

**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 June 2013 at 2.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillors Milligan (Chair), Baxter, Bennett Muirhead, Pottinger Rosie, Russell and Wallace.

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Boyes, Imrie, Montgomery and de Vink

**1. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were intimated at this stage.

**2. 2012/13 Performance Report**

There were submitted Performance Reports detailing progress of the plans for Adult and Community Care; Housing and Community Safety; Education; Children and Families; and Communities and Support; for 2012/13. Each report contained a summary of the major successes achieved; the major challenges to be faced in 2013/14 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 there had been a significant reduction in youth homeless presentation following the establishment of the Homeless Prevention Team;

(b) To note that there had been a doubling of the number of arrears letters since 1 April 2013;

(c) To note the continued efforts, including a revision of processes and procedures to reduce the void periods of Council houses;

(d) To note the preventative approach being taken in respect of litter reduction;

(e) To note that statistics in respect of the under occupancy of Council houses would be available following the review of housing waiting lists, which was anticipated would be completed by the end of July 2013;

(f) To recommend to the Cabinet that the element of the current House Letting Policy, which prevents a single parent from applying for a two bedroom property unless the applicant was the "primary carer" of children, be reviewed with a view to allowing such applications;

(g) To note that notwithstanding any primary school provision at Shawfair, an extension to Danderhall Primary School remained a medium to long term plan;

(h) To note the shortage of supply teachers and the consequent effect this had on schools management;

(i) To note that pupils would not be obliged to pay for music tuition in the event that they progressed to qualification stage;

(j) To note that all pupils at S3 were being provided with assistance in respect of the implementation of pupil profiles;

(k) To note that there were presently 49 children on the Child Protection Register from 31 families;

(l) (i) To note that an appeal against a refusal of placement at Saltersgate school to a child from outwith Midlothian had been upheld and that this would, in turn, be the subject of an appeal by the Council; and (ii) that a progress report in this matter be submitted to the next meeting;

(m) To note that an upgrade of computer facilities in Midlothian Libraries would continue throughout 2013/14; and

(n) That a report on securing external funding to support Community Learning and Development be submitted.

(Action: (f) Legal and Secretariat Manager/Head of Housing and Community Safety; (l) and (n) Director, Education and Children's Services)

### **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Russell declared an interest in respect of the report submitted in respect of Children and Families by virtue of her involvement with a youth charity and accordingly took no part in the consideration thereof.

The meeting terminated at 3.45 pm.