

Cabinet  
Tuesday 8 October 2013  
Item no 4 (a)

**MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL CABINET** held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 27 August 2013 at 09.00 am.

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

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillor Thompson, Mr V Bourne and Mr P Hayes.

**1 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were intimated.

**2 2013/2014 Performance Reports – Quarter 1**

There were submitted Performance Reports for 2013/14 in respect of Midlothian 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 progress in delivering Strategic Outcomes; a summary of emerging challenges and risks; and recommendations in respect of changes to priorities. Thereafter, the Cabinet received verbal updates in respect of each of the reports.

**Decision**

- (a) To note the ongoing challenges in respect of financial pressures and Welfare Reform;
- (b) To note that there had been a significant increase in rent arrears following the implementation of Welfare reform which in turn was likely to impact on various aspects of the housing function;
- (c) To note that 463 tenants were now registered on the “Houseswapper” register;
- (d) To note that properties leased from the private sector to accommodate homeless clients, were leased at a set charge and were therefore exempt from the effects of the “Bedroom Tax”;

- (e) To note that following an “end to end” review of the homelessness process, the numbers of homeless clients in temporary accommodation had reduced by 40% and no families were now placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation;
- (f) To note that issues around the administration of Community Payback Orders arising from staff shortages, had been addressed and that the position was improving;
- (g) To note that the Council, as Education authority, in addition to the general Duty of Care, now had a responsibility to provide medical care for pupils in respect of medical conditions (e.g. diabetes), during their school attendance;
- (h) To note that steps had been taken to prevent a recurrence of delays in the adoption process, identified by the Care Inspectorate during the course of an inspection;
- (i) To note that an action plan would be prepared following receipt of the report by the Care Inspectorate on Children’s Services;
- (j) To note that steps had been taken to address the delays in the construction of a nursery extension at Rosewell Primary School;
- (k) To note the ongoing support to school leavers from the Education Division in an endeavour to secure positive destinations;
- (l) To note that the planned saving in 2013/14 of £500,000 from devolved school budgets was on target to be achieved;
- (m) To note the ongoing work of the Resources Division, in providing support to communities in Gorebridge and Glencorse to secure Community Hubs;
- (n) To note that the A6106 (Lugton Brae) was scheduled to re-open in the Spring of 2014;
- (o) To note the introduction of a new Customer Complaints procedure;
- (p) To note the success of the bid to Historic Scotland for £584,500 of funding for the Gorebridge Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme and that work had commenced on the project;
- (q) To note that re-modelling works at Fairfield House as part of EWIM was nearing completion and that in the longer term it was still the intention to vacate Dundas Buildings in Bonnyrigg, and that the possibility of providing a depot in partnership with other public sector bodies was still being considered ;
- (r) To note that a report on the contract in respect of resurfacing works at Tynehead, was being prepared for the Chief Executive; and

- (s) To approve the recommended changes in priorities as detailed in the respective reports.

(Action: (r) Director, Resources; (s) All Directors/Heads of Service )

**Sederunt**

Councillor Beattie joined the meeting during discussion of the foregoing items of business (09.15 am).

The meeting terminated at 10.25 am.