

**MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL CABINET** held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 13 November 2012 at 10.00 am.

**Present:-** Councillors Constable (Convener), Beattie, Bryant, Johnstone and Thompson.

**Religious Representative Present;-** Mrs M Harkness

**Apologies for Absence:-** Mr V Bourne and Mr P Hayes

**1 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were intimated.

**2 2012/2013 Performance Reports – Quarter 2**

There were submitted Performance Reports detailing the progress made in respect of the Corporate Plan for the Council and the Plans for Education; Children and Families; Communities and Support; Adult and Community Care; Housing and Community Safety; Customer Services; Commercial Operations; Property and Facilities Management; Planning and Development and Finance and Human Resources. Each report contained a summary of the major successes; the major challenges and the actions to address them; and the budget position and the impact of efficiencies. Thereafter, the Cabinet received verbal updates in respect of each of the reports.

**Decision**

- (a) To note that the exam results for the school year 2011/12 would become available in January 2013;
- (b) To note that educational attainment had continued to improve;
- (c) To note the establishment of the Midlothian Fire & Rescue and Police Board;
- (d) To note that work was progressing on addressing budget overspend in the provision of Adult and Community Care Services including discussions with external service providers and the possible increased use of Telecare packages;
- (e) To note that work in preparation for the Government's Welfare reform measures were well advanced with specific groups which may require assistance identified; the provision of assistance with form filling and advice on debt management;

- (f) To note that the management structures in respect of new Homes for Young Persons were being reviewed;
- (g) To note that a new principal Educational psychologist would commence duties in January 2013;
- (h) To note the high cost to the Council of placing children in secure accommodation or with foster carers outwith Midlothian and the intention to review procedures/practice with a view to earlier intervention, and thus obviating or reducing the need for secure accommodation or foster care placement;
- (i) To note the ongoing work with neighbouring authorities in relation to the provision of complex care packages for children;
- (j) To note that a report on the School estate would be submitted to the Council on 18 December 2012; and
- (j) To note that the new Lasswade High School remained on budget;

#### **Adjournment and Reconvention**

The meeting adjourned at 11.05 am and reconvened at 11.50 a.m. when there were present:-

Councillors:- Constable (Convener), Beattie, Bryant, Johnstone and Thompson.

The Cabinet resumed consideration of the performance reports referred to above and arising therefrom, agreed:-

- (k) To note that steps to redress the issue of the high number of abandoned calls to the Council's Call centre were in hand; and
- (l) To note that a further report on the introduction of a food Waste Collection Service would be submitted to the Council on 18 December 2012.

The meeting terminated at 12 noon.