

Minute of Meeting



Special Midlothian Council

Date	Time	Venue
27 September 2022	09.30 am	via MS Teams

Present:

Provost McCall (Chair)	Depute Provost McManus
Councillor Parry – Council Leader	Councillor Cassidy – Depute Council Leader
Councillor McEwan	Councillor Bowen
Councillor Milligan	Councillor McKenzie
Councillor Small	Councillor Pottinger (Private Section Only)
Councillor Scott	Councillor Virgo
Councillor Winchester	Councillor Curran
Councillor Russell	

In attendance:

Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive	Morag Barrow, Joint Director Health and Social Care
Kevin Anderson , Executive Director Place	Alan Turpie, Legal and Governance Manager/Monitoring Officer
Gary Fairley, Chief Officer Corporate Solutions	Sinead Urquhart Executive Business Manager
Marc Bedwell Executive Business Manager	Nick Clater, Head of Adult & Social Care
David Gladwin Financial Services Manager	Myra Forsyth Quality and Scrutiny Manager
Saty Kaur, Executive Business Manager	Marco Reece-Heel Business Analyst
Ross Neill, Democratic Services Team Leader	Mike Broadway, Democratic Services Officer

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting reminding all that it was a public meeting being webcast live.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Alexander and Milligan also Mrs Lawrie & Mrs Morton Religious Representatives to the Cabinet.

2. Order of Business

The Provost advised the order of business as per agenda

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. Deputations

None received.

5. Minute of Previous Meeting

None

6. Question to the Leader of the Council

None

7. Notices of Motion

None

8. Reports

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.1	Hybrid Meetings of Council and its Committees	Executive Director Place
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Cross Party Working Group meeting on 31 August 2022 considered Hybrid Meetings, combining in person and virtual participants. In discussing the matters members agreed that they would prefer to return to in-person meetings for certain Committee meetings, in particular Council meetings, and discussed the possibility of having the October Council Meeting in person.</p> <p>Also discussed was the governance around any decision to have the Council meeting of 4 October in person/hybrid with advice that this required a decision of Council, and therefore a Special Council prior to 4 October, 2022.</p> <p>Recommendation –</p>		

Council is advised that the “Short Life Working Group – Hybrid Meetings of Council and its Committees” recommends to Council that the previous default Remote Working decision for elected members governance meetings, implemented from June 2020, is now revised to permit an in-person meeting of Council on 4 October, 2022.

Mr Anderson introduced the report and outlined the recommendations noting this followed on from reports to BTSG and the options available as per the cross working party group.

Councillor Parry moved the report and its recommendations adding, for the record her thanks Councillors McEwan and Virgo, thanking all parties concerned with bring this report to Council. She added this facility could be used by other organisations.

Councillor Smail also thanked the cross party group and its work. He asked if the expense could capitalised.

Mr Fairley confirmed the capital expenditure would be paid over a short period of time from the digital budget so no additional costs, it however would limit future digital projects. Any revenue costs would come from the revenue account.

Councillor Curran was happy to support the report.

Mr Anderson cautioned that Hybrid working would not be in place for Midlothian Councils meeting on the 4th of October, it would need to be either in person or virtual

Councillor Parry suggested this facility would most likely be used for selected public facing meetings, other meetings would best be served by using the virtual MS team’s model.

Councillor Cassidy seconded the report, urging everyone, where possible, to attend on the 4th October.

Agreed unanimously

Decision

Agreed

Action

All to Note

Public Council Meeting ended at 9.45 am

The meeting concluded at 9.50 am

Date of Next Meeting 4 October 2022