

MINUTES of MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL CABINET held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday 26 February 2013 at 10.00 am.

Present

Councillors Constable (Convener), Beattie, Bryant, Johnstone and Thompson.

Religious Representatives Present

Mr V Bourne, Mr P Hayes and Mrs M Harkness.

1 Audio Recording

Before the commencement of the business the Convener reminded members that the proceedings were being audio recorded.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of Meetings of 15 January 2013, were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4 Inspection of Lasswade High School Centre

There was submitted report, dated 7 January 2013, by the Director, Education and Children's Services, advising that Lasswade High School Centre had been inspected in November 2012 as part of a national sample of Secondary education. The report had been published on 8 January 2013 and had been distributed to all Elected Members and Religious Representatives on the Cabinet for their information.

The inspection covered key aspects of the work of the school at all stages.

Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathered evaluations of three important quality indicators to keep track of how well all the Scottish Schools were doing and noted below were the evaluations for Lasswade High School Centre

Improvements in Performance	Good
Learners' Experiences	Good
Meeting Learning Needs	Good

HMIE had also evaluated the following aspects of the work of the school:-

The Curriculum	Satisfactory
Improvement through self – evaluation	Weak

The following key strengths were indicated by the inspection team:

- Positive, courteous young people who are interested in learning.
- The impact of partnership working in providing support to young people's learning and achievement.
- The commitment of teachers and support staff to ensure positive outcomes for young people.

The following areas for improvement were agreed between Education Scotland, the school and the Education and Children's Services Division:

- Increase the pace of curriculum development to ensure young people's needs and entitlements are fully met.
- Improve the impact of self-evaluation on learning, teaching and achievement.
- Improve senior leadership and team-working for school improvement and achieving a mutual sense of purpose across the school.

Decision

- (a) To note the content of the inspection report;
 - (b) To pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration;
 - (c) To congratulate the pupils, parents and staff connected with Lasswade High School Centre on the key strengths highlighted in the report; and
 - (d) To note that, whilst acknowledging progress reflected in this report, the Council would continue to challenge, support and monitor the service in relation to achieving excellence through further improving performance.
- (Action: (b) Legal and Secretariat Manager (c) & (d) Director, Education and Children's Services)

5 Midlothian Economic Recovery Plan

There was submitted report, by the Director Corporate Resources, providing a progress update on the development of the Midlothian Economic Recovery Plan (MERP).

It was intended that the MERP would be a relevant, up to date working document which could assist in driving forward sustainable economic development in Midlothian, be responsive to fast changing economic conditions and able to maximise external funding opportunities.

It was also crucial that the MERP aligned closely with the Scottish Government's Economic Strategy (2011) and associated key strategic documents covering important topics such as high speed broadband roll-out, tourism promotion and town centre regeneration.

As part of the work involved in preparing the MERP, reviews were underway in respect of the undernoted economic sector action plans:

- Education;
- Construction;
- Public Sector;
- Life Sciences;
- Animal Biosciences; and
- Earth Sciences.

The review results would be reported to a future Cabinet meeting.

Decision

- (a) To note current progress on preparation of the Midlothian Economic Recovery Plan;
- (b) That the recently received State of the Midlothian Economy report formed an essential component of that Plan;
- (c) That preparation of the Plan included consultation and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders; and
- (d) That the finalised draft of the Plan be submitted to Cabinet by 30 June 2013.

(Action: Economic Development Manager)

6 Draft Midlothian Tourism Action Plan (2013/15)

There was submitted report, by the Director Corporate Resources, advising

- of progress with the National Tourism Strategy (NTS) and seeking approval
- of the draft Midlothian Tourism Action Plan (MTAP) covering the period 2013/15. Copies of the NTS and the MTAP had been placed in the Members' Library.

At a local level, tourism development and promotion in Midlothian was driven forward by the undernoted key partners:

- Midlothian Council (MC);
- Midlothian Tourism Forum (MTF); and
- VisitScotland (VS).

The Council and VS worked closely with the local tourism trade (through the MTF) in respect of tourism promotion and development in Midlothian. Growth in visitor expenditure in Midlothian in the past three years (2009-11) had totalled some 11%, and an estimated increase in employment of about 100. A consultation workshop, involving key stakeholders in respect of the development of the MTAP was held at the National Mining Museum Scotland on 25 September 2012. VS and all other agencies working in the tourism sector had been consulted in the identification of the actions to be carried out during 2013/15.

Like “Tourism Scotland 2020” this was a locally based action plan for the industry, by the industry and was the product of extensive consultation led by the MTF in close co-operation with MC officials. The recommended actions to be implemented during the period of the MTAP were attached within an Appendix to the report.

Decision

- (a) To note the collaborative work undertaken with key partners to prepare the Midlothian Tourism Action Plan for 2013/15;
- (b) That subject to formal completion of strategic environmental assessment, to endorse the content of the Midlothian Tourism Action Plan;
- (c) To endorse the equalities impact assessment attached to the report; and
- (d) To agree that further progress reports on delivery of the action contained in the Midlothian Tourism Action Plan be prepared in due course.

(Action: Economic Development Manager)

7 The Bush Framework Masterplan

There was submitted report, by the Director Corporate Resources, seeking endorsement of the finalised Bush Framework Masterplan. A copy of the Masterplan had been placed in the Members’ Library and a Equalities Impact Assessment was appended to the report.

The report highlighted that key elements of the Action Plan comprised:

- Liaison between key stakeholders to establish a Bush governance structure;
- Use the Masterplan as a basis for further consultation with key stakeholders such as Transport Scotland and utility service providers; and
- Develop strategies for environmental improvements, road and junction design, branding, signage and a path network.

The Masterplan was not a constricting ‘blueprint’ but a structured approach to the further development of the Bush, with flexibility to capitalise on new and emerging opportunities.

Decision

- (a) That subject to formal completion of a strategic environmental assessment, to endorse the content of The Bush Framework Masterplan which had been prepared jointly by the Council, Scottish Enterprise, and the University of Edinburgh;
- (b) To agree that the Council, in partnership with Scottish Enterprise and the University of Edinburgh, drive forward the action plan in consultation with other relevant stakeholders;
- (c) To endorse the equalities impact assessment attached to the report; and
- (d) To receive further progress reports.

(Action: Economic Development Manager)

8 Minutes of Education Appointment Committee

The Cabinet noted and approved the Minutes of Meeting of the Education Appointment Committee of 14 February 2013, as shown in **Appendix I** hereto, thereby approving the appointment of K Young to the post of Head Teacher at St Mathew’s RC Primary School.

(Action: Director, Education and Children’s Services)

9 Environmental Health Food Service Plan

There was submitted report, by the Director, Communities and Wellbeing, requesting Cabinet to ratify the Food Service Plan for 2012/13.

The Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement defined a Local Authority’s responsibilities in delivering a food enforcement service.

The Framework Agreement stated that Council had a duty to provide an up to date food service plan and stipulated that *“To help to ensure local transparency and accountability, and to show their contribution to the authority’s corporate plan, feed and food service plans and performance reviews should be approved at the relevant level established for that local*

authority, whether that is Member, Member forum, or suitably delegated senior officer level.”

The Food Service Plan for 2012/13 was attached as an Appendix to the report as well as an overview of service performance against the 2011/12 plan.

Decision

- (a) To agree the Environmental Health Food Service Plan 2012/13; and
- (b) To note the contents of the overview of service performance against the plan for 2011/2012.

(Action: Director, Communities and Wellbeing)

10 Appointment of Head of Education

There was submitted report, by the Director Education and Children's Services, seeking approval to appoint Peter McNaughton, currently HM Assistant Chief Inspector of Education with Education Scotland, as Head of Education from 1 April 2013 until 30 June 2015 on a seconded basis.

On 18 December 2012, Council agreed to the continuation of the Joint Director of Education and Children's Services, on a joint basis with East Lothian Council, as partnership working between the two Councils developed. As part of this process, the two divisional management teams were working increasingly closely together. A decision had been taken that it was in the best interests of Education within Midlothian for the Head of Education to be an educationalist. This would provide complementary skill sets.

In the context of the public sector reform and Christie agendas, the evolutionary nature of partnership working with East Lothian Council and any management restructure, it was prudent to proceed with a temporary arrangement for this post that provided short and medium term stability for the next two years.

Discussions with Education Scotland had identified the potential for partnership working for this appointment. This would form an important and potentially influential relationship with Education Scotland. Education Scotland had identified, following an internal advert, Peter McNaughton as a suitable candidate for this position.

Decision

To appoint Peter McNaughton as Head of Education from 1 April 2013 to 30 June 2015, on a seconded basis from Education Scotland.

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

11 Risk Management

There was submitted, report by the Head of Finance and Human Resources advising that under Best Value legislation, all Scottish Local Authorities had to demonstrably and holistically manage risk so that hazards and threats did not impede the Council's aims and priorities, major change programmes, finances, major projects, operational services and partnership working.

The report provided as an appendix an updated Risk Management Policy, Strategy and Framework, a review of progress with risk management responsibilities during 2012/13 a Risk Management Guide for Elected Members; and a Risk Control Programme for the financial year 2013/14.

Decision

- (a) To approve the Risk Management Policy, Strategy and Framework;
- (b) To review the performance of Risk Management during 2012/13 to date;
- (c) To adopt the Risk Management Guide for Elected Members;
- (d) To note the improvements required to Risk Management; and
- (e) To approve the Risk Control Programme for 2013/14; and
- (f) That as this would be Gerald Tait's final meeting of the Cabinet prior to his retirement , to thank him for all the work he had undertaken in his role of Risk and Audit Manager

(Action: Risk and Audit Manager)

12 Exclusion of Members of the Public

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Cabinet agreed that the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the undernoted items, as contained in the addendum hereto, as there might be disclosed exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6,9 and 11of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

- (a) Minutes of Midlothian Joint Consultative Group of 11 December 2012 Noted;
- (b) Irrecoverable Debt Write-Off - Authorise the write-off of irrecoverable debts amounting to £860,850.66; and
- (c) National Performance Centre for Sport Bid Submission - To note the submission of the application to develop a national Performance for Sport.

The meeting terminated at 10.40am.

APPENDIX I
(relevant to paragraph 7)

MINUTES of MEETING of the EDUCATION APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE held in the Committee Room, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Thursday 14 February 2013 at 9.45 am

Councillors Present:- L Beattie (Chair), and Muirhead.

Religious Representative Present:- Mr V Bourne.

St Mathew's RC Primary School Parent Representatives Present:- Mr G Houlliston, Mr J Sime and Ms M Standing.

In Attendance:- Ms S Dawe, Acting Head of Education.

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 paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

Appointment of Head Teacher, St Mathew's RC Primary School.

The meeting terminated at 11.35 am.

