

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN PERFORMANCE REVIEW

AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Wednesday 5 March 2014 at 11.00 am.

Present: Councillors Milligan (Chair), Muirhead, Pottinger, and Russell.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Baxter, Coventry, Montgomery, de Vink and Wallace.

1 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated

2. 2013/14 Performance Reports – Quarter 3

There were submitted Performance Reports for 2013/14 in respect of Midlothian Council and the Plans for 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 Committee received verbal updates in respect of each of the reports.

Decision

- (a) To note the continued pressures on Council budgets arising from constraint funding and demographic change;
- (b) To note that a further bid for funding in respect of LED street lighting columns had been submitted; that 400 columns had already been installed and a further 250 were programmed for installation; that each unit had a 20 year guarantee; and the cost of installation would be recouped within eight years;
- (c) To note that the A6104 at Lugton, Dalkeith was scheduled to reopen on 31 March 2014; that remedial works to the road within Lugton Village would be undertaken in accordance with existing policy and practice criteria; and local residents would be kept apprised of developments and progress;
- (d) To note that any measures to address low pay would need to be addressed on a Council wide basis and would require to be self financing;
- (e) To note that Universal Credit, to be introduced as part of Welfare Reform, would not be introduced until 2016;

- (f) To note the range of measures introduced to mitigate the effects of Welfare Reform on individuals and families;
- (f) To note that 1,199 tenants (806 Midlothian Council: 393 Social Landlords) had accrued arrears directly related to the Under Occupancy Charge (Bedroom Tax), introduced as part of Welfare Reform;
- (g) To note that 328 applications for Discretionary Housing payments had been approved;
- (h) To note that the Council had achieved 60% in the 2013 procurement Capability assessment (national average 57%);
- (i) To note the actions taken by Officers in regard to securing improved performance from HUBCO in relation to capital projects;
- (j) To note that the projected profit in 2013/14 from catering facilities at Lasswade High School Centre was £46,000;
- (k) That a report on the progress with the provision of a Food Waste Facility be submitted to a future meeting;
- (l) That a report on the current status of the Council House Building Programme be submitted, including information on current housing demand, including a breakdown of the categories of applicants; proposed housing mixes; sites for development; timetables for development; proposals for the use of studio flats; and other options and/or initiatives to address the shortage of rented accommodation in Midlothian;
- (m) To receive a progress report on the operation of the Lasswade High School Centre including statistical information on customer satisfaction; and
- (n) To otherwise note the reports.

(Action: (k) Head of Commercial Operations (l) Head of Property and Facilities Management and Head of Customer and Housing Services; (m) Head of Property and Facilities Management).

The meeting terminated at 11.55 am.