

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN PERFORMANCE REVIEW

AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House,

Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Wednesday 21 November 2012 at 2.00 pm.

Present: Councillors Milligan (Chair), Baxter, Imrie, Muirhead and Pottinger

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

2. 2012/13 Performance Reports – Quarter 2

There were submitted performance reports detailing progress of the plans for Education; Children and Families; Communities and Support; Adult and Community Care; and Housing and Community Safety, for Quarter 2 2012/13. Each report contained a summary of the major successes achieved; the major challenges to be faced in 2012/13 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 possible replacement of Primary Schools would be incorporated into a report on replacement buildings to be submitted at a future date;
- (b) To note that the upgrade of PCs in Libraries would be undertaken over the next six to nine months;
- (c) To note the difficulties being experienced in the recruitment of Head Teachers;
- (d) To note the minor increase in the numbers of pupils receiving music tuition;
- (e) To note the changes in College funding;
- (f) To note the overall increase in the levels in Educational attainment;
- (g) To note that 140 children were on the Midlothian Child Protection Register whilst there were two children in secure accommodation;
- (h) To note that the children and families unit dealt with an average of 87 IRD referrals each month, of which a number were vexatious;

- (i) To note that there were no children awaiting foster care and none had been fostered outwith Midlothian since March 2012;
- (j) To note that the annual cost of having a child in secure accommodation was circa £250,000;
- (k) To note that action was being taken to address the projected annual overspend of £1.272m on the Adult and Community care budget .
- (l) To note that the Midlothian Council area had been awarded £40m as part of the Affordable Housing Supply Programme 2012 - 2015 , which had been allocated, after negotiation, £30m to Registered Social Landlords and £10m to Midlothian Council;
- (m) To note that Scottish Ministers had agreed to review their position on opposing the provision of studio flats as part of the Affordable Housing Supply Programme;
- (n) To note that an information on reforms to Housing Benefit as part of the overall reform of Welfare benefits had been issued to all tenants in receipt of Housing Benefit who were regarded as “underoccupying” a property;
- (o) To note that Old Age Pensioners were not affected by the Welfare Reforms insofar as Housing Benefit entitlement was concerned; and
- (p) To note the effect the Welfare Reform proposals may have on the Council’s New Social Housing Programme Phase 2.

The meeting terminated at 4.08 pm