

Report of Seminar of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL held in the Council

Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith, on Tuesday,

3 June 2014 at 3.48 pm.

Present:- Provost Wallace, Depute Provost Rosie and Councillors Baxter, Bryant, Constable, Coventry, de Vink and Johnstone,.

Religious Representative Present (Non-Voting Observers) for Education Business:- Mr Bourne.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Beattie and Thompson and Mr Hayes .

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

2. “Scotland’s Future”

With reference to paragraph 6(d) of the Minutes of the Council, dated 17 December 2013, there was submitted report, dated 26 May 2014, by the Chief Executive, advising that the Seminar had been called in relation to a Notice of Motion approved by Midlothian Council on 17 December 2013, as follows:-

This Council welcomes the publication of 'Scotland's Future' and recognises the significant benefits independence could bring to Midlothian. We call for a seminar of Midlothian Council in early 2014 to afford a Council-wide discussion about the scope of these benefits.”

The Chief Executive spoke to his report and in particular advised that it had been hoped to hold the seminar earlier in the year and efforts had been made to seek the involvement of Scottish Government Civil Servants whom it was considered would be well placed to give a presentation on the proposals from a non-political perspective.

Feedback given by the Scottish Government to him proposed however that it would be more appropriate for any input to come from the Minister for Local Government and Planning, Derek Mackay MSP, rather than an official. As the involvement of Mr Mackay would however be seen as politicising the debate, this option was not pursued.

There followed a general debate in accordance with the Seminar’s remit.

After discussion Councillor Constable, seconded by Councillor Wallace, moved that the Seminar welcome the publication of 'Scotland's Future' and recognised the significant benefits independence could bring to Midlothian.

There being no amendment moved, the motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting terminated at 4.05 pm.