

**MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL CABINET** held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 26 May 2015 at 9.00 am.

**Present:-** Councillors Bryant, Constable, Johnstone and Rosie.

**Apologies:-** Councillor Thompson(Convener): Mr. V Bourne and Mrs M Harkness (Religious Representatives).

**1 Chair**

In the absence of the Convener, Councillor Constable was appointed to the Chair.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were intimated.

**3 2014/2015 Performance Reports**

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 the failure to meet the targets set in respect of Sickness Absence and the payment of invoices and that measures to improve performance had been initiated;
- (b) To note the reduction in the average period to relet Council houses from 28 to 21 days and that this period was expected to reduce further once all tenants from Newbyres, Gorebridge had been relocated;
- (c) To note the initiatives being taken to obviate issues associated patient transport, including work with the Red Cross to supplement existing provisions;
- (d) To note the greater client input by clients into the utilisation and distribution of funds for Self Directed Support;
- (e) To note the progress made with the provision of pre- school education for two to five year olds, notwithstanding the refusal of the Department of Work and Pensions to release information to the Council for this purpose;

- (f) To note that the number of children on the Child Protection register was now below the Scottish average;
- (g) To note the reduction in the number of of “Looked After Children” notwithstanding a 23% increase in the number of referrals;
- (h) To note that the ballot on the Penicuik Business Improvement Bid would close on 27 May 2015;
- (i) To note the improvement in “Positive Destinations” statistics in respect of young people leaving secondary education with the Council now ranked seventh out of Scotland’s 32 local authorities;
- (j) To note that replacement schools at Newtongrange and Bilston remained on target to be provided by the Summer of 2016;
- (k) To note that revised procedures had been put in place to minimise the numbers of pupils excluded from schools;
- (l) To note that the School Catchment Review was six months behind schedule and that it was now intended to prioritise reviews with a view ensuring that reviews were completed for those areas where demographic pressures would be greatest by the Summer of 2016;
- (m) To note the continuing policy of inviting local companies to tender for works subject to the provisions of EU legislation;
- (n) To note that all Council Housing stock now met the Scottish Housing Quality Standard;
- (o) To note the improvement in performance at the Hillend Ski Centre; and
- (p) To otherwise note the reports.

The meeting terminated at 10.25 am.