

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN PERFORMANCE REVIEW

AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Wednesday 6 March 2013 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors Milligan (Chair), and Pottinger, Russell and Wallace.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Baxter, Bennett, Boyes, Coventry, Imrie, Muirhead, Montgomery and Rosie.

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

2. 2012/13 Performance Reports – Quarter 3

There were submitted performance reports detailing progress of the plans for Education; Children and Families; Communities and Support; Adult and Community Care; and Housing and Community Safety, for Quarter 3 2012/13. Each report contained a summary of the major successes achieved; the major challenges to be faced in 2012/13 and the actions to address them; the budget position and the impact of efficiencies and service reductions. Thereafter, the Committee received verbal updates in respect of each of the reports.

Decision

- (a) To note that over 100 volunteers had received training in respect of co-production issues;
- (b) To note the high priority given to information security and the controls which had been established in respect of work with the independent and voluntary sectors;
- (c) To note that £125,00 had been secured from the Empty Homes Fund to tackle empty homes left vacant in rural areas and that initiatives in this respect would be pursued in association with Dunedin Canmore Housing Association;
- (d) To note that the food sampling regime was now back on target and that there had been no negative results;
- (e) To note the success of a “Job Club” piloted at Penicuik High School;
- (f) To note that efforts continued to be made to source alternative funding in respect a Development Officer post for English for Speakers of Other Languages following the loss of funding from the Fairer Scotland Fund;

- (g) To note that options were being explored to mitigate the effects of reductions in the Mobile Library Service;
- (h) To note that there was no plan to reduce the time off provisions for Trades Union duties in respect of teaching staff;
- (i) To note that 7.5 children per 1000 in Midlothian were on the Child Protection register;
- (j) To note the negative impact of the implementation of under occupancy rules will have on benefit claimants who are also foster carers; and
- (k) To otherwise note the reports

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- (l) Councillor Russell left the meeting during discussion of the foregoing items of business (2.28pm)

The meeting terminated at 3.15 pm