

**MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL
PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Council

Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Wednesday 26 November 2014 at 11.00 am.

Present: Councillors Baxter, Muirhead, Pottinger, Russell, and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Milligan and de Vink.

1 Chair

In the absence of the Councillor Milligan, Councillor Muirhead was appointed to the Chair.

2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

3 2014/15 Performance Reports – Quarter 2

There were submitted Performance Reports for 2014/15 in respect of Midlothian Council and the Plans for Commercial Operations; Finance and Integrated Service Support; and Property and Facilities Management. Each report contained a summary of the progress in delivering Strategic Outcomes and a summary of emerging challenges and risks. Thereafter, the Committee received verbal updates in respect of each of the reports.

Decision

- (a) To note that four children were currently in care/secure accommodation;
- (b) To note that clear guidance had been provided to local authorities in respect of compliance with the provisions of the Children and Young People Act 2014 which ensures that all children and young people from birth to 18 years old had access to a Named Person;
- (c) To note that 96% of Midlothian's streets met the accepted cleanliness standard;
- (d) To note that one in eight street lights would be LED powered by the end of 2015; that, existing street lighting columns could be used for LED lighting where possible; that the pace of the programme was largely dependent on the level of SALEX funding secured; and that officials continued to pursue avenues of funding to support the programme;

- (e) To note that in respect of “fly tipping” there had been no significant increases in this practice; that where this occurred on private land, arrangements had been made to allow land owners to dispose of the waste at the Council’s recycling centres at Penicuik and Newtongrange; and that reports of “fly tipping” were dealt with as complaints rather than as service requests;
- (f) To note that the lighting of the Bonnyrigg skateboard park had been funded from Local Members’ environmental improvement budgets;
- (g) To note that the Council’s Procurement Capability Assessment was now 65%;
- (h) To note that a report to the Council on 16 December 2014 on the Financial Strategy would include details of the savings derived from Transformational activity;
- (i) To note that provision had been made to meet the cost of including overtime and allowances in holiday pay following a recent decision in this matter by the Employment Tribunal;
- (j) To note that three sites in Penicuik were under development as part of the Council’s house building programme;
- (k) To note that only new properties were provided with solar panels and that there were no plans to introduce a programme for this work into older properties;
- (l) To note that the Contact Centre would in the short to medium term be relocated to the ground floor of Buccleuch House as part of the EWIM project;
- (m) That a briefing session on condensation/dampness in houses be arranged for the information of Elected Members;
- (n) To note that the provision of renewable energy measures within the replacement Newbattle High School would not be determined until the initial construction package had received from HUBCO and thereafter assessed; and
- (o) To note that funding for the post of the “Ageing Well” co-ordinator was provided on a year to year basis; and
- (p) To otherwise note the reports.

(Action: (m) Head of Property and Facilities Management).

Sederunt

Councillor Russell joined the meeting during discussion of the foregoing items of business (11.10 am).

The Meeting terminate at 12.30 pm.