

MINUTES of MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL CABINET held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 25 February 2014 at 11.00am.

Present:- Councillors Thompson (Convener), Bryant and Rosie

Religious Representatives Present:- Mr V Bourne, Mr P Hayes and Mrs M Harkness

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Constable and Johnstone

1 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Thompson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 - Inspection of Tynewater Primary School Nursery Class (paragraph 5 below refers), on the grounds that his wife was an employee at Tynewater Primary School. He indicated that it had been his intention to leave the meeting for the duration of this particular item and not to contribute to any discussion thereof, however as this would mean that the meeting would become inquorate, the simplest thing to do would be to continue consideration of the item to the next meeting when hopefully more Members would be present, and this was agreed.

2 Minutes

The Minutes of Meeting of 14 January 2014 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

3 Inspection of St Mary's Primary School Nursery Class

There was submitted report, dated 23 January 2014, by the Director, Education, Communities and Economy, outlining the outcome of an unannounced inspection carried out at St Mary's Primary School Nursery by the Care Inspectorate in November 2013.

The evaluations were as follows:-

Quality of Care and Support	Very Good	(Grade 5)
Quality of Environment	Good	(Grade 4)
Quality of Staffing	Very Good	(Grade 5)
Quality of Management and Leadership	Very Good	(Grade 5)

The Care Inspectorate had concluded that the Nursery offered children very good quality care and support. It was clear to them that staff valued the individual child and provided a warm and caring environment.

Decision

- (a) To note the content of the inspection report;

- (b) To congratulate the management and staff connected with St Mary's Primary School Nursery Class on the very good work being carried out at the Nursery;
- (c) To note that, whilst acknowledging the very good work being carried out at the Nursery, the Council would continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to achieving sustained excellence through further improving performance; and
- (d) To pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

(Action: Director, Education, Communities and Economy)

4 Inspection of Moorfoot Primary School Nursery Class

There was submitted report, dated 23 January 2014, by the Director, Education, Communities and Economy, outlining the outcome of an unannounced inspection carried out at Moorfoot Primary School Nursery by the Care Inspectorate in November 2013.

The evaluations were as follows:-

Quality of Care and Support	Very Good	(Grade 5)
Quality of Environment	Very Good	(Grade 5)
Quality of Staffing	Very Good	(Grade 5)
Quality of Management and Leadership	Very Good	(Grade 5)

The Care Inspectorate had concluded that the Nursery offered children very good quality care and support. It was clear to them that staff valued the individual child and provided a warm and caring environment.

Decision

- (a) To note the content of the inspection report;
- (b) To congratulate the management and staff connected with Moorfoot Primary School Nursery Class on the very good work being carried out at the Nursery;
- (c) To note that, whilst acknowledging the very good work being carried out at the Nursery, the Council would continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to achieving sustained excellence through further improving performance; and
- (d) To pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

(Action: Director, Education, Communities and Economy).

5 Inspection of Tynewater Primary School Nursery Class

With reference to paragraph 1 above, there was submitted report, dated 12 February 2014, by the Director, Education, Communities and Economy, outlining the outcome of an unannounced inspection carried out at Tynewater Primary School Nursery by the Care Inspectorate in November 2013.

Decision

To continue consideration of the report to its next meeting.

(Action: Legal and Secretariat Manager).

6 Education Convener Advisory Group

With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minutes of 27 August 2013, there was submitted report, dated 11 February 2014, by the Director, Education, Communities and Economy, providing an update on the progress made to date by the Education Convener Advisory Group.

The report also advised that following the appointment of a new Cabinet portfolio holder for Education, it was proposed to revisit the purpose and constitution of the Group and following consultation, a further report would be brought forward in due course.

Decision

To note the report

(Action: Director, Education, Communities and Economy).

7 Evaluation of Tobacco Control in Midlothian

There was submitted report, dated 14 January 2014, by the Joint Director, Health & Social Care, seeking agreement for the formation of a Local Tobacco Alliance involving the NHS, Midlothian Council and Third Sector Agencies, which could potentially form part of the Midlothian Joint Health Improvement Partnership planning structure.

The report advised that following a recent review of the NHS Lothian Tobacco Strategy Board (TSB), which co-ordinated implementation of the Scottish Government Tobacco Control Strategy (2013) on a pan-Lothian basis, Midlothian Community Health Partnership had been invited to nominate a lead officer to act as a representative.

Decision

To agree to the formation of a Local Tobacco Alliance involving the NHS, Midlothian Council and Third Sector Agencies which could potentially form part of the Midlothian JHIP (Joint Health Improvement Partnership) planning structure, to enhance local delivery of the national tobacco control strategy.

(Action: Joint Director, Health & Social Care).

8 Development Plan Scheme for Midlothian No.6

There was submitted report, dated 5 February 2014, by the Director, Education, Communities and Economy, seeking approval for the Development Plan Scheme for Midlothian No.6 (DPSM 6), a copy of which was appended to the report.

The report explained that the preparation of a development plan scheme setting out the planning authority's intentions with respect to preparing, reviewing and consulting on the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and the Local Development Plan (LDP) for its area was a statutory requirement.

Each Development Plan Scheme (DPS) was to incorporate a participation statement and was to be updated at least annually. After adopting a DPS, the planning authority was required to publish it, including electronically, place it on deposit in public libraries and send it to Scottish Ministers. Consultation on the DPS was not required and it did not require the approval of Scottish Ministers.

Decision

- (a) To agree the Development Plan Scheme for Midlothian No.6 (DPSM 6); and
- (b) To agree to publish DPDM 6 and submit it to Scottish Ministers on or before 31 March 2014.

(Action: Director, Education, Communities and Economy)

9 Earth Hour 2014

There was submitted report, dated 14 February 2014, by the Director, Resources, advising of Council's plans to participate and encourage community involvement in World Wide Fund Earth Hour 2014.

The report highlighted that in order to mark Earth Hour 2014 across Midlothian, it was proposed to:

- Switch off Decorative Lighting across the Council's Property Portfolio where appropriate to do so;
- Encourage Community Groups and Organisations to participate in Earth Hour 2014; and
- Encourage residents and businesses where appropriate to switch off lights for up to an hour on Saturday 29 March 2014 between 8.30 and 9.30 pm.

Decision

- (a) To note the purpose of Earth Hour; and
- (b) To note the proposed scope of the Council's involvement for 2014.

(Action: Director, Resources).

10 Scottish Borders Council Proposed Local Development Plan

With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minutes of 5 June 2012, there was submitted report, dated 5 February 2014, by the Director, Education, Communities and Economy, advising that Scottish Borders Council had published its Proposed Local Development Plan (SBC LDP) and made it available for inspection from 6 December 2013 until 3 March 2014, during which formal representations could be made. The Plan was accompanied by a revised Environmental Report on which written comments could also be made.

The report highlighted changes introduced between the Main Issues Report and Proposed Plan stages that may have a bearing on Midlothian; and provided a suggested response to the Proposed SBC LDP for consideration. Where points of concern had not been addressed in the Proposed SBC LDP, these could be taken forward as representations to the Proposed Plan, if so desired by the Cabinet.

Decision

- (a) To welcome the publication by Scottish Borders Council of its Proposed Local Development Plan, and the opportunity to submit comments and representations on its contents; and
- (b) To agree to submit, as a response to the Scottish Borders Council, formal representations with respect to the need to make provision for cross-border transport-related impact, as expressed in paragraph 3.1 of the report; the cumulative impact of wind energy developments, as expressed in paragraph 3.2 of the report; and the need to more comprehensive controls over minerals haul routes, as expressed in paragraph 3.3 of the report.

(Action: Director, Education, Communities and Economy).

11. Exclusion of Members of the Public

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Committee 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 6 and 8 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

- (a) Developing Complex Care in Midlothian – Approved the recommendations;
- (b) Lothian Learning Disability Complex Care Project - Approved the recommendations; and
- (c) Irrecoverable Debt Write-Off - Authorised the write-off of irrecoverable debts amounting to £408,223.51.

The Committee thereafter agreed to proceed as detailed in the addendum hereto.

The meeting terminated at 11.47 am.