

Minute of Meeting



Cabinet

| Date | Time | Venue |
|--------------|----------|--------------------------|
| 07 June 2022 | 11.00 am | Held via Microsoft Teams |

Present:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Councillor Parry (Convener) | Councillor Alexander |
| Councillor Bowen | Councillor McKenzie |
| Councillor Scott | |

Religious Representatives:

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|----------------------|------------------------|
| Mrs Elizabeth Morton | Ms Anne Theresa-Lawrie |
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Also Present:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Councillor McCall | Councillor Pottinger |
| Councillor Winchester | |

In attendance:

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| Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive |
| Kevin Anderson, Executive Director Place |
| Fiona Robertson, Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships |
| Gary Fairley, Chief Officer Corporate Solutions |
| Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place |
| Myra Forsyth, Quality and Scrutiny Manager |
| Nick Clater, Head of Adult Services |
| Saty Kaur, Executive Business Manager |
| Marco Reece-Heal, Business Analyst |
| Andrew Henderson, Democratic Services Officer |

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received on behalf Vic Bourne (Religious Representative).

2 Order of Business

The Order of Business was as detailed within the Agenda.

3 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1 The Minute of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 08 March 2022 was submitted and noted.
- 4.2 The Action Log of the meeting of the Cabinet held on the 08 March 2022 was submitted, in reference to action point 4, Kevin Anderson highlighted that he had not written to the Scottish Government as there had been subsequent update to the guidance for COVID self-isolation grants which had been advertised accordingly. Kevin Anderson provided a further update in relation to action point 5 highlighting that the pay award had now been applied to the hourly rate.

5. Reports

| Agenda No. | Report Title | Presented by: |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| 5.1 | Membership, Terms of Reference and Allocation of Portfolios Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director, Place | Executive Director: Place |
| Outline of report and summary of discussion | | |
| The Executive Director: Place provided an overview of the Membership, Terms of Reference and Allocation of Portfolios Report. Councillor Parry took the opportunity to outline the Cabinet portfolios as listed in the report and continued to thank group leaders and fellow councillors for their continued work for the people of Midlothian. | | |
| Decision | | |
| a) Cabinet noted the membership and terms of reference. b) Cabinet confirmed the allocation of portfolios as listed in the report. | | |

| Agenda No. | Report Title | Presented by: |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| 5.2 | Adult Health and Social Care Annual Performance Report 2021/22 | Head of Adult Health and Social Care |
| Outline of report and summary of discussion | | |
| The Adult Health and Social Care Annual Performance Report 2021/22 was submitted. The Head of Adult Services Care highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as | | |

detailed within and thereafter answered questions raised by Elected Members.

In response to member's questions, Derek Oliver agreed to provide an update to the relevant ward members as to the timeframe for the reopening of Gorebridge Leisure Centre and ongoing repair works.

Nick Clater agreed to provide a more specific timescale for flats being built on Bonnyrigg High Street currently scheduled for mid-2023. In reference to the ongoing review of the Justice Specific Men's service, Nick Clater also agreed to provide an update in relation to early findings. Nick Clater also agreed to provide further details in relation to the number of FTE justice service staff employed through Midlothian Council and also look to details in relation to FTE staff employed by external partners.

Decision

- a) Derek Oliver to update ward members of timeframe for repairs at Gorebridge leisure centre to ward members.
- b) Nick Clater to provide further details in relation specific timescales for flats in Bonnyrigg.
- c) Nick Clater to feedback in relation to early findings from review from the Justice Men's service.
- d) Nick Clater to provide further details in relation to the number of FTE justice service staff employed through Midlothian Council and where possible to provide details in relation to FTE staff employed by external partners.
- e) To otherwise note the contents of the report.

| Agenda No. | Report Title | Presented by: |
|------------|--|---|
| 5.3 | Children Services, Partnership and Communities Annual Performance Report 2021/22 | Executive Director: Children, Young People and Partnerships |

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Children's Services, Partnership and Communities Annual Performance Report 2021/22 was submitted. The Executive Director: Children, Young People and Partnerships highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and provided a summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by Elected Members.

A discussion ensued in relation to the Edinburgh Colleges decision to move ASN courses away from the Dalkeith Campus. Fiona Robertson outlined that 10 students had been impacted, that she was currently working with Edinburgh College to understand the rationale behind the move. Fiona Robertson further highlighted that she was working with local schools to arrange transportation and to explore the possibility of alternative pathways. Fiona Robertson acknowledged the cancelation of a construction course and that she was in discussions with the Edinburgh College Group in relation to possible alternatives. Fiona Robertson advised that she had reached out to Edinburgh College in relation to the curriculum and communications and that alternative options were being explored to allow Edinburgh College to use Midlothian Council facilities.

Fiona Robertson confirmed that she had spoken with a number of staff and young people as part of an evaluation of the 12 hour on, 12 hour off work pattern for Children's care staff and had received positive responses.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

| Agenda No. | Report Title | Presented by: |
|------------|---|------------------------------|
| 5.4 | Corporate Solutions Annual Performance Report 2021/22 | Executive Director: Place |

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Corporate Solutions Annual Performance Report 2021/22 was submitted. With reference to the slide deck, the Executive Director Place highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and made reference to Izzie Allan who had recently been recognised for her efforts in providing library Services and thereafter answered questions raised by elected members. On behalf of the administration Cllr Parry offered congratulations to Izzie Allan for her recognition. Officers then responded to points of clarity.

Kevin Anderson requested that he be provided with further details offline in relation to Midlothian residents who had not been able to register to pay council tax online so the he could track back.

A discussion ensued in relation to the Scotland Excel Framework. Gary Fairley agreed to circulate the annual highlight report to members and agreed to provide specific examples of how better value for money had been achieved. Kevin Anderson also agreed to provide figures in relation the percentage increase in procurement spend on local enterprise across 2018/19 and 2019/20.

With regard to whether housing strategy was able to match projected population increases, Kevin Anderson confirmed that there is currently a shortfall and that the local housing strategy would be set up to meet this and acknowledged that a paper would be brought to Council around October or November outlining the plan going forward. Kevin Anderson also agreed to pick up specific details in relation to Scottish Welfare Crisis grant offline.

In response to a question as to whether under 21 free bus cards could be combined with Student Cards, Kevin Anderson agreed to explore the possibility.

In relation to the number of local companies that had registered with Scotland excel, Kevin Anderson agreed to provide exact figures. Derek Oliver highlighted that the Local Procurement Strategy had also been approved which offered a further platform for local businesses.

Decision

- a) Scotland Excel Highlight report to be circulated to members.
- b) Figures to be provided in relation to the percentage increase in procurement spend on local enterprise across 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- c) Kevin Anderson also agreed to pick up specific details in relation to Scottish Welfare Crisis grant offline.

- d) Explore the possibility of combining Under 21 free bus travel cards and Student Cards.
- e) Provision of figures in relation to the local procurement strategy.
- f) To otherwise note the content of the report.

| Agenda No. | Report Title | Presented by: |
|---|---|---|
| 5.5 | Education Annual Performance Report 2021/22 | Executive Director: Children, Young People and Partnerships |
| Outline of report and summary of discussion | | |
| The Education, Performance Report Quarter Annual report was submitted. The Executive Director: Children, Young People and Partnerships highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and thereafter answered questions raised by Elected Members. | | |
| Decision | | |
| To note the contents of the report. | | |

12:08 Cllr Scott left the meeting

| Agenda No. | Report Title | Presented by: |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| 5.6 | Place Annual Performance Report 2021/22 | Executive Director: Place |
| Outline of report and summary of discussion | | |
| <p>The Place, Performance Annual Report was submitted. With reference to the slide deck included as an appendix to the report, the Executive Director: Place highlighted the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report. A general discussion ensued and officers responded to points of clarity with regard to the cost of temporary accommodation in relation to personal finances, the allocation of Passivehaus sites for council housing, the bid to have a Passivehaus factory in Midlothian and the reasoning for 1% of council houses falling into disrepair. Members also took the opportunity to congratulate Derek Oliver in the awarding of the Green flag.</p> <p>In response to a question in relation to the impact of Brexit on school buildings and whether this had an impact on the delivery timescale for Beeslack High School, Kevin Anderson advised that a piece was being brought to BTSG with regard to inflationary pressures on the building estate and that a report would be submitted to June Council in relation to Beeslack high school.</p> <p>With reference volume of local businesses that have been taken through as part of the local procurement aspect of the economic development service, Derek Oliver agreed to provide further feedback to ensure numbers were captured.</p> <p>With regard to the average time for non-emergency repairs and how this could be brought in line with neighbouring local authorities, Derek Oliver confirmed that a paper would be submitted to BTSG and acknowledged that with regard to the review of building maintenance services that although the current year looked</p> | | |

poorer, COVID restrictions the year prior needed to be taken into account.

Derek Oliver provided a brief overview in relation to fleet maintenance services, making reference to staff retention and the sector wide challenges of attracting new staff in addition to further work being undertaken to ensure the hybridisation of the vehicle fleet and the upskilling of workers. Derek Oliver agreed to provide a more detailed overview to Councillor Alexander offline.

Decision

- a) Paper to be submitted to BTSG in relation to the impacts on inflationary impacts on Building estate.
- b) Paper in to be submitted to June Council in relation to Beeslack High School.
- c) Paper to be submitted to BTSG in relation to Building Maintenance Services.
- d) Derek Oliver to provide Cllr Alexander with an overview in relation to garage and the hybridisation of the vehicle fleet and upskilling of workers.
- e) To otherwise note the contents of the report.

| Agenda No. | Report Title | Presented by: |
|--|--|-----------------|
| 5.7 | Midlothian Council Annual Performance Report 2021/22 | Chief Executive |
| Outline of report and summary of discussion | | |
| The Chief Executive Officer was heard in amplification of the Midlothian Council Annual Performance report 2021/22. Making reference to the strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and took the opportunity congratulate the cabinet on assuming their new roles. | | |
| Decision | | |
| To note the contents of the report. | | |

| Agenda No. | Report Title | Presented by: |
|--|---|-----------------|
| 5.8 | Balanced Scorecard Indicators Annual Report 2021/22 | Chief Executive |
| Outline of report and summary of discussion | | |
| The Chief Executive Officer Balanced Scorecard Indicators Annual Report 2021/22. Making reference to the strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed within the report and took the opportunity to thank staff for their outstanding work throughout the year. | | |
| Decision | | |
| To note the contents of the report. | | |

6 Private Reports

No private business was discussed.

7 Date of the Next

Tuesday 6 September 2022 at 11 am.

The meeting terminated at 12:47