

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL CABINET held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 18 November 2014 at 9.00 am.

Present:- Councillors Constable (Vice Convener), Bryant, Johnstone and Rosie.

Apologies:- Councillor Thompson, Mr Bourne, Mr Hayes and Mrs Harkness.

1 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

2 2014/2015 Performance Reports – Quarter 2

There were submitted Performance Reports for 2014/15 in respect of Midlothian Council and the Plans for Customer and Housing Services; Adult Social Care; Children's Services; Communities and Economy; Education; Commercial Operations; Finance and Integrated Service Support; 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) To note that although the School Leaver Destination Return had not yet been received indications were encouraging and that the Council would continued to work with its partners to raise attainment and promote positive destinations;
- (b) To note that the next steps required to secure LEADER funding for Mid and East Lothian over the 2014/20 timeframe were being progressed;
- (c) To note that a report on the pilot scheme of joint working between Midlothian and East Lothian Councils in respect of Trading Standards and Environmental Health Services would be the subject of a report to both Councils in early course;
- (d) To note that it was intended to bring a report on the Midlothian Local Development Plan (Proposed Plan) forward to the December Council;
- (e) To note that good progress was being made in implementing the key requirements of the Children and Young Person Scotland Act;
- (f) To note that design work and programming had commenced on Greenhall following agreement that this site be accelerated in response to the issues at Newbyres;
- (g) To note the continued challenges arising from Welfare Reform and the impending introduction of Universal Credit;

- (h) To note that following the successful pilot by the Library Services of a digital access point in Gorebridge Library to enable vulnerable people affected by welfare reform in Midlothian to access advice and support in a secure local setting plans were being put in place to mainstream the service in the new year;
- (i) To note that there was a continuing requirement to seek efficiencies despite the growing demand particularly in relation to older people, and that planning was underway for the disaggregation of the Criminal Justice Authorities;
- (j) To note that 'provision of an efficient complaints service' was off target as a consequence of a number of social work complaints having been incorrectly identified during Q2. Corrective action had been taken by the relevant staff to address this;
- (k) To note that in order to allow further recycling initiatives to be determined a Waste Service Composition analysis had been carried out;
- (l) To note that ALUNA were continuing with the construction of the food waste facility at Millerhill, with Network Rail due to hand over the bridge into the Zero Waste site in November. In addition, tenders were being evaluated for the residual waste contract;
- (m) To welcome the delivery of new refuse vehicles with a state of the art cycle warning system and plans to ensure the winter resilience of services;
- (n) To note that provision had been made to meet the cost of including overtime and allowances in holiday pay following a recent decision in this matter by the Employment Tribunal;
- (o) To note the considerable interest shown in the replacement Newbattle High School and the three sites in Penicuik, which were under development as part of the Council's Phase 2 house building programme;
- (p) To note that the review of fees and charges had given rise to a number of issues, which would be the subject of a further report in the new year;
- (q) To note that a report to the December Council on the Financial Strategy would include details of the savings derived from Transformational activity;
- (r) To welcome the opportunities presented by the Borders Railway; and
- (s) To approve the changes to priorities recommended in the respective reports.

(Action: (s) All Directors/Heads of Service, as appropriate)

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Councillor Johnstone left the meeting during discussion of the foregoing items of business at 9.26 am.

The meeting terminated at 9.42 am.