

Midlothian Public Conveniences

Report by John Blair, Director, Resources

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to bring to the Cabinet's attention, recommendations from the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee in relation to public conveniences in Midlothian arising from the Cabinet's decisions on 28 May 2013.

2 Background

- 2.1** On 28 May 2013, the Cabinet considered a report by the Head of Property and Facilities Management on a review of Public Convenience provision. The Cabinet agreed:-

"To agree that option (b) as detailed above be approved and that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Council with regard to the resulting budget shortfall.*

**(b) Reduced Specification*

Continuing the service but with two cleaning operatives and one vehicle.

The cost implications of this option were as follows:-

	Approved Budget 2013/14	Required Budget 2013/14	Additional Budget Required	Approved Budget 2014/15	Required Budget 2014/15	Additional Budget Required 2014/15
Employee Costs	£45,000	£66,000	£21,000	£0	£44,000	£44,000
Premises	£16,000	£53,000	£37,000	£29,000	£53,000	£24,000
Transport	£0	£6,000	£6,000	£0	£4,000	£4,000
Supplies	£0	£1,000	£1,000	£0	£1,000	£1,000
Total Cost	£61,000	£126,000	£65,000	£29,000	£102,000	£73,000

This option would leave the Council with a forecast overspend of £65,000 in 2013/14 and £73,000 in 2014/15. This assumed a start date of 1 October 2013."

- 2.2** The Cabinet's decision was subsequently called in by the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee on the following grounds:-

“The undersigned wish to call in the whole decision of Cabinet Meeting on Tuesday 28 May in relation to Item 19: Midlothian Public Toilets. The reason is that we have concerns that the proposal to reduce the cleaning specification has not been adequately risk assessed.”

The effect of a call-in, is to freeze the Cabinet’s decision until the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee’s consideration of the issue and the consideration of any recommendations made by the Committee to the Cabinet. The call-in was considered by the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee on 4 June 2013 when the Committee agreed, as follows:-

“To recommend to the Cabinet:-

- (a) That a full risk assessment of implementing the Cabinet’s decision of 28 May 2013 be undertaken;*
- (b) That a full explanation be provided on how the reduction in staffing levels approved by the Cabinet, including the revised cleaning rota, can equate to no reduction in service;*
- (c) That it explain how the difference between the budget saving of £85,000 approved by the Council on 18 December 2012 and the budget saving of £20,000 approved by the Cabinet on 28 May 2013 would be achieved; and*
- (d) That it agrees to call for a report, encompassing the issues referred to in (a) – (c) be presented to the Council at the earliest opportunity.”*

3 Procedure

In terms of procedure, in the event that the Cabinet declines to accept any or all of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee’s recommendations, the matter shall continue to be frozen and referred *simpliciter* to the Council, for determination.

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising from this report. However, any changes to the existing situation may have resource implications which would need to be addressed.

4.2 Risk

There are no risk issues arising from this report.

4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

☐ Community safety

- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

4.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not Applicable

4.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not Applicable

4.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

There has been no direct consultation on the terms of this report with communities or stakeholders. The subject matter has been the subject of three petitions, two of which were considered by the Petitions Committee on 19 March 2013 and all three of which informed the report considered by the Cabinet on 28 May 2013.

4.7 Ensuring Equalities

Not applicable

4.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not Applicable

4.9 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising from this report.

5 Recommendations

The Cabinet is invited to consider the recommendations of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee

Date 31 July 2013

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Background Papers:

Declaration Box

Instructions: *This box must be completed by the author of the report. The box will be copied and saved by the Council Secretariat who will delete it from the report prior to photocopying the agenda.*

Title of Report:

Meeting Presented to:

Author of Report:

I confirm that I have undertaken the following actions before submitting this report to the Council Secretariat (Check boxes to confirm):-

- ☐ *All resource implications have been addressed. Any financial and HR implications have been approved by the Head of Finance and Human Resources.*
- ☐ *All risk implications have been addressed.*
- ☐ *All other report implications have been addressed.*
- ☐ *My Director has endorsed the report for submission to the Council Secretariat.*

For Cabinet reports, please advise the Council Secretariat if the report has an education interest. This will allow the report to be located on the Cabinet agenda among the items in which the Religious Representatives are entitled to participate.

Likewise, please advise the Council Secretariat if any report for Midlothian Council has an education interest. The Religious Representatives are currently entitled to attend meetings of the Council in a non-voting observer capacity, but with the right to speak (but not vote) on any education matter under consideration, subject always to observing the authority of the Chair.