

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN PERFORMANCE REVIEW

AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House,
Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Wednesday 5 September 2013 at 11.00 am.

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Montgomery, Rosie, Russell and de Vink

1. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest were intimated.

2. 2013/14 Performance Reports – Quarter 1

There were submitted Performance Reports for 2013/14 in respect of Midlothian 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 progress in delivering Strategic Outcomes; a summary of emerging challenges and risks; and recommendations in respect of changes to priorities. Thereafter, the Committee received verbal updates in respect of each of the reports.

Decision

- (a) To note that the Council will need to prepare for the duties which are likely to be placed upon it following enactment of the Children and Young People's Bill;
- (b) To note the initiatives being undertaken to improve the Council's performance in respect of positive destinations for young people leaving school;
- (c) To note the impact of Welfare Reform which had come into effect on 1 April 2013;
- (d) To note the continued need to press ahead with the Council Transformation Programme having regard to the ongoing restrictions in public spending;

- (e) To note the progress being made in introducing “superfast” broadband into Midlothian and given its importance to the economy of Midlothian, to establish a working Group consisting of Councillors Baxter, Muirhead and Wallace and the Head of Planning and Development , with a view to progressing the project to completion at the earliest possible time;
- (f) To note that the B**** at Temple had now been re-opened following remedial works;
- (g) To note that the Effective Working in Midlothian (EWIM) project was now progressing satisfactorily;
- (h) To note that the electronic issue of Committee papers etc would be addressed as part of the Electronic Document Records Management System (EDRMS);
- (i) To note that Hargreaves Services, successors to Scottish Coal, intended to pursue the application for Planning permission in respect of opencast mining of a site at Cauldhall Moor and that it was understood that it was still their intention to undertake re-instatement works at the Shewington/Newbigging opencast coal site;
- (j) Having noted the position with both the Regional Plan and the Local Plan in relation to the provision of land for housing and having regard to recent statements by the Minister for Local Government and Planning in that regard, to recommend to the Cabinet that they advise the Minister that Midlothian council has already made provision within the adopted local plan based on the Housing Demands and Needs Analysis and as such the Council see no need to allocate any additional land for this purpose in Midlothian either in the Regional Plan or in the Local Plan;
- (k) To note that alterations within Fairfield house, Dalkeith were due to be completed by 30 September 2013;
- (l) To note that the winter programme at Hillend Snowsports Centre was expected to proceed as planned;
- (m) To note that there were no zero hours contracts in operation within Sport and Leisure facilities at this time but these could be introduced in the longer term;

- (n) To note that given the similarities in design of the Lasswade High School Centre and the proposed replacement Newbattle High School, that this would assist in reducing the cost of architectural fees with the newbattle project; and
- (o) To approve the recommended changes in priorities as detailed in the respective reports.

(Action: (e) Head of Planning and Development; (j) Legal and Secretariat Manager).

The meeting terminated at 12.40 pm.