

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN PERFORMANCE REVIEW

AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House,
Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Wednesday 6 March 2013 at 11.00 am.

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

Apology for Absence: Councillor Baxter.

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest were intimated.

2. 2012/13 Performance Reports – Quarter 3

There were submitted performance reports detailing progress of the Corporate Plan for the Council; and the plans for Customer Services ; Commercial Operations; Property and Facilities Management; Planning and Development; and Finance and Human Resources, for Quarter 3 2012/13. Each report contained a summary of the major successes achieved; the major challenges to be faced in 2012/13 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 the Council was on course to achieve its target of recycling 50% of all household waste, by the end of 2013;
- (b) To note that residents of Lugton Village Dalkeith continue to be kept informed of progress with remedial works planned for the A6106 at Lugton Brae, Dalkeith;
- (c) That officials investigate the provision of more informative signs in instances where roads needed to be closed and give an indication when such roads were likely to be re-opened;
- (d) To note that officials continue to monitor roads which could be affected by landslip in order that early remedial action can be taken and disruption minimised;
- (e) To note that the procedures to recover arrears of rent resulting from the under occupancy criteria to be introduced as part of Welfare Reform , with effect from 1 April 2013, could not differ from the standard procedure in force;

- (f) To note that advice continued to be made available to housing benefit recipients who were adversely affected by Welfare Reform , with a view to preventing tenants falling into arrears;
- (g) To note that the updated complaints procedure to be introduced with effect from 1 April 2013, would have the facility to capture information on repeat calls/contact from clients;
- (h) To note that work was progressing towards the completion of land transfer and Section 75 Agreements in respect of Shawfair, by the Summer of 2013;
- (i) To note that a Building Warrant had been granted to allow demolition of the former Bus Station, in Eskbank Road Dalkeith;
- (j) To recommend to Cabinet that a policy and an associated guidance document on community ownership be established;
- (k) To note that it was unlikely that the target for upgrades to Sport and leisure facilities would be achieved until a dispute with the design engineer in respect of remedial works to tubing slopes at Midlothian Snowsports centre, had been resolved; and
- (l) To otherwise note the reports.

(Action: (j) Head of Planning and Development)

The meeting terminated at 12.10pm