

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN PERFORMANCE REVIEW

AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 28 February 2012 at 09.00 am.

Present:- Councillors Thompson(Chair), L Beattie, Brown, Constable, and Statham.

Apology for Absence:- Councillors C Beattie, Thacker and Wilson.

1 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

2 Minutes

The Minute of Meeting of 17 January 2012 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

3 2011/2012 Performance Reports – Quarter 3

There were submitted Performance Reports detailing progress of the Corporate Plan for the Council; and the plans for Customer Services; Property and Facilities Management; Commercial Operations; Planning and Development; and Finance and Human Resources, for Quarter 3 2011/12. Each report contained a summary of the major successes achieved; the major challenges to be faced in 2011/12 and the actions to address them; the budget position and the impact of efficiencies and service reductions. Thereafter, the Committee received verbal updates in respect of each of the reports.

Decision

- (a) To note that the Newbattle Community High School Peak Performance Academies (part of their School of Ambition project)had won a silver award in the 2012 COSLA Excellence Awards, in Category 2 – Achieving Better Outcomes and to accordingly convey their congratulations to the School;
- (b) To note that gas heating had now been installed in all Council properties in Pathhead;
- (c) To note the positive feedback from staff who had received Customer Care training as part of the Customer Service Strategy and that presently this training was being targeted at “front line” staff;
- (d) To note the additional assistance available to clients with learning difficulties in respect of rent/ council tax arrears;

- (e) To note the proactive steps taken by the Absence Joint Working Group to monitor and address absence issues;
- (f) To note that Building Cleaning Services had won the APSE “Best Performer “ UK award and to accordingly convey their congratulations to all of the staff within the unit;
- (g) To note that NHS funds for an “Ageing Well” post had been secured for a further year;
- (h) To note the increased uptake in School meals;
- (i) To note discussions on Customer Care were planned to be held with refuse collection staff;
- (j) To note that all Council Vehicles had now been fitted with tracking devices;
- (k) To note that the transfer of staff from weekly to monthly pay was progressing in consultation and co-operation with Trades Unions;
- (l) To note that revisions to the Teachers Pension Scheme had brought about the introduction of tiered employee contribution levels;
- (m) To note the positive feedback from developers in respect of the co-operation of staff;
- (n) To note that new SPIs were due to be introduced in respect of planning issues; and
- (o) To note the current position in regard to the progressing of grant applications in respect of Dalkeith Town Centre Renewal.

(ACTION: (a): Director, Education and Children’s Services; (f) Head of Property and Facilities Management)

The meeting terminated at 10.35 am.