

Minute of Meeting

Cabinet
Tuesday 26 November 2019
Item No.4.1



Cabinet

Date	Time	Venue
3 September 2019	11.00 am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Milligan - Convener	
Councillor Muirhead – Depute Convener	
Councillor Imrie	
Councillor Curran	
Councillor Hackett	

Religious Representatives:

Mr Vic Bourne	
Mrs Elizabeth Morton	

1 Apologies

No apologies had been received.

2 Order of Business

The Clerk advised of the following amendments to the Order of Business as detailed within the Agenda circulated:

- (i) A replacement paper had been circulated in relation to Item No 5.10 with regard to “Flytipping in Midlothian”
- (ii) The Private “To Follow” report Item No 6.5 entitled “Senior Leadership Review”, including a replacement Appendix B had been circulated
- (iii) An Additional Report entitled “Proposal Report on Allowing Senior Pupils to Strike on Climate Change” which the Convener had ruled as urgent due to the need to make an early decision had been circulated and would be considered as Item No 5.20
- (iv) An Additional Private Report entitled “Appointment of Joint Director, Health and Social Care” which the Convener had ruled as urgent due to the need to make an early decision had been circulated and would be considered as Item No 6.6.

3 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Note of the Inquorate Special Meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 June 2019 was submitted and approved as a correct record subject to Councillor Curran being recorded as being in attendance and Councillor Hackett having submitted his apologies for absence.

The Minute of the Special Meeting of the Cabinet held on 25 June 2019 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

5. Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Inspection of Midlothian Council Cowan Court Extra Care Housing Facility	Joint Director, Health and Social Care
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The report provided an overview of the recent Care Inspection report on Cowan Court Extra Care Housing facility inspection. The report was published on 22 April 2019 and was in the process of being distributed to all Elected Members of the Cabinet for their information. The inspection covered two key areas of the National Care Standards attributed to care home services. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of Care and Support• Quality of staffing		

The inspection report graded the areas of inspection from 1 (Unsatisfactory), to 6 (Excellent). This inspection report graded the two areas as follows:

Quality of care and support 5 Very good

Quality of staffing 5 Very good

The Care Inspectorate outlined at the beginning of the inspection report that they were not asking services to submit a self-assessment for this inspection year. Instead, they would ask services for their improvement or development plan and discuss any improvements they may have made or intend to make since the last inspection. The Inspector met with residents, their relatives and stakeholders who “praised the quality of the service and the compassion shown by the care staff, supported by a very effective management oversight of the service”.

On visiting the service the Care Inspectorate reported that the care plans were of a high standard and were actively involved in their compiling their care and support plan. It was also acknowledged that tenants had access to a range of activities and were well connected to the local community. The Head of Adult Services was heard in amplification of the report.

Decision

(a) To note the content of the inspection report; and

(b) To pass the report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

Action

Head of Adult Services

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	A summary of the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland Inspections of Early learning and Childcare, November 2018-June 2019	Acting Head of Education
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The report provided a summary of the outcomes of the inspections in Early Learning and Childcare settings for three and four year olds as carried out by the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland in the Nov 2018-June 2019 and follows on from the report to Cabinet in January 2019.</p> <p>A total of 16 inspections took place in the time period from 23 November 2018 to 29th June 2019. Four of these inspections were carried out by Education Scotland. The reports were published in that time period and had been distributed to all Elected Members and Church Representatives on the Cabinet for their information.</p> <p>During the inspections, the Care Inspectorate gathered evaluations of 4 core Quality Indicators to keep track of how well all Scottish Early Learning and Childcare settings were doing, these were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of Care and Support • Quality of Environment • Quality of Staffing • Quality of Leadership and Management 		

During inspection, a setting may be inspected on two or more indicators. A six-point scale was used to describe the quality of the setting with either inspection:

6	Excellent	Outstanding or sector leading
5	Very good	Major strengths
4	Good	Important strengths, with some areas for improvement
3	Adequate	Strengths just outweigh weaknesses
2	Weak	Important weaknesses – priority action required
1	Unsatisfactory	Major weaknesses – urgent remedial action required

A summary of inspection grades are shown within the table below:

	Total no. of settings inspected on this indicator	Adequate	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Care and Support	13	3	3	6	1
Environment	10	1	4	5	0
Staffing	5	3	2	0	0
Leadership and Management	9	5	2	2	0

The following common key strengths were indicated by the inspection teams:

- (i) Practitioners knew children very well and are nurturing, responsive and respectful to their individual needs and interests.
- (ii) Practitioners are involved in constant self-evaluation of the service. This results in improvements to the service and outcomes for children and their families.
- (iii) Practitioners promote outdoor play and are aware of the benefits for children's health and wellbeing. Balancing between challenge and safety enabling children to make decisions to learn the skills needed to keep themselves safe.
- (iv) Practitioners are skilled in extending children's learning. They support them to have ownership of their environment which has a positive impact on the outcomes and experiences.
- (v) Practitioners encourage children to be independent.

The following areas were highlighted for improvement:

- (i) Practitioners being consistent in their approach to meeting individual children's needs and ensure the focus is on the development of learning for all children.
- (ii) Providers and practitioners must adhere to the policies and procedures required of them.

The Director, Education, Communities and Economy was heard in amplification of the report.

Decision

- (a) To note the content of the summary of the inspection reports;
- (b) To congratulate the pupils, parents and staff connected with these reports; and
- (c) To pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

Action

Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.3	Further Inspection (Record of Visit ROV) of Hawthornden Primary School	Acting Head of Education

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The report outlined the outcome of the above further inspection as carried out by Education Scotland which was communicated in their letter dated 16 June 2019. Hawthornden Primary School was inspected in May 2019. The report was published on 16 June and a copy was included in an appendix to the report.

During the school's inspection in June 2017, Education Scotland identified a number of areas for improvement which were agreed with the school and Council Officers. As they were not sufficiently confident at that time about the school's capacity to continue to improve, they visited the school again in May 2019.

The main point for action from the original inspection in June 2017, which formed the focus of the further visit was *"Staff should improve the quality of learning, teaching and assessment across the school to ensure all children are making the best possible progress in their learning"*.

The report detailed the findings of the Inspection Team during their further visit in May 2019 which concluded by outlining in the inspection letter that Education Scotland was confident that the school had the capacity to continue to improve and as a result would not return to the school with regard to this particular inspection.

The Director, Education, Communities and Economy was heard in amplification of the report after which both she and Caroline Elsey, Head Teacher responded to questions from Elected Members.

Decision

- (a) To note the content of the inspection report and congratulate the staff, pupils and parents on the very positive outcome of this further Education Scotland visit.
- (b) To note the key strengths and progress outlined in the report.
- (c) To note the areas for improvement outlined in the report.
- (d) To note that Education Scotland would not return to the school with regard to this particular inspection.
- (e) To pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee.

Action

Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.4	Midlothian Residential Service for Young People	Head of Children's Services
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The report outlined the outcome of the unannounced Inspection carried out by the Care Inspectorate in June 2019. Based on the findings of this Inspection the Care Inspectorate awarded the following grades on the two areas it inspected:</p> <p>Quality of Care and Support – Grade 3 – Adequate Quality of staffing - Grade 4 - Good</p> <p>The Inspection Team noted the following strengths with regard to the quality of Care and Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •For some young people who used the service over the past year we could see improvements in their wellbeing related to physical health, being active, feeling nurtured and employment opportunities. •Positive experience of care and support was reflected in most of the feedback. They particularly reflected on the relationships they have with key staff, the opportunities they have to be active and quite specific support to 'feel safe'. •There was good evidence of efforts to involve and include young people in day-to-day and bigger decision from individual care issues and recruitment of staff to moving house. •What we observed during the inspection was genuine warmth and respect between staff and young people. We also observed and read about patience and respect in more challenging encounters. <p>The Inspection Team reported that the authority could do better in the following area with regard to the quality of Care and Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •There is a need to improve knowledge and practice in relation to risk and vulnerability in young people and how this is managed in group living environments. •There is a specific issue around the implementation of 'continuing care' in the service. The emphasis of a procedural, skills development approach is having an impact on both the experience of young people and the understanding of staff. •The Inspection Team advised that there was an over emphasis on timetables, education and independence with less reflection on the importance of relationships and understanding stages of development. <p>The Inspection Team reported the following strengths in relation to Quality of Staffing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A key improvement over the past year is the consistency in clear teams of staff employed within each house, this has improved the sense of working together and improve the support experienced by staff. 		

•Supervision and team meetings re working well and provide formal support for staff. There was good evidence of debriefing following incidents.

The Inspection Team reported that the authority could do better in relation to Quality of Staffing:

•There were limited opportunities for practitioners and managers to improve their knowledge around residential care and learn from research.

•There has been loss of key staff which impacts on relationships with the young people as well as a loss of experience.

The Director, Education, Communities and Economy was heard in amplification of the report.

Decision

(a)To note the content of the report.

(b)To forward the report to Performance, Review & Scrutiny

Action

Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.5	Inspection Report on the External Review of Training in Modern Apprenticeships in Social Services	Acting Head of Education

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The report outlined the outcome of the above inspection as carried out by Education Scotland which was communicated in their report of July 2019. This inspection was an external review and was part of a national sample. A copy of the Inspection report was included in an appendix to the report. The Grades were awarded in the following areas:

Outcomes and Impact	
How well are apprentices progressing and achieving relevant high quality outcomes?	Good
How well do we meet the needs of our apprentices and stakeholders?	Good
Delivery of Training	
How good is our delivery of training?	Very Good
How good is our management of training delivery?	Very Good
Leadership and Quality Culture	
How good is our strategic leadership?	Good

The report advised that Education Scotland had concluded that the Modern Apprentice Workforce Development Team working with the SVQ team and LLE have a strong capacity to improve and enhance provision and service delivery. The Director, Education, Communities and Economy was heard in amplification of the report.

Decision

- (a) To note the content of the inspection report which will be part of a national report.
- (b) To pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration; and
- (c) To congratulate the Workforce Development team, SVQ team and LLE on the key strengths and areas for improvement highlighted in the report.

Action

Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.6	Amendment to School Session Dates for the Academic Year 2019/20	Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The purpose of the report was to inform Cabinet of a change that had been made to the school session dates for the academic year 2019/20.

The School session dates for the academic year 2019/20 were approved by Cabinet on 10 April 2018. In the last few weeks of the last term of 2018/19 the Scottish Government advised that they and the Westminster Government had agreed that the 2020 May Day Bank Holiday on Monday 4 May should move to Friday 8 May to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day. They requested that Scottish Local Authorities would reflect this, if possible, in their 2019/2020 school session dates.

By the time the Council received the request there was insufficient time to carry out consultation or to obtain approval from Cabinet or Council prior to informing schools and parents. We checked with City of Edinburgh Council, with whom we seek to align our school session dates, that they were making this change and they confirmed that they had agreed to this. So with the support of the Council Leader and Provost, it was decided to make the change and to inform Cabinet subsequently. The revised school dates for the academic year 2019/20 were appendix to the report. The Director, Education, Communities and Economy was heard in amplification of the report.

Decision

- (a) To note the revised school session dates for 2019/20; and
- (b) To endorse that Officers issue a FAQ to unions and staff to explain the decision and also to give guidance on any issues arising from this change of date.

Acton

Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.7	Prevent Peer Review Report	Head of Children's Services
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The purpose of the report was to report to Cabinet the findings from the Prevent Peer Review team who visited Midlothian Council on the 8th and 9th May 2019.</p> <p>The peer review hosted by Midlothian Council was the fifth such review held in Scotland after a successful pilot exercise in February 2018. As such, the overall aims of the review were twofold; firstly to support the council through identifying good practice and making suggestions for improvement; and secondly, continuing to develop the process to ensure its effectiveness and relevance for Scottish local authorities.</p> <p>The review consisted of six stages and required the completion of the self-assessment tool. The self-assessment framework forms the basis of Prevent peer reviews. It includes statutory obligations from the Prevent Duty, along with good practice and aspects relating to the multi-agency support mechanism provided to vulnerable individuals. The framework comprised of 14 aspects where evidence was provided to the review team. The review team presented their findings to a group of senior leaders including the Chief Executive and Cllr Muirhead on the 9th May 2019. Overall this was a positive review of the Council's systems and leadership in relation to our Prevent duties. The report highlighted suggested areas for improvement which would be progressed by the SPOC through the Prevent group. The Director, Education, Communities and Economy was heard in amplification of the report.</p>		
Decision		
<p>(a) To consider and note the attached peer review report and action plan.</p> <p>(b) To thank those who participated in this review.</p> <p>(c) To pass this report to the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee for its consideration</p>		
Acton		
Director, Education, Communities and Economy		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.8	New Build Council Housing – Local Letting Initiative	Joint Director, Health and Social Care
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Report proposed a Local Letting Initiative (LLI) to be used for the allocation of housing at Castlelaw Crescent, Bilston.</p> <p>The following table provides the total housing mix of the development. It shows that 8 properties were being built on this site which was estimated to be completed in October/November 2019.</p>		

Property Type	Number of Properties
1 Bed, 2 Person Cottage Flat	8
Total	8

In order to allocate these units in a way that ensured a balanced and sustainable community it was recommended that the following criteria be used to allocate the first let of these units. The Housing Services team would allocate properties in the following order of priority until all properties have been allocated:

- (i) Allocate to existing council housing tenants who are on the General Needs List and are resident in Bilston.
- (ii) Allocate to existing council housing tenants who are on the General Needs List and are resident in Roslin.
- (iii) Allocate to existing council housing tenants who are on the General Needs List and are resident in Loanhead.
- (iv) Allocate to existing council housing tenants who are on the General Needs List and are resident in Auchendinny.
- (v) Allocate to Housing List Applicants who have chosen Bilston as one of their area choices whilst ensuring that at least 6 out of 8 lets (75% of lets) are made to households who are currently resident in the Bilston, Roslin, Loanhead or Auchendinny area as of August 2019 and have chosen this area as one of their area choices.

To ensure sustainability of tenancies, properties would be allocated to households on the Housing List who did not have a history of anti-social behaviour.

Decision

To approve a Local Letting Initiative outlined in Section 2.5 of this Report for the allocation of housing at Castlelaw Crescent, Bilston to ensure the creation of a sustainable, balanced community.

Acton

Housing Planning and Performance Manager

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.9	Mayfield Homeless Families Project	Joint Director, Health and Social Care

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The report sought approval to use an existing council-owned building for use as temporary accommodation for homeless families in Midlothian.

The report advised that officers had identified specific accommodation which would be suitable for use as emergency homeless accommodation specifically for homeless families. There were blocks of maisonettes on Blackcot Road, Mayfield which were grouped as a block of 8 maisonettes in one building. This was unusual in Midlothian as most council properties accessed via a common stair were blocks of 6 flats or less. It was not intended that families would stay in these properties for prolonged periods and that most families would stay in the building for less than four weeks before being matched with longer term temporary accommodation.

The report advised that in October 2018, Midlothian Council agreed to the refurbishment of the upper two floors of Jarnac Court in Dalkeith for use as a House in Multiple Occupation for homeless households. This project was still being progressed but there was a delay in progress due to the need to undertake some additional works to repair the external fabric of the building. The building was now planned to open for use as temporary accommodation in August 2020.

Officers had identified specific accommodation which would be suitable for use as emergency homeless accommodation specifically for homeless families. There was blocks of maisonettes on Blackcot Road, Mayfield which were grouped as a block of 8 maisonettes in one building. This was unusual in Midlothian as most council properties accessed via a common stair were blocks of 6 flats or less. It was not intended that families would stay in these properties for prolonged periods, it would be intended that most families would stay in the building for less than four weeks before being matched with longer term temporary accommodation.

Decision

(a) To approve the conversion of 7 out of 8 properties at 39 Blackcot Road for use as homeless temporary accommodation for families.

(b) To approve the policy for rehousing existing residents.

(c) To note the revised timescale for the refurbishment of the upper floors of Jarnac Court for use as homeless accommodation.

Acton

Housing Planning and Performance Manager

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.10	Flytipping in Midlothian	Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The purpose of the report was to inform Cabinet of the enforcement powers available regards flytipping under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended) and to advise on the measures that were available to a variety of agencies including Midlothian Council, Police Scotland and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) under that Act. The report highlighted the number of Flytipping cases reported to Midlothian Council as shown in the table below.

Period	Cases reported to the LA	Cases investigated	Enforcement Action
2016	447 (March to December)	289 [full year]	16 fixed penalties 29 warning letters
2017	651	195	8 fixed penalties 24 warning letters
2018	503	94	8 fixed penalties 18 warning letters
2019 (up to 15.08.09)	381	56	5 fixed penalties 7 warning letters

Incidents may be dealt with in a variety of ways depending on the level of evidence available including;

- by issue of a £200 fixed penalty notice (FPN),
- in more serious cases referral to the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service with a view to prosecution.
- writing to the individual(s) requiring them to explain why material with their name on it has been found. This may result in either a FPN being issued or alternatively the local authority requiring the individual to collect and remove the flytipped material and deliver it to a civic amenity site; thereby providing an opportunity for education, and removing the direct cost to the Local Authority for clearance.

The Local Authority has a responsibility to undertake the removal of flytipped material from public ground.

The Council was developing a programme with regards to flytipping that would seek to reinforce and inform Midlothian residents and visitors that flytipping in Midlothian was unacceptable and that all possible steps would be taken to identify and deal with offenders. Information includes:

- i) enforcement action will be taken where there is sufficient evidence,
- ii) the need for householders to ensure that anyone engaged to remove waste is a licensed carrier and that full company details and a written receipt are obtained,
- iii) the fact that deposited waste which can be traced back to an individual will be held as their responsibility unless they can provide full evidence of who they transferred this waste to,
- iv) the erection and / or replacement of signage at identified problem hot spots,
- v) investigation of the wider use of CCTV in hot spots to deter and subsequently identify and prosecute perpetrators,
- vi) the solutions for waste disposal that exist in Midlothian; civic amenity sites / bulky uplifts,
- vii) informing the public, regards how to report witnessed incidents of flytipping,
- viii) seeking to identify any underlying causes of increased dumping and thereafter put any available steps in place to mitigate illegal behaviour, and
- ix) ensuring landowners and occupiers are aware of their legal responsibilities.

The Director, Education, Communities and Economy was heard in amplification of the report after which she and Edel Ryan responded to questions from Elected Members.

Decision

(a)To note the legislative powers available to Midlothian Council, Police Scotland and SEPA regards flytipping,

(b)To note the current programme to reduce the impact of flytipping, and ensure limited resources were effectively used to target the most serious cases; and

(c)That a further update be provided at the next meeting of the Cabonet.

Acton

Director, Education, Communities and Economy

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.11	Adult Social Care Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20	Head of Adult Services
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20 for Adult Social Care was submitted. The Head of Adult Services highlighted to the Cabinet the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by elected Members.		
Decision		
To note the content of the report.		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.12	Children's Services Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20	Director, Education, Communities and Economy
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Quarter 1 2019/20 Performance Report for Children's Services was submitted. The Director, Education, Communities and Economy highlighted to the Cabinet the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report. Thereafter she answered questions raised by elected Members.		
Decision		
To note the content of the report.		
Action		
Director, Education, Communities and Economy		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.13	Customer and Housing Services Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20	Housing Planning and Performance Manager
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
The Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20 for Customer and Housing Services was submitted. The Housing Planning and Performance Manager highlighted progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by elected Members.		
Decision		
To note the content of the report.		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.14	Communities and Economy Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20	Director, Education, Communities and Economy
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20 for Communities and Economy was submitted. The Director, Education, Communities and Economy highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by elected Members.</p>		
Decision		
To note the content of the report.		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.15	Education Q1 Performance Report 2019/20	Director, Education, Communities and Economy
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20 for Education was submitted. The report highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report.</p> <p>Thereafter the Director, Education, Communities and Economy responded to questions and comments raised by members.</p>		
Decision		
To note the content of the report.		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.16	Commercial Operations Q1 Performance Report 2019/20	Acting Director, Resources
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20 for Commercial Operations was submitted. The Acting Director, Resources highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by elected Members.</p>		
Decision		
To note the content of the report.		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.17	Finance and Integrated Service Support Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20	Acting Director, Resources
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Quarter1 Performance Report 2019/20 for Finance and Integrated Service Support was submitted. The Acting Director, Resources highlighted to the Cabinet the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by elected Members.</p>		
Decision		
To note the content of the report.		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.18	Property and Facilities Management Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/2020	Acting Director, Resources
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20 for Properties and Facilities Management was submitted. The Acting Director, Resources highlighted to the Cabinet the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed in the Report.</p> <p>Thereafter the Acting Director Resources responded to questions and comments raised by members of the Cabinet.</p>		
Decision		
To note the content of the report.		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.19	Midlothian Council Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20	Chief Executive
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20 for Midlothian Council was submitted detailing the delivery of Midlothian Council's priorities through the Community Planning Partnership and the Single Midlothian Plan.</p> <p>The Chief Executive highlighted the progress made to date and that a report on the Council's preparation for the UK withdrawal from the EU would be submitted to the October Council meeting thereafter answered questions raised by elected Members.</p>		
Decision		
<p>(a) To note that a report on the Council's preparation for the UK withdrawal from the EU would be submitted to the October Council meeting; and</p> <p>(b) To otherwise note the content of the report.</p>		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
5.20	Allowing Senior Pupils to Strike on Climate Change	Schools Group Manager
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The purpose of the report was to propose that Midlothian Council falls in line with other Local authorities allowing pupils from the senior phase in Secondary Schools, the option to attend one strike action day per academic session.</p> <p>The report advised that the next strike action on climate change was proposed to take place on 20 September 2019. Edinburgh City Council had already agreed that this day would be the best option for the authorised pupil engagement in strike action and there were no conflicts with exams or academic submissions. On 25 August, one Midlothian pupil from S4 wrote a letter expressing her concern for the impact of climate change, and that she was surprised that Midlothian Council had not issued a position as Edinburgh Council had. The letter showed that young people take this issue incredibly seriously.</p> <p>The proposal would allow senior phase pupils the option to take part in planned strike action for climate change on 20 September 2019, with secondary schools recording this as authorised absence. Letters would be issued to every senior phase pupil stating that if they wished to opt into strike action then their parents / carers must contact the school prior to the event, to give consent for their child to attend then this would be recorded as authorised absence.</p> <p>Parents would also agree to assume responsibility for the child's safety on the day of the strike action, and that no transport would be put in place from Midlothian Council. In addition if a pupil opted into any subsequent attendance at a climate strike event, then parents / carers must inform the school, however this would be recorded as unauthorised absence.</p> <p>The Director, Education, Communities and Economy was heard in amplification of the report after which there was a general discussion on this matter.</p>		
Decision		
<p>(a) To agree that senior phase pupils across Midlothian Secondary Schools were given the option to opt into one day of planned strike action on climate change; and</p> <p>(b) That one day per academic year could be recorded as authorised absence.</p>		
Action		
Director, Education, Communities and Economy		

Exclusion of Members of the Public

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Cabinet agreed that the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the undernoted items, as contained in the Addendum hereto, as there might be disclosed exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.1	Minute of Education Appointment Committee of 29 May 2019 – Depute Head Teacher, Beeslack High School	Acting Director, Resources
Decision		
Cabinet noted the appointment of L McGlade as detailed in the report.		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.2	Minute of Education Appointment Committee of 26 June 2019 – Depute Head Teacher St David's R.C. High School	Acting Director, Resources
Decision		
Cabinet noted the appointment of C Brown as detailed in the report.		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.3	Minute of Education Appointment Committee of 20 June 2019 – Depute Head Teacher (Excellence, Engagement and Equity), Lasswade High School	Acting Director, Resources
Decision		
Cabinet noted the appointment of C Jackson as detailed in the report.		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.4	Irrecoverable Debt Write-Off	Acting Head of Customer & Housing Services
Decision		
Authorise write-off for the irrecoverable debts as detailed within the report.		
Action		
Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support		

Agenda No	Report Title	Presented by:
6.5	Senior Leadership Review	Chief Executive
Decision		
Approve the recommendations contained within the report.		
Action		
Chief Executive		

The meeting terminated at 1.15pm.