

# Minute of Meeting



## Cabinet

Date	Time	Venue
22 November 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 Rev. Ruth Halley Mrs M Harkness	
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## 1 Apologies

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1.1 No apologies were received.

## 2 Order of Business

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The Clerk advised that the Chair had agreed that Item No 6.5 on the Agenda entitled “New Build Council Housing – Local Letting Initiative” be taken as the first item of business under the heading of Public Items - No Education Interest, as shown below.

## 3 Declarations of interest

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No declarations of interest were received.

## 4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

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The Minute of the Meeting of the Cabinet of 11 October 2016 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

With reference to paragraph 5.2 decision (b) of the aforementioned Minute, the Chair reminded Members that the Revised Standing Orders now required that any request for a Seminar be formally approved by Council.

## 5. Reports

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Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	<b>Accreditation of Mayfield Nursery School's ICAN Provision</b>	<b>Head of Education</b>

### Outline of report and summary of discussion

The report outlined the outcome of the I CAN Early Talk Accreditation which was carried out in Mayfield Nursery School on 25 October 2016. The I CAN Early Talk accreditation scheme was a quality assurance and quality improvement tool. The accreditation involved an inspection of a portfolio of evidence, and an onsite audit of practice using standards of service excellence, which had been developed by I CAN. A full copy of the accreditation report was attached as an appendix to the report. The specialist level accreditation was divided up into the following ten sections:

- Outcome Measures
- Supporting children in your setting/service
- Specialist Education and Therapy
- Assessment
- Supporting Inclusion
- Admission, Transition and Outreach
- Working with Families
- Professional Development
- Staff mix and Induction
- Management Structure and Support

The report detailed 52 strengths that were identified across those ten indicators as well as 20 areas of comment/areas for development. Both Mary Smith and Lisa Barnes, Head Teacher were heard in amplification of the report.

Several Members along with Mr Bourne were heard highlighting that this was an outstanding 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;
- (c) To congratulate the pupils, parents, carers and staff connected with Mayfield Nursery School ICAN on the key strengths highlighted within the report; and
- (d) To note those areas identified for further development.

#### Action

Director Education, Communities and Economy/ Head of Education

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	<b>Midlothian Tourism Action Plan 2016-20: Progress Report</b>	<b>Director Education, Communities and Economy</b>

#### Outline of report and summary of discussion

The purpose of the report was to update Cabinet following the launch of the Midlothian Tourism Action Plan 2016-20 and to outline some of the key themes and activities contained within it. Ian Johnson was heard in amplification of the report..

#### Decision

- (a) To note the collaborative work undertaken between the Midlothian Tourism Forum, the Council and key partners to prepare the Midlothian Tourism Action Plan for 2016-20; and
- (b) To endorse the Midlothian Tourism Action Plan 2016-20 as an industry led strategy for local tourism development to be delivered in partnership with the Council.

#### Action

Director Education, Communities and Economy

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.5	<b>New Build Council Housing – Local Letting Initiative</b>	<b>Joint Director, Health and Social Care</b>

#### Outline of report and summary of discussion

The report proposed a Local Letting Initiative (LLI) to be used for the allocation of housing at the completed new council housing development at Polton Street, Bonnyrigg.

The report highlighted that 18 flats had been built, with a mix of 1 person studio flats, 1 person 1 bedroom flats and 2 person 1 bedroom flats.

**Table 1: Housing Mix at Polton Street, Bonnyrigg**

Property Type	Number of Properties
1 Bed, 1 Person Studio	5
1 Bed, 1 Person Flat	5
1 Bed, 2 Person Flat	8

In order to allocate these units in a way that ensured a balanced and sustainable community it was recommended that the following criteria be used to allocate the first let of these units. It was proposed that allocations would be offered in the following order of priority until all properties had been let:

- Allocate suitable ground floor level access accommodation to households with a Medical Priority A or B to General Needs or Homeless Applicants who are currently resident in Bonnyrigg/Lasswade/ Poltonhall.
- Allocate to existing council housing tenants who are under occupying their current tenancy by 1 or more bedrooms and are resident in the areas of: Bonnyrigg/Lasswade/Poltonhall.
- Allocate to Homeless or General Needs List Applicants who are currently resident in Bonnyrigg/Lasswade/Poltonhall and have chosen these as one of their area choices.
- Allocate to Homeless and General Needs List Applicants who have chosen Bonnyrigg/Lasswade/Poltonhall as one of their area choices but are not but not resident in these localities.

To ensure sustainability of tenancies, properties would be allocated to households on the Housing List who did not have a history of anti social behaviour.

Currently there were no base rental charge for Studio flats as Midlothian Council had no other studio flats in its housing stock. In Scotland in 2015/16 the average rent charge for a studio flat was £64.07 per week, while 1 bedroom properties was £68.56 per week – a difference of 7%. The cost of constructing a studio flat was approximately 3.4% less than the 1 Bedroom 2 Person flat at this site (which in Midlothian was charged at £68.25 for new builds). It was therefore recommended that a new rent charge of £65.53 for studio flats was introduced to reflect the

smaller size of these properties to be consistent with other Scottish landlords who charge less for studio flats compared to 1 bedroom properties. Kevin Anderson was heard in amplification of the report.

#### Decision

(a) To approve a Local Letting Initiative detailed within the report for the allocation of housing at Polton Street, Bonnyrigg, to ensure the creation of a sustainable, balanced community; and

(b) To agree to a reduced rent charge of £65.53 per week for the 5x studio flats in this development.

#### Action

**Joint Director, Health and Social Care**

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.1	<b>Creation of a Pan Scotland Local Authority Business Loan Fund – Progress Update</b>	<b>Head of Communities and Economy</b>

#### Outline of report and summary of discussion

The purpose of the report was to update Cabinet on progress with the creation of A Pan Scotland Local Authority Business Loan Fund (Business Loans Scotland) and to outline the course of action that had been taken, to date, in terms of Midlothian Council's participation in the new Loan Fund. John Beveridge was heard in amplification of the report.

#### Decision

(a) To note progress with the establishment and operation of Business Loans Scotland, in particular the revised Fund size of £ 8.133 million;

(b) That the Council continued to fully participate in Business Loans Scotland activities;

(c) That the Council's Economic Development Manager continues to represent the Council's project governance interests on the Business Loan Fund Regional Management Group, appropriate Regional Investment Panel(s) and appropriate Regional Officer Group(s); and

(d) That further progress reports be submitted to Cabinet to advise on the establishment, development and operation of the proposed new Pan Scotland Local Authority Business Loan Fund.

#### Action

**Head of Communities and Economy**

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.2	<b>Easter Bush Business Improvement District</b>	<b>Head of Communities and Economy</b>

#### Outline of report and summary of discussion

The purpose of the report was to update Cabinet on progress with the possible establishment of a Business Improvement District (BID) in the Easter Bush area of the Midlothian Science Zone.

The report highlighted that BIDs came into force in Scotland in April 2007 following legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament in 2006.

BIDs in Scotland were not restricted to town and city centres and could be developed in areas such as the tourism and visitor sector, commercial or industrial districts areas, rural areas, agriculture or single sector business groups who wish to collectively improve their trading environment.

BIDs were developed, managed and paid for by the business sector through a compulsory levy. A BID could only be formed following a successful ballot of the businesses within the prospective BID area. The interests of both large and small businesses were protected through a voting system that required a majority in the numerical votes cast and the rateable value of votes cast. Ian Johnson was heard in amplification of the report..

#### Decision

(a)To note progress with the proposed development of a Business Improvement District within the Midlothian Science Zone;

(b)That the Council continued to provide appropriate in kind project support to assist with the development and operation of the proposed Easter Bush Business Improvement District; and

(c)That a further progress report be presented to Cabinet once the results of the initial consultation with businesses were known.

#### Action

**Head of Communities and Economy**

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.3	<b>Report for the Scottish Ministers on Compliance with Climate Change Duties for 2015/16</b>	<b>Head of Communities and Economy</b>

### Outline of report and summary of discussion

The purpose of the report was to inform Cabinet of the Council's statement of Compliance with Climate Change Duties for 2015/16, a copy of which was Attached as an appendix to the report, and to recommend its submission to Scottish Government by the due date of 30 November 2016. Peter Arnsdorf was heard in amplification of the report.

### Decision

- (a) To approve the proposed response as the Council's Report on Compliance with the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties for 2015/16;
- (b) To submit the response to the Scottish Ministers by 30 November 2016; and
- (c) To refer the report to the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee for its information.

### Action

**Head of Communities and Economy**

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.4	<b>Tyne Esk LEADER Programme 2014-20: Progress Report</b>	<b>Director Education, Communities and Economy</b>

### Outline of report and summary of discussion

The purpose of the report was to update Cabinet on the progress of the Tyne Esk Leader 2014-20 Programme following Scottish Government approval of the Local Development Strategy and Business Plan.

The report highlighted that the LEADER programme had been "suspended" to new bids beyond the UK Government's Autumn Statement on 24 November 2016, pending a review by the Scottish Government. There was, at that point, no clarity about when it would be reopened although there were indications from the Scottish Government that it would reopen and would not have a reduced allocation. John Beveridge was heard in amplification of the report.

### Decision

- (a) To note progress to date in the operation of the Tyne Esk LEADER Programme; and
- (b) That a further report be submitted to Cabinet on progress at appropriate points in the implementation of the Programme.

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.6	<b>Adult Social Care and Health Budget Pressures</b>	<b>Joint Director, Health and Social Care</b>

#### Outline of report and summary of discussion

The purpose of the report was to provide the background to the current financial pressures in Adult Social Care and Health and a summary of actions being taken to address these. The report also highlighted the key challenges facing social care in seeking to remodel services to meet increasing demand in the context of reducing public finance and a finite social care workforce. Eihblin McHugh was heard in amplification of the report.

The Leader of the Council acknowledged the budget pressures being experienced across the Council and in this case to those services assisting the most vulnerable within our society. She requested that regular updates on these issues be brought to Cabinet in an attempt to provide proactive solutions wherever possible. .

#### Decision

- (a) To note the work underway to address a major projected overspend in Adult Care;
- (b) To note the implications of the current financial position when decisions are being made about the financial offer to the IJB for 2017-18, and
- (c) To refer the report to the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee for its information.

#### Action

**Joint Director, Health and Social Care/Democratic Services**

The meeting terminated at 12.02pm.