

Minute of Meeting



Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee

Date	Time	Venue
29 November 2016	11.00am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Muirhead (Chair)	Councillor Baxter
Councillor Beattie	Councillor Coventry
Councillor de Vink	Councillor Pottinger
Councillor Wallace	

Also in Attendance:

Kenneth Lawrie	Chief Executive
Mary Smith	Director, Education, Communities and Economy
Grace Vickers	Head of Education
Ian Johnson	Head of Communities and Economy
Alison White	Head of Adult and Social Care
Peter Arnsdorf	Planning Manager
Gordon Aitken	Democratic Services Officer

1 Chair

In the absence of the Chair of the Committee, Councillor Muirhead was nominated by Councillors Pottinger and Baxter and took the Chair.

2 Apologies for Absence

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Bennett, Milligan, Russell and Young

3 Order of Business

The order of Business was as set out on the Agenda. The Chair indicated that, with the approval of the Committee, he intended raising an additional item which due to its nature would be most appropriately considered in private.

4 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were intimated

5 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the following meetings were submitted and approved as a correct record:

- 4.1 Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee of 6 September 2016
- 4.2 Special Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee of 7 September 2016 (am)

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to note a point raised by Councillor de Vink in relation to the terms of the Minute insofar as it recorded his apology for absence whereas he advised he had been present.

- 4.3 Special Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee of 7 September 2016 (pm)

6 Public Reports

Agenda No	Title	Submitted by:
5.1	Inspection of Mauricewood Primary School and Nursery Class	Director, Education, Communities and Economy
Outline and summary of item		
<p>With reference to the Minutes of Cabinet dated 11 October 2016, there was submitted a report by Director of Education, Communities and Economy dated 6 September 2016 providing Members with an outline of the outcomes of the Inspection carried out by the HM Inspectorate of Education which was communicated in their letter dated 30 August 2016.</p> <p>Mary Smith, Director of Education, Communities and Economy, spoke to the terms of the report. She highlighted the evaluations given for both the school and nursery class and the particular strengths indicated by the inspection team.</p> <p>Thereafter, Councillor Beattie having noted the inspection team's comments in respect of self-evaluation, requested further information. Mrs Smith explained that it was not that self-evaluation did not take place it was the manner in which it had been presented to the inspectors and that the Head Teacher had acknowledged this and it would now be addressed.</p> <p>Questions were raised by other Members and subsequently answered by the Director.</p>		
Decision		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To endorse the recommendations approved by Cabinet on 11 October 2016 and note the content of the Inspection report and congratulate the pupils, parents, carers and staff connected with Mauricewood Primary School and Nursery Class on the key strengths highlighted in the Report and; • to note the areas for improvement as listed in the Report, namely:- (a) continue to develop the curriculum to provide progression in all aspects of learning; (b) continue to improve approaches to assessing and tracking children's learning, helping them to understand their own progress and achievements; (c) improve approaches to school self-evaluation with a clear focus on improving outcomes for children. 		
Action		
Director, Education, Communities and Economy		

Agenda No	Title	Submitted by:
5.2	Accreditation of Mayfield Nursery School's I CAN provision	Head of Education
Outline and summary of item		
<p>With reference to the Minutes of Cabinet of 22 November 2016, there was submitted Report by the Head of Education dated 28 October 2016 providing the Committee with an outline of the outcome of the I CAN Early Talk Accreditation which was carried out in Mayfield Nursery School on 25 October 2016.</p> <p>Grace Vickers, Head of Education, spoke to the terms of the Report and explained that the I CAN Early Talk accreditation scheme is a quality assurance and quality improvement tool. The accreditation involves an inspection of a portfolio of evidence and an onsite audit practice using standards of service excellence, which have been developed by I CAN.</p>		
Decision		
<p>Thereafter, the Committee:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) noted the content of the Report; b) congratulated the pupils, parents and staff connected with the I CAN provision at Mayfield Nursery School on the key strengths identified and: c) noted the areas for further development highlighted within the Report. 		
Action		
Head of Education		

Agenda No	Title	Submitted by:
5.3	Report for the Scottish Ministers on Compliance with Climate Change duties for 2015/16	Head of Communities and Economy
Outline and summary of item		
<p>With reference to the Minutes of Cabinet of 22 November 2016, there was submitted Report dated 14 November 2016 informing the Committee of the Council's Statement of Compliance with Climate Change duties for 2015/16.</p> <p>Peter Arnsdorf, Planning Manager, spoke to the terms of the Report.</p>		

Thereafter, a number of questions were raised by Councillor Baxter. Mr Arnsdorf partly answered some of the questions and committed to providing Councillor Baxter with fuller responses in relation to the remaining ones as soon as possible.

Councillors Beattie, de Vink and Pottinger expressed concern in relation to the quality of the document circulated to Members and advised that it was extremely difficult to read. The Chair agreed and advised that he had read it on his ipad and it was much easier to follow. Peter Arnsdorf advised that the response was input electronically into a system formatted by the Scottish Government and document circulated had been printed from the system.

The Chief Executive was then heard in relation to the concerns raised by Members.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:-

- (a) note the terms of the Report forming the basis of the Council's submission, which had now been lodged to Scottish Ministers and;
- (b) continue the matter to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 24 January 2017, for submission of fuller responses to the questions.

Action

Head of Communities and Economy

Agenda No	Title	Submitted by:
5.4	Adult Social Care and Health Budget Pressures	Joint Director Health and Social Care
Outline and summary of item		
<p>With reference to the Minutes of Cabinet of 22 November 2016, there was submitted Report dated 14 November 2016 providing Members with the background to the current financial pressures in adult social care and health and a summary of actions being taken to address these.</p> <p>Alison White, Head of Adult and Social Care, spoke to the terms of the Report. She advised that 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.</p>		
Decision		
The Committee agreed to endorse the recommendations approved by Cabinet on		

22 November 2016:-

(a) to note the work underway to address a major projected overspend in adult care and;

(b) consider the implications of the current financial position when decisions are being made about the financial offer to the Integration Joint Board for 2017-18.

Action

Joint Director, Health and Social Care

Exclusion of Members of the Public

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Council 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 paragraphs 1 and 11 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

7.1 Newbyres Village Care Home Sub Committee

The meeting terminated at 12.05 pm.