

MINUTES of MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 22 October 2013 at 11.00 am.

Present:- Councillors, Milligan (Chair), Baxter, Bennett, Imrie, Montgomery, Muirhead, Pottinger, Russell, Rosie and Wallace.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Coventry and de Vink.

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of Meetings of 3 September 2013; 4 September 2013 (2 no.); and 8 October 2013 were submitted and approved as correct records.

3 Development Management Performance

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minutes of the Planning Committee of 27 August 2013, there was submitted report, dated 30 September 2013, by the Director, Resources incorporating a report dated 20 August 2013 by the Head of Planning and Development, updating the Committee on Development management performance against key outcome indicators for the period July 2012 to June 2013. The report inter alia, advised that in 2012/13, 90% of Householder applications had been determined within two months of receipt; 73% of all applications had been determined within target times ; there had been seven appeals to Scottish Ministers and 18 reviews determined; and there had been 144 enforcement cases lodged resulting in the issue of 12 enforcement notices.

Decision

To note the report.

4 Midlothian Planning Performance Framework 2011-12: Report from Scottish Government

With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minutes of the Planning Committee of 27 August 2013, there was submitted report, dated 30 September 2013, by the Director, Resources incorporating a report dated 13 August 2013 by the Head of Planning and Development, advising the Committee of the outcome of the Scottish Government's consideration of Midlothian Council's Planning Performance Framework report for 2011-12. The report contained a summary of the response received from Scottish Government and highlighted that attention needed to be paid to that feedback, in the preparation of the Planning Performance Framework 2012/13 report submission to Scottish Government.

Decision

To note the report.

5 Inspection of King's Park Primary School and Nursery Class

With reference to paragraph 4 of the minutes of the Cabinet of 8 October 2013, there was submitted report, dated 15 October 2013, by the Director, Resources, incorporating a report dated 20 August 2013, by the Director, Education, Communities and Economy, outlining the outcome of an inspection carried out at Kings Park Primary School and Nursery by HM Inspectors in May 2013.

The evaluations for Kings Park Primary School and Nursery were as follows:-

	Primary School	Nursery
Improvements in performance	Very Good	Good
Learners' experiences	Very good	Satisfactory
Meeting learning needs	Good	Good.

In respect of the primary school only, the evaluations were:-

The curriculum – Good
Improvement through self evaluation – Good.

Education Scotland had indicated that they were satisfied with the overall quality of provision and were confident that the school's self- evaluation processes were leading to improvements. As a result they would make no further visits in connection with this inspection.

Decision

- (a) To note the content of the inspection report;
- (b) To congratulate the Management and staff connected with Kings Park Primary School and Nursery on the excellent work being carried out at the school and nursery; and
- (c) To note that, whilst acknowledging the progress reflected in the inspection report, the Council would continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to achieving excellence through further improving performance.

(Action: Director, Education, Communities and Economy).

6 Inspection of Mayfield Nursery School

With reference to paragraph 5 of the minutes of the Cabinet of 8 October 2013, there was submitted report, dated 15 October 2013, by the Director, Resources, incorporating a report dated 20 August 2013, by the Director, Education, Communities and Economy, outlining the outcome of an unannounced inspection carried out at Mayfield Nursery School by the Care Inspectorate in May 2013.

The Care Inspectorate had awarded the following grades, viz:-

Quality of care and support	Grade 6 – excellent
Quality of environment	Grade 6 – excellent
Quality of Staffing	Grade 6 – excellent
Quality of management and Leadership.	Grade 6 – excellent

The Care Inspectorate had concluded that the nursery offered children a wealth of experiences and that the Headteacher and staff were committed to children's continual learning and progress. The Headteacher and staff also provided an excellent quality of responsive care for the children and their families and were meeting all of their stated aims.

Decision

- (a) To note the content of the inspection report;
- (b) To congratulate the management and staff connected with Mayfield Nursery School on the excellent work being carried out at the nursery; and
- (c) To note that, whilst acknowledging the excellent work being carried out at the nursery, the Council would continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to achieving sustained excellence through further improving performance.

(Action: Director, Education, Communities and Economy).

The Meeting terminated at 11.15 am.