Motions

Motion No.	Motion Title	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
7.1	Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Crime	Councillor Baxter	Councillor Pottinger

Motion:

We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Midlothian Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

Midlothian Council commits to working with agencies and organisation to help ensure that local bodies and programmes have the support and resources they need to fight and prevent racism and xenophobia.

We reassure all people living in this area that they are valued members of the community.

Summary of discussion

The Council heard from Councillor Baxter who presented the motion and confirmed that he saw this as an opportunity to reaffirm Midlothian Council's commitment to diversity within Midlothian; reject messages of hate; and to reassure those living, working or visiting Midlothian irrespective of background, that they are welcome in Midlothian.

The Council then heard from Councillor Pottinger who spoke in support of the motion and highlighted the work of the Midlothian Council and its partner agencies to support diversity within Midlothian.

Decision

The Council agreed to support the motion which was moved by Councillor Baxter and seconded by Councillor Pottinger.

Sederunt – The Provost confirmed, that following the Council meeting of 28 June 2016 and with the approval of Dr Mary Smith (who was Acting Chief Executive) he wrote to the Counsul General in France, Japan and Germany following the attacks in these countries.

8. Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.1	Schedule of Meeting Dates 2016-17 – General Purposes Committee	Director, Resources

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The report was presented by the Director, Resources which sought to amend the schedule of meeting dates previously approved by the Council on 22 September 2015 in respect of two meetings of the General Purposes Committee.

Councillor Coventry moved that the recommendations within the report were accepted which was seconded by Councillor Johnstone.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

- a) Amend the schedule of meeting dates of the General Purposes Committee by changing the meeting scheduled for 3 January 2017 as it falls on a public holiday to 31 January 2017 at 10 am;
- b) Amend the schedule of meeting dates by changing the meeting of the General Purposes Committee scheduled for 21 February 2017 to 28 March 2017 at 11 am to accommodate licensing applications which may require to be considered by the Committee; and
- c) Authorise the Director, Resources to make the necessary arrangements.

Action

Director, Resources

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.2	Parking in Midlothian	Head of Commercial Operations

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Council heard from the Head of Commercial Operations who informed the Council of the progress towards preparing an application to Scottish Government for decriminalised parking powers within Midlothian. Further the report provided Elected Members with details of further works that will be required to continue the process of introducing Decriminalised Parking within the Council area.

In moving that the recommendations in the report be accepted by the Council, Councillor Rosie highlighted his concerns in respect of reports of bad and inconsiderate parking in Midlothian particularly within town centres and around

schools and as such doing nothing was not an option for the Council.

Councillor Johnstone seconded the motion to accept the recommendations and highlighted the potential impact of bad parking practices in Midlothian.

The Council then heard from Councillor Imrie who moved an addendum to the recommendations as follows:

The Council write to COSLA to obtain figures throughout Scotland to confirm how much this is costing Councils that are going down this particular route in relation to parking.

Councillor Imrie further highlighted the cost impact to smaller Local Authorities against the climate of financial challenges.

Councillor Rosie was heard accepting the addendum that Councillor Imrie moved and this was seconded by Councillor Johnstone.

Decision

The Council agreed to:-

- a) Continue to support the view that decriminalised parking offers the most effective parking enforcement regime in the long term;
- b) Remedial works to signs and road markings be progressed, and approve a supplementary estimate of £100,000 in 2016/17;
- c) Allocate £200,000 in the annual revenue budget from 2017/18 onwards to cover the annual cost of operating a Decriminalised Parking Scheme;
- d) The Director, Resources to provide a further report to Council when the outcome of the feasibility study and outline business case are available;
- e) Council write to COSLA to obtain figures throughout Scotland to confirm how much this is costing Councils that are going down this particular route in relation to parking.

Action

Director, Resources

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.3	Participatory Budgeting	Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Council heard from the Director, Education, Communities and Economy who presented the report which sought to update Elected Members and request support for the development of Participatory Budgeting (PB) in Midlothian.

Councillor Bryant was heard in support of the recommendations and in particular highlighted the success of the pilot in Mayfield and Easthouses and further moved the recommendations were accepted.

Councillor Johnstone was then heard in support of Participatory Budgeting and further proposed the recommendations were accepted.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

- a) Note the policy approach of the Scottish Government to empower communities to participate in decisions on the allocation of resources;
- b) Note the update on Participatory Budgeting activity in Midlothian;
- c) Instruct the Services to Communities Board to identify existing budgets that could be made available for Participatory Budgeting;
- d) Instruct Officers to discuss further with Elected Members how they could most effectively distribute a proportion or all of their environmental budgets using a Participatory Budgeting approach; and
- e) Use any available Council funding to apply for match funding from the Community Choices fund in 2017/18 and beyond.

Action

Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.4	Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland – Proposed Plan	Head of Communities and Economy

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Council heard from the Head of Communities and Economy who delivered a report which presented the proposed Strategic Development Plan (SDP) No.2 for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (SESplan) and further requested ratification of the plan by Elected Members.

Councillor Bryant formally moved that the recommendations within the report were accepted and this was seconded by Councillor de Vink.

Councillor Milligan then moved,

The Council is not in a position to take a decision on the ratification of the plan at this time and further request a seminar to discuss this further with Elected

Members.

Councillor Milligan further highlighted his concerns in respect of the impact on medical facilities; education and infrastructure in Midlothian as a result of the proposals.

Councillor Baxter was then heard in agreement with Councillor Milligan's comments and specifically highlighted his concerns in relation to fracking. Councillor Baxter seconded Councillor Milligan's motion.

Councillor Montgomery was then heard highlighting his concerns in relation to the fact that the Penicuik Rail Link wasn't included within the plan and further highlighted his view that Midlothian should be more ambitious.

Councillor Bryant asked for confirmation of the ramifications of not accepting the plan which the Head of Communities and Economy provided.

Following this clarification, a vote was taken:

7 Councillors voted for the recommendations as contained in the report and moved by Councillor Bryant and seconded by Councillor de Vink and 9 voted against. 9 Councillors voted for the amendment moved by Councillor Milligan and seconded by Councillor Baxter and 7 voted against and therefore the amendment became the decision of the Council.

Decision

The Council agreed:

- a) Not to take a decision on the ratification of the proposed Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland at this time; and
- b) To a seminar being arranged for Elected Members to consider the matter further.

Action

Head of Communities and Economy

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.5	Gorebridge Family Learning Centre	Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Council heard from the Director, Education, Communities and Economy who presented a report dated 26 July 2016 which updated the Council on the projected cost of setting up a Family Learning Centre in the Gorebridge Beacon following the Council decision on May 2016 to approve the allocation of funding to support the Gorebridge Beacon Project.

Councillor Constable moved that the recommendations were accepted which was seconded by Councillor Johnstone.

Councillor Muirhead was further heard in support of the recommendations.
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Decision

The Council agreed to:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Note the projected additional cost of setting up a Family Learning Centre in the Gorebridge Beacon; and b) Allocate £70,000 from the Early Years Childcare grant for the additional costs for setting up the centre. |
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Action

Director, Education, Communities and Economy
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9. Exclusion of Members of the Public

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Council 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 6 and 9 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

- (a) Paradykes and Roslin Primary Schools Update – Report by Director, Resources - approved

