

Minute of Meeting



Cabinet

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 6 September 2022	11.00 am	Held via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Councillor Parry (Convener)	Councillor Alexander
Councillor Bowen	Councillor Cassidy
Councillor McKenzie	Councillor Scott

Religious Representatives:

Ms Anne Theresa-Lawrie	
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In attendance:

Kevin Anderson, Executive Director Place
Fiona Robertson, Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships
Morag Barrow, Joint Director Health and Social Care
Gary Fairley, Chief Officer Corporate Solutions
Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place
Nick Clater, Head of Adult Services
Alan Turpie Legal Services Manager/Monitoring Officer
Myra Forsyth, Quality and Scrutiny Manager
Edel Ryan, Senior Manager Protective Services
Gael McElroy, Team Manager Business Regulation
Marco Reece-Heal, Business Analyst
Ross Neill, Democratic Services Team Leader

1 Apologies

Apologies Mrs Elizabeth Morton (Religious Representative)

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 07 June 2022 was submitted and approved.
- 4.2 The Action Log of Cabinet was submitted and noted, Kevin Anderson provided a further update in relation to all completed action points and those ongoing.

5. Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Nomination Agreement: Veterans Housing Scotland and Midlothian Council	Chief Officer Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The purpose of this report is to seek agreement to enter into a new Nomination Agreement with Veterans Housing Scotland and Midlothian Council to provide 2 Council properties specifically for veterans on an annual basis.</p> <p>Cabinet are recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Agree to the proposed nomination agreement with Veterans Housing Scotland <p>Mr Oliver spoke to the report highlighting the agreement being proposed is similar in nature and context with other agreements Midlothian Council has entered</p> <p>Members asked if the recommendation of two properties was sufficient</p> <p>Mr Oliver suggested this current recommendation met perceived needs of the community and would be reviewed regular, he noted that other agreements exist with other Veteran organisations, summarising the legislation involved and a Local Authorities responsibility.</p>		
Decision		
<p>Cabinet agreed to the proposed nomination agreement with Veterans Housing Scotland.</p>		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan: Youth Homeless Prevention and Support Service	Executive Director Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>This report outlines the proposal of a pilot Youth Homeless Prevention and Support Service as part of Midlothian Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP). The objective of this service would be to prevent youth homelessness by supporting young people to remain in their current accommodation, or secure alternative accommodation as part of a planned move.</p>		
<p>Where this is not possible young people would be supported through their homeless journey and into permanent accommodation. Support would also be available to Midlothian Council tenants at risk of eviction due to rent arrears or other breaches of their tenancy agreement to prevent recurring homelessness.</p>		
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the procurement and development of a Youth Homeless Prevention and Support Service 2. Approve the funding of the Youth Homeless Prevention and Support Service from Midlothian's allocation of the Scottish Government's Ending Homelessness Together Fund 		
<p>Mr Anderson spoke to the report noting areas of progress and highlighting the pilot to target 16 to 21 year olds which is to be expanded to include 22 to 25 year olds. Three full time roles are required and are all fully funded as part of the pilot for 2 years. He then invited questions.</p>		
<p>Responding to Member questions concerning the higher proportion of Youth presentations in Midlothian Mr Anderson replied that although the reasons vary the primary source is relationship breakdown. Followed by loss of employment and Anti-Social Behaviour, the latter is often caused by a lack of life skills. Adding to a follow up question that Midlothian support 16 – 24 year olds, this is part of the homeless assessment process. Support comes in the form of direct, commissioned and specialist depending on the individual's needs. The Council also has statutory requirements that housing associations such as Melville do not need to comply with. Midlothian Housing stock is constantly reviewed to make sure the mix of housing options is relevant to the community's needs.</p>		
<p>Further queries concerned the Housing Policy and whether or not some areas get a disproportionate number of youths allocated, Mr Anderson confirmed this is not the case, in some circumstances Housing officers will treat certain properties or locations as sensitive lets and allocate accordingly.</p>		
Decision		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cabinet approved the procurement and development of a Youth Homeless Prevention and Support Service and; b) Approved the funding of the Youth Homeless Prevention and Support Service from Midlothian's allocation of the Scottish Government's Ending Homelessness Together Fund 		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	Protective Services, Environmental Health Food Service Plan 2022/23	Chief Officer Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Councillor McKenzie made a statement of transparency prior to Mr Oliver discussing the report.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of the obligation upon the Council to document and implement a Food Service Plan; and to seek approval of the Protective Services Environmental Health Food Service Plan for 2022/23.</p> <p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the Review of Performance of the Environmental Health Food Service for period 2021/22 • note the likely impact of the current staffing position regards the inability to successfully recruit due the national shortage of EHOs, and • approve the Environmental Health Food Service Plan 2022/23 <p>Mr Oliver spoke to the report noting various issues, some historic, concerning recruitment at entry level to this profession also that the current courses are now located in the West of Scotland at Paisley. Ultimately students at the moment do not see the environmental role as a profession they wish to pursue and once completing the course opt to stay in the West of Scotland and accept positions in the field there. Midlothian is attempting to incentivise this and currently has one trainee who is attending the course at West of Scotland University with a hope to retain them on completion of the course.</p>		
Decision		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cabinet noted the Review of Performance of the Environmental Health Food Service for period 2021/22; b) Noted the likely impact of the current staffing position regards the inability to successfully recruit due the national shortage of EHOs, and; c) Approved the Environmental Health Food Service Plan 2022/23 		

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.4	Adult Social Care Performance Report Quarter One 2022/23	Chief Officer MIJB
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>Our Vision: People in Midlothian are enabled to lead longer and healthier lives. Our Values: Right support, right time, right place.</p> <p>Midlothian Integration Joint Board plan and direct the services that are delivered by Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). The HSCP is a partnership between NHS Lothian and Midlothian Council and is responsible for services that help Midlothian residents to live well and get support when they need it. This includes all community health and social care services for adults in Midlothian and some hospital based services such as Accident and Emergency.</p> <p>In order to meet the legal requirements of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, the HSCP was required to develop, consult on, and publish a</p>		

new 3 year Strategic Plan in 2022. The new Strategic Plan for 2022-25 was published in April 2022.

Ms Barrow spoke to the report noting workforce challenges ongoing post Covid restrictions, in particular in the Care at home services. The pandemic is still at the forefront of planning with Flu & Covid booster roll out in the Autumn All current Key Performance Indicators hare ok and in hand. Further updates will be available in Q2.

Responding to Members questions Ms Barrow confirmed bail conditions are funded by a Government grant.

Councillor Scott asked in more cancer services could/would be located to the community Hospital.

Ms Barrow suggested some would be but explained the logistics involved and the specialist knowledge require to effectively run these services, adding that what services could located to the hospital would and discussions were ongoing with the NHS Lothian based on the Hub & Spoke model.

Mr Clater took question relating to the role out of training in anti-overdose drugs, noting that staff will be invited to take the training on a voluntary basis. Responding a question he noted the two areas of most drug related deaths were Penicuik and Dalkeith. Finally he confirmed it's not the intention of staff in his service to criminalise those requiring support but if criminal activity occurs and is witnessed they have a duty to report it.

Decision

- a) Noted the Review of Performance of the Environmental Health Food Service for period 2021/22;
- b) Noted the likely impact of the current staffing position regards the inability to successfully recruit due the national shortage of EHOs, and
- c) Approved the Environmental Health Food Service Plan 2022/23

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.5	Children Services Partnership and Communities Report Quarter One 2022/23	Executive Director Children , Young People & Partnerships

Outline of report and summary of discussion

Ms Robertson spoke to the report highlighting various targets noted in the graphs within the main report.

Highlights noted were –

- Family support team created
- Expansion of the Family Group Decision Making service
- Income Maximisation officers reaching more families
- An increase in kinship carers
- An Increase in Adults completing qualifications and gaining apprenticeships
- More Effective joint working with Education & Adult Services

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.6	Corporate Solutions Performance Report Quarter One 2022/23	Chief Officer Place

Outline of report and summary of discussion

Corporate Solutions continues to support the recovery and the retention of the best elements of transformation that took place in response to the pandemic and secure permanent changes to the way the Council delivers its services in order to build back better. This approach is based on the creation of a wellbeing economy and it is designed to achieve wellbeing and fairness for our people and the rest of nature. The redesign of services and the changes to build back better are predicated on the overarching principle that in delivering services, whether commissioned internally or externally, we will keep our communities, our employees and our environment safe, at the same time as meeting our commitment to being carbon neutral by 2030.

Balancing the 2022/23 budget was reliant of £10 million of one off funding and with inflation pressures and the potential for unfunded pay awards could increase to £13 million. Accordingly the recurring expenditure of £251 million for 2022/23 exceeds recurring funding by that £13 million.

Mr Fairley spoke briefly to the report before inviting questions

Councillor Scott asked what befits Midlothian will get from the City Deal?

Mr Fairley explained what the £1.3 Billion would be spent on including Edinburgh University estate situated in Midlothian, road expansions and the Sherriffhall upgrade, Regional Employment projects and Midlothian Transport Projects.

Mr Anderson added that the annual report was due, he would circulate to members when available.

Councillor McKenzie queried the Data storage proposal asking whether or not the UK moving away from EU Data retention legislation would affect its viability?

Mr Anderson acknowledged that would need to be taken into consideration and would take that away to get further information.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.7	Education Performance Report Quarter One 2022/23	Executive Director Children , Young People & Partnerships

Outline of report and summary of discussion

Ms Robertson spoke to the report noting the progress in various areas, referring to the graphs within the document before taking questions. She highlighted the attendance improvement across both Primary and Secondary schools. Also an

improvement in the number of students achieving literacy & numeracy at National Level 5.

Members asked about Additional Special Needs provision, also a perceived lack of engagement reported by some parents whose children attend Salters Gate?

Ms Robertson confirmed it's a key priority noting the extremely positive feedback from parents, staff and students at St Margaret's Primary School unit and Beeslacks new annex. Ms Robertson outlined the efforts made to engage with parents at Salters Gate including parent afternoons and virtual meetings, she offered to look into specific concerns and invited Councillor Alexander to send details. It was also confirmed all students have the opportunity to stay on at school beyond 16, this is often tailored to what the individual student wants to do, and if they have a plan.

Councillor Alexander referred to personal research she conducted into dyslexia highlight areas that could be improved or at least looked.

Ms Robertson invited Councillor Alexander to share her research so it could analysed and considered.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.8	Place Quarter One Performance Report Quarter One 2022/23	Chief Officer Place

Outline of report and summary of discussion

Mr Oliver shared his screen a spoke to the details contained within the dashboard.

The Chair asked about promoting Midlothian as an energy rich authority?

Mr Oliver confirmed there are currently discussions with partners to this end. He would happily provide a briefing to members concerning this area in the near future.

Mr Oliver then explained the work and ongoing procurement of Portable CCTV cameras and noted some early successes in Dalkeith. He also added that the program to switch street lighting in certain areas is ongoing, motion detection lighting is also being considered but it's not appropriate in all circumstances do to security & safety concerns.

Responding to queries about moving the energy rich agenda, Mr Oliver was explore that but added that it would require further risk analysis to scope new partners.

Mr Oliver answered a question from Councillor Alexander who suggested knocking old stock down and fitting more new housing into the space, reducing garden size. Mr Oliver replied that simply knocking down existing stock and rebuilding isn't straightforward for example it could introduce more carbon into the atmosphere therefore retrofitting is considered the better option.

The Chair Queried why old poles are still in situ?

Mr Oliver agreed to look into that.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.9	Midlothian Council Report Quarter One 2022/23	Executive Director Place

Outline of report and summary of discussion

We are focussing on our new Single Midlothian Plan to reduce the impact of poverty on our most vulnerable. Midlothian's Child Poverty report 2020 set out Midlothian's commitment to eradicating child poverty by 2030. The three drivers for achieving this are:

- reduce the cost of living
- increase income from employment
- and increase income from social security and benefits in kind

We are also committed to improving health outcomes by working with partners to develop and maintain services close to home that support the needs of local people

The Climate Emergency Group's values are to get to net zero equitably, taking into account different people and communities' capacities and abilities to get there. Scotland's national target is to be Net Zero by 2045. Following the motion to Council in 2019, in January 2020 the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) agreed to make meeting the Climate Emergency target of 'Reducing Midlothian Carbon emissions to net zero by 2030' a priority in its shared partnership work. Whilst a full update for the performance for each of the Council's Service areas is published separately, this report reflects an overview of the key service updates, against the thematic areas of the Single Midlothian Plan.

Mr Anderson spoke to the report noting that the 6 items that are not on target were of a complex nature. He then invited questions.

No questions

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6 Private Reports

6.1 Appointment of Chief Digital Officer, Report by Executive Director Place

7 Date of the Next

Tuesday 18 October 2022 at 11 am.

The meeting terminated at 12.41 pm