

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL CABINET held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 27 May 2014 at 09.00 am.

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

Apology for Absence:- Councillor Constable and Mr V Bourne and Mr P Hayes (Religious Representatives).

1 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

2 2012/13 Local Government Benchmarking Framework Results

There was submitted report, dated 28 March 2014, by the Executive Officer, Business Transformation providing an update on the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) and in addition, presenting an overview of the Council's performance against the indicators for 2012/13. The report advised that the indicators for 2012/13 were grouped under eight service groupings and had been developed from using cost information for Councils from various sources including the Local Financial Returns which formed part of central government's monitoring of local authority expenditure. The Council's performance, benchmarked against other Scottish Local authorities, was summarised as follows:-

Ranking	Percentage
Top quartile (Ranked 1-8)	22%
Second quartile (Ranked 9-16)	28%
Third quartile (Ranked 17- 24)	30%
Bottom quartile (Ranked 25 -32)	20%

The report also provided details of those indicators in the top and bottom quartiles along with details of proposed improvement actions and an analysis of the 2012/13 data.

Decision

- (a) To note that contracts for Homecare packages required contractors to pay their workforce no less than the Living Wage;
- (b) To receive specific reports in relation to the published figures in respect of (i) the percentage of school Pupils from Deprived Areas

gaining 5+ awards at Levels five and six; (ii) the net costs of Refuse Collection and Refuse Disposal per premise; and (iii) the cost of maintenance per kilometre of roads;

- (c) That elected members be provided with a breakdown of the Corporate and Democratic core costs per 1,000 population; and
- (d) To otherwise note the report.

(Action: (b)(i) Director, Education, Communities and Economy; (b)(ii) and (b)(iii); (c) Director, Resources).

3 2013/2014 Annual Performance Reports

There were submitted Annual Performance Reports for 2013/14 in respect of Midlothian Council and the Plans for Housing and Community Safety; Adult and Community Care; Children and Families; Communities and Support; Education; Planning and Development; Commercial Operations Customer Services; Finance and Human Resources and Property and Facilities Management. Each report contained a summary of the progress in delivering Strategic Outcomes and a summary of emerging challenges and risks. Thereafter, the Cabinet received verbal updates in respect of each of the reports.

Decision

- (a) That elected Members be provided with information on the LED Street Lighting programme along with details of costs and anticipated revenue savings;
- (b) To note the success of the Drugs and Alcohol Misuse programmes and that a report on the reshaping of this service would be submitted in early course;
- (c) That reports be submitted to the Safer Communities Board on (i) initiatives to increase participation in the “Cool Down Crew” initiative, operated in conjunction with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; and (ii) an analysis of the data in respect of Reducing Violent Crime and violence against Women;
- (d) To note that a Data Sharing protocol had now been agreed with the Scottish Police Service, which would reduce the timescales in which to process Landlord Registration applications;
- (e) To note that high priority action was being taken to address issues in respect of PIPS scores for Reading and Mathematics for Midlothian pupils on entry to school;
- (f) To note the continued priority being given to reducing void property times in respect of Council housing;

- (g) To note the benefits of joint working in respect of Health and Social Care;
- (h) To note the success of the Public Protection Unit since its establishment;
- (i) To note the ongoing campaign to recruit Midlothian Foster Carers;
- (j) To note the development and establishment of Parenting Courses as part of the Community Education programme;
- (k) To note the success of the Library Service in securing 'Library of the Year' award;
- (l) To note that a strategy to improve the Council's performance in raising attainment and achievement of children and adults would be finalised by August 2014;
- (m) To note that measures to improve the Council's performance in respect of ensuring that all schools had effective systems in place for consulting and involving pupils and parents, were in hand and would be implemented in early course;
- (n) To note that a status report on the pilot partnership arrangement with East Lothian Council for the joint provision of Environmental Health and Trading Standards services was in preparation;
- (o) To note that the Draft Asset Management Policy was scheduled for completion by 30 September 2014;
- (p) To note the continued work on the development of a Tourism Strategy;
- (q) To note that a service Level agreement had been secured with Police Scotland, in respect of the provision of Traffic Warden services for a further 12 months and which would be subject to review nine months after coming into operation;
- (r) To note that a report on Public Sector Network compliance would be submitted in due course;
- (s) To note and welcome the improvement in achieving a 60% score in the 2013 Procurement Capability Assessment;
- (t) To note the conclusion of the work of the Short Life Working Group on Fees and Charges and to note the work of both Elected Members and Officials in this project; and
- (u) To otherwise note the reports.

(Action: (a); Director, Resources; (c) Joint Director, Health and Social Care).

The meeting terminated at 10.20 am.