

Minute of Meeting



Midlothian Council

Date	Time	Venue
28 June 2016	2pm	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Provost Wallace	Depute Provost Coventry
Councillor Johnstone – Leader of the Council	Councillor Constable – Depute Leader of the Council
Councillor Baxter	Councillor Beattie
Councillor Bennett	Councillor Bryant
Councillor de Vink	Councillor Imrie
Councillor Milligan	Councillor Muirhead
Councillor Parry	Councillor Pottinger
Councillor Rosie	Councillor Russell
Councillor Young	

Religious Representatives (Non-voting observers for Education Business):

Mrs M. Harkness	Mr V. Bourne

In attendance:

Sederunt – Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Provost requested the meeting to observe a one minute silence in respect of Jo Cox MP

1. Apologies

- 1.1 It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillor Montgomery.

2. Order of Business

- 2.1 The order of business was confirmed as outlined in the agenda that had been circulated.
- 2.2 It was further noted a replacement paper had been circulated in relation to item 8.1 – Appointments to Outside Bodies. This was due to the fact that additional information had been received in respect of the constitution of Midlothian Access Forum.
- 2.3 It was further noted that an additional report had been circulated in relation to Review of Local Government Workers Pay and Grading and was to be heard as agenda item 8.23
- 2.4 It was further noted that the Provost had requested that motion 7.2 would be heard first followed by motion 7.1.

3. Declarations of interest

- 3.1 The Provost requested that any Elected Member who had to declare an interest in a particular item to do so as the item arose.
- 3.2 Councillors Milligan, Pottinger, Constable and Johnstone all declared an interest in item 8.7 as members of the Midlothian Integration Joint Board.

4. Deputations

- 4.1 It was noted that no deputations had been received for consideration at this meeting.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 5.1 The minutes of the special meeting of Midlothian Council on 8 June 2016 were submitted and approved as a correct record.
- 5.2 The following minutes were presented to the Council for noting and consideration of any recommendations therein:

Meeting	Date of Meeting	Response from the Council
Cabinet	19 April 2016	Noted
Planning Committee	1 March 2016	Noted
Planning Committee	19 April 2016	Noted
General Purposes Committee	23 February 2016	Noted

Appeals Committee	8 March 2016	Noted
Local Review Body	26 April 2016	Noted
Audit Committee	10 May 2016	Noted
Police and Fire and Rescue Board	23 February 2016	Noted

6. Questions to the Leader of the Council

6.1 It was noted that no questions had been submitted to the Leader for consideration.

7. Notices of Motions

Motion No.	Motion Title	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
7.2	Jo Cox MP	Councillor Milligan	Councillor Russell

Motion:

Midlothian Council shares the nation's shock and horror at the killing of the Batley and Spen MP Jo Cox on Thursday, and endorses the sentiments of her husband that "we all unite to fight against the hatred that killed her".

Council agrees to write to her family on behalf of the people of Midlothian to express our deepest and heartfelt condolences.

Summary of discussion

The Council heard from Councillor Milligan who presented the motion. The motion was seconded by Councillor Russell who further spoke of the MP's abilities and the inspiring comments that she had read in relation to Jo Cox and further that these should form the positive legacy of the MP.

Councillor Johnstone was then heard in support of the motion, further stating that Councillors should consider personal safety in respect of their work.

Decision

The Council agreed to write to the family expressing the people of Midlothian's deepest and heartfelt condolences.

Action

Democratic Services/ Member Services

Motion No.	Motion Title	Proposed by:	Seconded by:
7.1	European Union Referendum	Councillor Parry	Councillor Johnstone

Motion:

The Council notes the result of the EU Referendum of Thursday 23 June 2016.

Summary of discussion

The Council heard from Councillor Parry who confirmed the motion had been tabled prior to the result of the referendum and further that she was happy to move this part of the motion and allow her colleagues to move the amendment.

Councillor Coventry then moved the amendment to the motion as follows:

While the council notes the result of the EU Referendum of Thursday 23rd June 2016; Council welcomes and notes that Midlothian and Scotland voted overwhelmingly to remain in the European Union. This was a vote to protect our place in the world's biggest single market and the jobs which depend upon it. Furthermore to those individuals from other countries who have moved to Midlothian, we express our view that you all remain welcome here; Midlothian and Scotland is your home and your contribution is greatly valued. We therefore welcome the First Ministers determination to ensure that Scotland is not forced out of the EU against the democratic wishes of the Scottish people.

Councillor Baxter was then heard in support of the amendment and formally seconded the amendment. Further Councillor Baxter expressed his concerns in relation to the impact of leaving the European Union including freedom to travel; employment rights; studying abroad; access to internal trading market; anti discrimination legislation; consumer protection; anti-pollution laws; and research and innovation funding.

The Council then heard from Councillor Milligan who agreed with the sentiment within the motion, however, moved that the last sentence of the amendment be removed as he felt there was no way of quantifying the impact of such a statement.

Throughout the debate that followed, Councillor Muirhead formally seconded the motion of Councillor Milligan and ultimately the Council took a vote.

Seven Councillors voted in support of Councillor Milligan's proposed amendment and ten Councillors voted against. Ten Councillors voted in support of the motion and no Councillors voted against. It was the clear intention of the Council that the motion which was passed by ten votes to nil was the motion proposed by Councillor Parry as amended by the wording proposed by Councillor Coventry. However, the verbatim record of the debate discloses that Councillor Coventry's amendment was not formally assumed into the motion and accordingly, despite the intent of the Council, no decision was made.

8. Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.1	Appointments to Outside Bodies	Director, Resources

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The revised report was presented by the Director, Resources which sought to inform the Council of the work that had been completed to clarify the Council representation on outside bodies.

Councillor Johnstone moved the recommendations be accepted by Council.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

- (a) Note the Council's representation on Outside Bodies.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.2	Financial Strategy 2016/17 – 2021/22	Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Council heard from the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support who presented a report dated 22 June 2016 which provided Council with an update on the Financial Strategy encompassing the years 2017/18 to 2020/21. This included an update on future years Scottish Government Grant prospects; Budget projections for 2017/18 to 2020/21; an update on the existing and proposed change programmes aimed at addressing the projected budget gaps; the proposed timetable for the 2017/18 budget; and an update on the reserves.

Councillor Parry was heard in support of the recommendations confirming her view that the Council should continue to focus on its savings programme and be prepared and prudent particularly in light of the EU Referendum. She also stated that the Council should continue to consult with the residents of Midlothian in formulating these plans.

Councillor Milligan was then heard expressing his concerns in relation to the implications of the financial position and asked that where possible Officers provide information to Elected Members as soon as practicable to allow them to have input to the proposals and would expect regular updates at Council meetings.

Councillor Beattie was heard expressing her concerns in relation to the Local Government Pension scheme which were responded to by the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support.

Decision

The Council agreed to:-

- a) Note the position in respect of the Scottish Government Grant Settlement as set out in section 2 and endorse the central planning assumption of 3.3% annual reduction in grant settlements;
- b) Note the current projected cost of services, key assumptions and resultant budget shortfalls as set out in section 3 and endorse the key assumptions on which the budget projections are based;
- c) Note the role the current and developing strands of the Change Programme and relevant impact on the Financial Strategy as set out in tables 3 and 4;
- d) Note that the strands of the Change Programme will provide the means to identify options to address projected budget shortfalls;
- e) Agree the timetable set out in section 7 of the report;
- f) Note that the projections at this time indicate that a budget gap of £7.740 million for 2017/18 rising to £ 28.671 million by 2020/21, though these are heavily dependent on the assumptions detailed in the report; and
- g) Otherwise note the contents of the report.

Action

Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.3	Implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act	Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Council heard from the Director, Education, Communities and Economy who presented the report which sought to update the Council with an update on the implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

In moving that the recommendations be accepted Councillor Constable further moved an amendment that the first recommendation should be changed to:

- a) *Welcome the Scottish Government's intention to increase the provision of free early learning and childcare to 1140 hours per year by 2021 and consider how this will be resourced;*

In supporting the recommendations, Councillor Muirhead expressed his concerns in relation to the challenges of infrastructure in achieving the revised provision. Further Councillor Muirhead suggested that during any extension or new building works within schools that these provisions should be taken into account.

The Council then heard from Councillor Beattie who spoke in support of Councillor Constable's proposed amendment. Further Councillor Beattie recounted that in implementing the Early Years legislation, the Council was recognised as an exemplar across Scotland and expressed her belief that the Council had the resource in place to meet the challenge for the updated legislation.

Councillor Muirhead then confirmed that he was seconding Councillor Constable's proposed amendment to the recommendations within the report.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

- a) Welcome the Scottish Government's intention to increase the provision of free early learning and childcare to 1140 hours per year by 2021 and consider how this will be resourced;
- b) Note the continued work of the Council and its partners implementing and preparing for the implementation of the provisions of the Act;
- c) Note the named person aspect of legislation is still subject to legal proceedings; and
- d) Note the new GIRFEMC Children's services plan will be approved at GIRFEMC board in June 2016.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.4	Participation Measures and Positive Destinations	Head of Education

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Council heard from the Head of Education who presented the report dated 22 June 2016 which outlined the progress that Midlothian Council and partners have made in relation to positive destination of school leavers, as validated in the Summary Statistics for Attainment, Leaver Destinations and Healthy Living, No6. 2016 Edition published 22nd June 2016. Further the Head of Education presented a summary of the work of the Developing the Young Workforce Board and the Lifelong Learning and Employability Service.

Councillor Constable moved that the Council accept the recommendations contained within the report and following a short discussion with contributions from Councillors Muirhead, Coventry and Young and responses from the Head of Education agreed to do so.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

- a) Note the five year positive trend in supporting young people to achieve a

sustained positive destination and support the renewed efforts required to increase those achieving a positive destination;

- b) Note this is Midlothian's highest recorded sustained destinations to date and is 1.0% higher than the national average;
- c) Congratulate pupils, parents, staff and all partners on delivering such a positive increase in sustained destinations; and
- d) Note the focus areas for attention prioritised by the Developing Midlothian's Young Workforce Board (DSYWB) and the progress made to date.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.5	Creating a World-class Education System – Visible Learning	Head of Education

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Council heard from the Head of Education who presented a report which provided the Council with a summary of the progress with Visible Learning in Schools.

The Provost commented on how well the Visible Learning seminar for Elected Member had been received.

Councillor Constable in agreeing with the Provost's comments moved that the recommendations contained in the report be agreed by the Council.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

- a) Note the progress made in the development of Visible Learning across Midlothian schools.;
- b) To approve the continued focus on developing Visible Learning with the appropriate professional learning opportunities for staff; and
- c) To congratulate members of the Educational Psychology Service and Education team who presented at the Visible Learning World Conference.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.6	Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Update	Chief Executive

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Chief Executive presented the report dated 13 June 2016 which provided an

update on the progress towards securing from the UK and Scottish Governments a City Deal for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland region. In conclusion the Chief Executive asked the Council to approve an amendment to the second recommendation within the report which he recommended should read:

ii) approves in principle the formation of a Joint Committee of the six Councils and that its scope of operation is prepared for further approval by the six Councils.

Councillor Johnstone in moving that the recommendations be approved expressed her concern in relation to the impact of the Brexit vote on City Deals.

Councillor de Vink sought clarity as to whether there were alternative methods of funding which the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support confirmed that the City Deal was still very much at early stages and Council was being asked to earmark funds at this stage.

Councillor Baxter expressed his view that the infrastructure proposals for Midlothian required further discussion and suggested a strategic approach for the people of Midlothian.

The Council then heard from Councillor Imrie who expressed his concern at the lack of ambition within the plans and his view that the infrastructure plans had not kept pace with the level of development within Midlothian.

Councillor Milligan was then heard agreeing with Councillor Imrie in relation to the lack of ambition in the plan and also he aired his view in relation to the financial impact of the plan. Further he suggested that further work could be carried out in respect of the protected railway line to Penicuik.

Following further discussion, the Chief Executive confirmed his view that Midlothian is an ambitious county and was working well given the financial constraints. Further he commented that the City Deal involves six Councils working together – with differing views and priorities.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

- a) Note the extent of progress made by the six constituent Councils in the preparation of a joint bid to the UK and Scottish Governments for a City Region Deal for Edinburgh and South East Scotland;
- b) Approve in principle the formation of a Joint Committee of the six Councils with an initial remit to prepare its scope of operation for further approval by the six Councils;
- c) The Joint Committee consider the most appropriate arrangements for the preparation of a regional economic partnership strategy;
- d) Agree the overall priorities for the City Region Deal to act as a basis for negotiation with the UK and Scottish Governments, and
- e) Note that each Council will be expected in principle to make a financial contribution towards a City Region Deal and in this respect agree to earmark £12m of the Capital Fund for City Deal.

Action
Chief Executive

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.7	Adult Care and Health Budget Setting 2016-17	Joint Director, Health and Social Care

Outline of report and summary of discussion
<p>The Joint Director, Health and Social Care presented the report dated 15 June 2016 which aimed to explain the new arrangements for budget setting for adult care services in light of the establishment of the Integration Joint Board. Further the Joint Director, Health and Social Care outlined the commitments and plans for new Social Care monies allocated to the IJB and the savings proposals to reduce expenditure in Adult Care in 2017-18.</p> <p>In moving that the Council accept the recommendations contained within the report, Councillor Johnstone also moved that an additional recommendation be considered – that the minutes of the Midlothian Integration Joint Board be received by Council for noting.</p> <p>Following a brief discussion in relation to the financial governance of the Midlothian Integration Joint Board the Council agreed to the recommendations contained in the report along with Councillor Johnstone's additional recommendation.</p>

Decision
<p>The Council agreed to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Note this report and the need for ongoing dialogue with the IJB about efficiencies and how these are achieved as part of the budget-setting process for 2017-18. b) The provision a Council seminar to consider in more depth the respective governance responsibilities of the Council and the IJB; and c) Receive future minutes of the Midlothian Integration Joint Board at full Council meetings for noting.

Action
<p>Joint Director, Health and Social Care (b)</p> <p>Democratic Services (c)</p>

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.8	School Streets	Head of Commercial Operations

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Head of Commercial Operations presented a report to the Council dated 6 June 2016 which sought to advise the Council of the intention to progress 'School Streets' at two Midlothian Schools subject to consultation, funding awards and the necessary legal process being completed. Further it was noted that this is part of a wider project promoting sustainable transport in Midlothian.

In moving that the Council agree to the recommendations, Councillor Rosie further confirmed that Police Scotland had agreed that the proposed schools would be the best locations within Midlothian to progress 'School Streets'.

Following a brief discussion with input from Councillors Constable, Milligan and Baxter, the Council agreed to the recommendations contained within the report.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Support the introduction of 'School Streets' at Kings Park Primary, Dalkeith and Lasswade Primary, Bonnyrigg; and
- b) Request that the Director, Resources provide a follow up report after the twelve month period of monitoring.

Action

Director, Resources

Head of Commercial Operations

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.9	Ironmills Park, Dalkeith – Access Route	Head of Commercial Operations

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Council heard from the Head of Commercial Operations who presented a report dated 10 June 2016 which sought to advise the Council on the findings of the recent consultant engineers report produced by Ironside Farrar, regarding further remedial works that are required to the access route from Cemetery Road to Ironmills Park, Dalkeith which would allow the route to be re-opened and would aim to avoid further landslips affecting adjacent property and Dalkeith Cemetery.

The Council then heard from Councillor Rosie who moved that the recommendations were accepted which was then echoed by Councillor Bryant.

Councillor Baxter requested further information in respect of whether climate change was being taken into consideration with the consultant's

recommendations to which the Head of Commercial Operations confirmed that the proposed solutions included additional drainage for that purpose.

Councillor Bennett was then heard in support of the comments and endorsed option 2 of the recommendations. This was further supported by Councillor de Vink who sought reassurances that Officers would take account of the recommendations of the consultants which the Head of Commercial Operations confirmed.

Councillor Beattie echoed Councillor Baxter's sentiments in relation to the impact of climate change and further requested further information in respect of the solution that was being proposed to which the Head of Commercial Operations confirmed he would be able to provide the Councillor with additional information in respect of this.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Note the contents of the Consultant's Report;
- b) Agree to progress Option 2, Wider soil anchoring Solutions, at a cost of £0.170 million; and
- c) Approve the addition of £0.170million to the General Services Capital Plan in 2016/17, approve a supplementary estimate of £2,975 in 2016/17 and add £14,760 to 2017/18 revenue budget to provide for the loan charges.

Action

Head of Commercial Operations.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.10	Annual Treasury Management Report 2015-16	Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support presented the report which sought to inform Elected Members of the Treasury Management activity undertaken in 2015/16 and the year end position.

Councillor Parry was heard in support of the recommendations and requested confirmation as to when the Treasury Management Strategy would look to review the investment and loan strategy in light of the current financial climate. The Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support confirmed there would be a mid-year review of the strategy which will be considered by Council in September followed by the strategy being brought forward to Council in February for approval to coincide with the budget setting process. The Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support further confirmed that there was ongoing review activity in relation to the Council's investments and loans.

Decision

The Council agreed to:

- a) Note the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2015/16.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.11	General Services Capital Plan 2015-16 Final Outturn	Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support presented a report dated 15 June 2016 which informed Members of the final outturn for 2015/16 on the General Services Capital Plan.

Councillor Parry spoke in support of the recommendations whilst raising concerns in the context of the European Union.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Note the General Services Capital Plan outturn position for 2015/16

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.12	Housing Revenue Account – Revenue and Capital Outturn 2015-16 and Capital Plan 2016-17 – 2018-19	Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Council heard from the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support who presented a report dated 7 June 2016 which sought to provide the Council with the final outturn position for 2015/16 for both the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Plan and the Revenue Account. Following on from this the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support spoke to the revised capital plan for 2016/17 to 2018/19 reflecting the carry forwards from 2015/16.

Councillor Parry spoke in favour of the recommendations commenting that strategy in respect of the quality of Council housing was now paying off with less reactive repairs, thus reducing spend and making life better for residents.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Note the contents of the report

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.13	Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2016	Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support presented a report dated 22 June 2016 which sought to provide the Council with a brief overview of the main developments in the Council's Financial Statements for 2015/16 and further to confirm that the unaudited accounts have been circulated to Members.

Councillor Parry was then heard in support of the recommendations.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Endorse the contents of the report; and
- b) Approve the Council's Financial Statements for 2015/16.

Action

Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.14	Financial Monitoring 2015-16 – General Fund Revenue	Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Council heard from the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support who presented a report dated 15 June 2016 which sought to provide the Council with information on performance against revenue budget in 2015/16 and details of the material variances.

Councillor Beattie sought clarification in relation to the progress being made in respect of page 142 of the agenda pack in respect of the ongoing work to find sustainable solutions. The Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support confirmed that additional information would be provided to Councillors by the appropriate Head of Service.

Councillor de Vink highlighted a mistake on page 132 of the agenda pack which was noted.

The Council then heard from Councillor Parry who highlighted her view that it was important to have a cross party approach to the financial strategies of the Council.

The Council then heard from Councillor Milligan who asked for confirmation of the information on page 140 of the agenda pack in relation to school transport and

further on page 138 in respect of Environmental Health and Trading Standards and the predicted overspend as a result of the shared agreement with East Lothian Council. The Head of Communities and Economy provided additional information in respect of the pilot joint working arrangements between East Lothian Council and the financial impacts.

Councillor Baxter asked for clarification in relation to page 144 of the agenda pack specifically in relation to Pentland and Midfield Houses and requested an update which the Head of Customer and Housing Services provided.

Councillor Muirhead sought clarification in relation to page 149 of the agenda pack in respect of the Snow Sports Centre and the additional income generated and further sought clarification as to how the additional income is utilised. The Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support confirmed that budgets would be re-aligned in respect of the additional income.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Note the contents of the report; and
- b) Consider the financial position in the context of the Financial Strategy for 2016/17 to 2021/22

Action

Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support

Sederunt – The Provost announced a ten minute break following which the Council meeting reconvened.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.15	National Mining Museum of Scotland	Chief Executive

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Chief Executive presented a report to the Council which sought to inform the Council of a request received from the Chair of the National Mining Museum of Scotland (NMMS), on behalf of the NMMS Trust for further funding from the Council under a revised service level agreement between the Council and NMMS.

Councillor Johnstone moved that the Council agree to the recommendations within the report with the proviso that the money should be used to align with the Council's key priorities.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Approve a funding contribution of £40,000 to the National Mining Museum of Scotland for financial year 2016/17;

- b) Approve a supplementary estimate of £40,000 in 2016/17 to meet the funding contribution for 2016/17;
- c) The release of these funds be conditional upon continuing appropriate levels of funding being provided by the Scottish Government;
- d) The release of these funds be conditional on the terms of the current service level agreement remaining in place subject to updating, and the inclusion of the additional clauses proposed in the letter dated 22 February 2016 from the Chair of the NMMS Board to the Council's Chief Executive as may be amplified and/or amended to fully align with Council priorities; and
- e) Receive, as may be required, further reports on these matters.

Action

Chief Executive

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.16	National Employability Fund Programmes, Funding Reduction, Impact in a Midlothian Context	Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Outline of report and summary of discussion
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The Director, Education, Communities and Economy presented a report dated 8 June 2016 which aimed to explain the changed in employability funding and the implications for Midlothian. Further the Council was informed that this, along with historical income targets, has created a funding gap within Lifelong Learning and Employability.

The Council then heard from Councillor Constable who moved that the recommendations within the report be approved and this was supported by Councillor Coventry who welcomed the report.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Note that the income target of £536,000 for LLE is projected to be unachievable in 16/17 due to the combination of the historic income targets and the reduction in employability fund contracts. LLE have a predicted overspend of £162,000 for 16/17. An income target review will take place as part of the development 17/18 budget; including the resolution of the predicted overspend in 16/17;
- b) Recognise the continued negative impact of funding and service reductions for those in equality groups;

- c) Agree to the funding and delivery of a paid trainee programme for 25 young people by realigning the DYW funding from the Further Education widening access programme to direct delivery of the trainee programme;
- d) Support the LLE service to undertake the mitigating actions to support those at risk of a negative destination and reduce the funding gap; and
- e) Raise awareness of the associated issues through COSLA and other mechanisms

Action

Director, Education, Communities and Economy.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.17	Prioritising Targeted Areas in the Small Grants Programme 2017-18	Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Director, Education, Communities and Economy presented a report to the Council dated 16 May 2016 which requested that Elected Members consider and approve options for weighting the Council's Small Grants Programme assessment criteria to benefit the targeted areas of Mayfield/Easthouses, Gorebridge and Woodburn/Dalkeith following a request from the Council at its meeting of 15 December 2015.

Councillor Johnstone was then heard moving that option 1 within the recommendations of the report would be in her opinion, the best option. This was seconded by Councillor Parry.

Councillor Muirhead was then heard in support of option 3 within the recommendations of the report and further that the Council should continue to build on the support offered to complete the paperwork in relation to the grant application process. Councillor Beattie endorsed Councillor Muirhead's comments and asked whether awareness could be raised through the schools.

The Director, Education, Communities and Economy confirmed that a tremendous amount of work was carried out by Council Officers in relation to engaging communities with the grants process and also support was offered in relation to completing the necessary forms.

Councillor Milligan confirmed that the aim of the grants process was to target areas in most need and formally seconded Councillor Muirhead.

The Council then voted in relation to the options. Seven Councillors voted in favour of option 3 and ten voted in favour of option 1 which therefore became the decision of the Council.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Allocate the poverty stream to the targeted areas in the 2017/18 grant round and beyond, using a co-produced decision making process, and permit this stream to be used to apply for external match funding.

Action

Director Education, Communities and Economy

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

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Head of Communities and Economy presented a report to the Council dated 3 June 2016 which aimed to inform the Council of the latest round of funding announced by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) under its scheme to promote regeneration of conservation areas and further recommending that the Council submit a bid for funding of a scheme at Penicuik town centre.

Councillor Bryant was heard in support of the recommendations. Following which Councillor Rosie spoke in support of the recommendations and further regarding the improvements in Penicuik as a result of the Business Improvement District and the proactive work of the Penicuik Development Trust.

The Provost concluded that the previous successful bid had been as a result of the efforts of Councillor Rosie.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Authorise preparation of a bid to Historic Environment Scotland for Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme Round 7 funding for a scheme at Penicuik; and
- b) Instruct that the completed bid application be submitted for Cabinet or Council approval prior to submission to Historic Environment Scotland.

Action

Head of Communities and Economy

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.19	Beeslack Community High School 3G Pitch Update	Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Director, Education, Communities and Economy spoke to the report dated 8 June 2016 which provided the Council with an update on the progress with the plans for an externally funded 3G community pitch at Beeslack Community High School, Penicuik.

Councillors Constable and Coventry were both heard in support of the recommendations of the report.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Note the contents of the report, including the funding sources; and
- b) Note the progress to date.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.20	School Session Dates for the Academic Year 2017-18	Head of Education

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Head of Education spoke to a report dated 7 June 2016 which sought approval of the school session dates for the academic year 2017/18.

Councillor Constable moved that the recommendations within the report be accepted.

Mr Bourne was heard in support in relation work to harmonise the school session dates with Edinburgh and East Lothian. Further he agreed with the principle of a school break in February and further welcomed a finish at the end of March to allow for assignment work to be completed. Mr Bourne also requested further information in relation to the 'fixing' of the Easter Break to which the Head of Education responded.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) The school session dates for 2017/18 as set out in the appendix to the report;
- b) Authorise officers to refer the matter of permitting more or less than 195 working days for teachers to fall within the teacher leave year to the Joint Chairs of SNCT for determination in the setting of school session dates for 2018/19 and future years in order to align with neighbouring local authorities; and

- c) Refer the matter of the May Day holiday to the Joint Chairs of the SNCT for determination of school session dates for 2018/19 and future years.

Action

Head of Education

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.21	Early Learning and Childcare Admissions Policy	Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Director, Education, Communities and Economy presented a report to update the Council on the outcome of a Motion to Council passed at Council in August 2011 in relation to catchment areas for nursery pupils. Further the Director outlined the current admissions policy for Early Learning and Childcare in Midlothian following the implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Councillor Constable moved that the recommendations were accepted by the Council.

Councillor Muirhead pointed out that the officers who were charged with completing the work of the motion of the Council in 2011 had not done so and referred to his earlier comments in respect of infrastructure.

Councillor Baxter further commented that it was important that a joined up approach was taken in the design of new facilities particularly from an infrastructure perspective.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Note the developments in Early Learning and Childcare since the original motion in 2011; and
- b) Note the current admissions policy for Early Learning and Childcare in Midlothian following the implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and notes the progress to date.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.22	Welfare Reform in Midlothian 2016 Update	Head of Customer and Housing Services

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Head of Customer and Housing Services presented a report dated 6 June 2016 which provided the Council with an update on the Welfare reform measures which continue to roll out from the original changes introduced across a range of

state benefits and have impacted widely on individual households from April, 2013 and the Welfare Reform and Work Bill which received Royal Assent on 17 March 2016.

Councillor Parry spoke of her concerns in relation to the revised arrangements and the impact of these in relation to Council spend and rent arrears. Councillor Parry moved that the recommendations be accepted along with the further recommendation that a letter should be sent to Stephen Crabb MP to confirm the effects of the reforms on constituents within Midlothian and secondly the impact to Council resources.

Councillor Bennett was then heard in support of the proposed rent caps and the impact of this. Further Councillor Bennett recommended a meeting of the Welfare Sub Group.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Note the work done to date related to Welfare Reform legislative changes;
- b) Note the respective Benefits Cap and Social Rent Cap changes scheduled for implementation by the end of the current Financial Year;
- c) The potential direct lets between the Council with private landlords to replace provision of the PSL contract of 250 units; and
- d) One-off funding of £120,000 to furnish the direct lets properties;
- e) A letter be written to Stephen Crabb MP to confirm the effects of the reforms on constituents within Midlothian and the impact to Council resources; and
- f) A meeting of the Welfare Sub- Group be convened.

Action

Head of Customer and Housing Services (a), (b), (c), and (d);

Member Support (e);

Democratic Services (f).

Sederunt – Councillor Parry left the meeting at 17:20

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
8.23	Review of Local Government Workers Pay and Grading	Chief Executive

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Chief Executive presented a report appraising Council of the outcome of Trade Union ballot processes in respect of the Review of Local Government

Workers pay and grading. The outcome of the ballots are in favour of the proposals and accordingly arrangements are now underway to formalise the collective agreement and proceed to implementation for 1 October 2016.

Councillor Johnstone moved that the recommendations be accepted and further delivered a statement from Councillor Parry.

Decision

The Council agreed to :

- a) Note the outcome of the Trade Union ballot process; and
- b) Note the arrangements to implement the collective agreement with the pay, grading, and terms and conditions changes effective from 1 October 2016.

Action

Chief Executive

9. 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 1,4 and 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

- (a) East of Scotland Investment Fund Arrears Update – Report by Director, Education, Communities and Economy - approved
- (b) Midlothian and Edinburgh Zero Waste Parc Capital Budget for Road and Utility Infrastructure – Report by Director, Resources - approved
- (c) Proposed Rosewell Community Hub – Report by Director, Resources - approved
- (d) Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund – Report by Director, Resources – approved
- (e) Education Appointments Committee – Minutes of Meeting 6 June 2016 – approved

