

Minute of Meeting

Cabinet
Tuesday 11 October 2016
Item No 4.2



Cabinet

Date	Time	Venue
30 August 2016	11am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Johnstone	Councillor Bryant
Councillor Parry	Councillor Constable
Councillor Rosie	

Religious Representatives:

Mr V Bourne	
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1 Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies received for Mrs M Harkness and Rev.R Halley

2 Order of Business

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

3 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Cabinet of 31 May 2016 were submitted and approved as correct records.

Reports

Agenda No	Title
5.1	Procedure for External Inspection Reports

Outline and summary of item

Report seeking approval for a proposed approach to be applied to all published external inspection reports for services which Midlothian Council had direct responsibility for and which were subject to inspection from the following agencies:

- Care Inspectorate
- Education Scotland
- Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- Mental Welfare Commission
- Scottish Housing Regulator

The proposed procedure for ensuring that members were notified of all external inspection reports published for Midlothian Council services and that appropriate governance was in place for Cabinet and Performance Review and Scrutiny for those council services which had been subject to an external inspection report was set out as an appendix to the report. The Chief Executive was heard in amplification of the report..

Decision

To approve the procedure for External Inspection Reports.

Action
Chief Executive

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Inspection of Mayfield Nursery School	Director Education, Communities and Economy

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The report detailed the outcome of the inspection carried out by HM Inspectorate of Education and the Care Commission which was communicated in their letter dated 28 June 2016.

Mayfield Nursery was inspected on the week beginning 30 May 2016. The report was published on 28 June 2016 and had been distributed to all Elected Members and Church Representatives on the Cabinet for their information. The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the Nursery including the 'I Can' Speech, Language and Communication unit.

Following inspection, the Scottish Government gathered evaluations of five core quality indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish Early, Learning and Childcare settings and schools were doing. Noted below are the evaluations for Mayfield Nursery:

Improvements in Performance	Very Good
Children's Experiences	Very Good
Meeting Learning Needs	Excellent
Curriculum	Very Good
Improvement through self-evaluation	Excellent

The following particular strengths were indicated by the inspection team:

- Confident, resilient children who thoroughly enjoy their nursery experience.
- The welcoming and inclusive ethos, created by staff, where children feel respected and encouraged to be the best they can be.
- Children's progress in communication, early language and literacy.
- Strong relationships and productive partnerships with external agencies.
- The highly effective leadership of the acting Head Teacher and commitment to self-evaluation.

The following areas for improvement were agreed between HMIE, the Nursery and the Education service:

- Develop further the current arrangements for improvements to ensure appropriate and well-informed change.

In addition, the Care Commission also evaluated the Nursery provision as follows and concluded, as a result of this inspection, there are no requirements and no recommendations. :

Quality of Care and Support	Excellent
Quality of Environment	Excellent
Quality of Staffing	Excellent
Quality of Management and Leadership	Excellent

HMIE concluded that they were satisfied with the overall quality of provision. They were confident that the Nursery's self-evaluation processes were leading to improvements. As a result, HMIE would make no further evaluative visits in connection with this inspection.

During the inspection, HMIE identified an aspect of innovative practice which they would like to explore further in order to share the practice with others. As a result HMIE would work with the Nursery and local authority in order to record and share more widely this innovative practice. Mary Smith was heard in amplification of this report during which she introduced Ms Lisa Barnes, Head Teacher, Mayfield Nursery School who provided Members with further information on the background to this Inspection.

Mr Bourne was heard highlighting that this was an exceptionally complimentary Inspection report and congratulating all involved.

Decision

- (a) To note the content of the inspection report;
- (b) To pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration; and
- (c) To congratulate the pupils, parents and staff connected with Mayfield Nursery School on the key strengths and innovative practice highlighted in the report.

Action

Director Education, Communities and Economy

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.1	Right to Buy Policy on Council Housing	Joint Director, Health and Social Care

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The report advised Cabinet of the end of the Right to Buy (RTB) policy in Scotland aimed at allowing council house ownership, which took effect on 1 August, 2016. Right to Buy schemes were still operating in the rest of the United Kingdom.

The report highlighted that the Council was committed to the construction of new build council homes in Midlothian. The Council had allocated £108M for its phase 1 new build programme, with 864 homes developed on 16 sites across Midlothian by the end of 2012.

The Council committed a further £60M for the development of Phase 2 new building and had also agreed a Phase 3 programme.

Following notification of the proposed policy change to tenants in 2015, there was an increase in the number of right to buy applications in Midlothian.

There were 156 current applications at different stages and 43 of these received in the final week of the scheme, which were being assessed to determine if these met the RTB criteria. The Head of Customer and Housing Services was heard in amplification of the report.

Decision

To note the content of the Report.

Action

Head of Housing and Customer Services

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.2	Council House Building Programme Phases 2&3 Progress Update August 2016	Head of Property and Facilities Management

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The report provided the Cabinet with an update on the progress being made on the Council House Building Programmes.

The first phase provided 864 additional homes within the Midlothian area over a period of 7 years with a total budget of £108,700,000 and was complete.

Phase 2 was providing a further 420 additional homes within the Midlothian area with a total budget of £63,663,000 which was funded from the Housing Revenue Account and Scottish Government grant funding. The General Services Account provided funding for the Young People's Homes and non-housing elements of Cowan Court Extra Care Housing.

There remained approximately 90 homes yet to be completed. The Phase 2 Contractor Framework allowed for an extension of one year beyond the expiry date of 31 July 2017. All the available sites previously approved for Phase 2 had now been used therefore further sites were currently being assessed in conjunction with those for the Phase 3 Housing and will be submitted for to Council for approval after consultation.

Phase 3 would comprise up to 240 homes to be constructed from a budget of £36 million funded by the Housing Revenue Account.

Phase 3 would develop the immediately available sites that were surplus to the Phase 2 requirements in addition to further sites that had been identified as becoming available over the next few years. The Head of Property and Facilities Management was heard in amplification of the report.

Decision

To note the content of the report and the progress made on Phases 1, 2 and 3.

Action

Head of Property and Facilities Management

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.3	Historic Environment Scotland: Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme	Head of Communities and Economy

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The report sought approval to submit a bid to Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) Round 7 funding for a scheme at Penicuik town centre. Approval was also sought to submit a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for Town Heritage (TH) programme funding to help make a bigger scale improvement to Penicuik town centre than just through a CARS programme on its own. The report also sought authorisation for the level of Council financial contribution to support the bids to HES and the HLF. The deadline for submitting bids to HES and the HLF was 31 August 2016. Bids had been prepared for submission to both HES and HLF.

The bids focus on the historic core of Penicuik, primarily, the town hall, selected properties on the High Street, John Street (west side), West Street, The Square and Bridge Street, St Mungo's Church Hearse House/ St Kentigern's and public realm works. At the end of the project, the historic core of Penicuik would be in a better physical condition and would have a sounder basis for longer term maintenance. The project would contribute significantly to the reinvigoration of Penicuik town centre and greatly help with enhancing Penicuik as a visitor destination.

Decision

(a) To authorise submission of the prepared bid to Historic Environment Scotland for Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme Round 7 funding for a scheme at Penicuik;

(b) To authorise submission of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund through Townscape Heritage funding for town centre improvements at Penicuik to complement the bid to Historic Environment Scotland to enlarge the scope and scale of works that can be undertaken; and

(c)To authorise a Council funding contribution of £350,000 collected by way of developer contributions to provide match funding and help support the bids to Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Action

Director Education, Communities and Economy

Exclusion of Members of the Public

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

Irrecoverable Debt Write-Off – Agreed Recommendations.

The Cabinet thereafter agreed to proceed as detailed in the Addendum hereto.

The meeting terminated at 11.32am.