

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL CABINET held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 25 May 2013 at 09.00 am.

Present:- Councillors Constable (Convener), Bryant, and Johnstone.

Religious Representative Present:- Mr P Hayes.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Beattie, Thompson and Mr V Bourne.

1 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

2 2012/2013 Performance Reports

There were submitted Performance Reports for 2012/13 in respect of the Corporate Plan for the Council and the Plans for Education; Children and Families; Communities and Support; Adult and Community Care; Housing and Community Safety; Customer Services; Commercial Operations; Property and Facilities Management; Planning and Development and Finance and Human Resources. Each report contained a summary of the major successes; the major challenges and the actions to address them; and the budget position and the impact of efficiencies. Thereafter, the Cabinet received verbal updates in respect of each of the reports.

Decision

- (a) To note the success of the Celebrating Midlothian event and the importance of recognising staff achievement;
- (b) To note that 93% of invoices were now paid within 30 days;
- (c) To note the increase in sickness absence from 8.64% to 9.06%;
- (d) To note the progress with the Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS), which it was anticipated would deliver significant cost benefits;
- (e) To note the significant savings being delivered by the Procurement initiative;
- (f) To note that it was now anticipated that the A6106 at Lugton Brae, Dalkeith, would not be reopened prior to Autumn 2013;

- (g) To note that the introduction of a food waste collection service remained on schedule for introduction in December 2015;
- (h) To note the significant reduction in the provision of bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless clients and the consequent revenue savings;
- (i) To note that the revised Housing Allocation Policy took into account the effects of Welfare Reform;
- (j) To note the introduction of a common Housing Register with Melville Housing;
- (k) To note the continued actions designed to reduce the void times of Council Housing;
- (l) To note the significant progress made, in partnership with the NHS, in addressing and providing assistance to clients affected by drug and alcohol misuse and the positive response thereto from General Practitioners;
- (m) To note the increase in the numbers of care packages for older people;
- (n) To note the increase in the numbers of young people with complex health care needs;
- (o) To note the reduction of the number of children on the Child Protection Register to 49 as at 31 March 2013;
- (p) To note the excellent report afforded Hawthorn Children's Centre by the Care Inspectorate;
- (q) To note the success of the Foster Carers recruitment campaign resulting in 13 new pairs of foster carers being appointed which had resulted in no children being placed outwith Midlothian since March 2012 with a consequent estimated revenue saving of £38,000 per child;
- (r) To note that the number of children in Foster Care outwith Midlothian had reduced from 39 to 33;
- (s) To note that collaborative work with East Lothian Council on child welfare issues was ongoing in respect of areas of increasing demand;
- (t) To note that two pupils at Saltersgate School were from outwith Midlothian;
- (u) To note the successful launch of the e-book service within Midlothian Libraries;

- (v) To note that the Community Learning and Development Service had received two positive HMIE reports;
- (w) To note that over 1,000 people had attended the Midlothian Science event;
- (x) To note the reduction in exclusion levels in schools;
- (y) To note the above average attainment in literacy and numeracy in P4 – P6 pupils and that steps would be taken to improve performance in respect of P7 pupils;
- (z) To note the appointment of 10 new Head Teachers;
- (a1) To receive a report to a future meeting on the current policy of charging for Music Tuition and its effect on both pupils and families; and
- (a2) To note that the results of an assertive mentoring programme at Dalkeith High School would be assessed for effectiveness in August 2013.

(Action: (a1): Director, Education and Children's Services)

The meeting terminated at 10.10 am.