

Minute of Meeting



Special Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee

Date	Time	Venue
7 September 2016	11am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Milligan (Chair)	Councillor Baxter
Councillor Imrie	Councillor Muirhead
Councillor Pottinger	Councillor Russell
Councillor Wallace	

In attendance:

Kenneth Lawrie	Chief Executive
Grace Vickers	Head of Education
Alison White	Head of Adult and Social Care
Kevin Anderson	Head of Housing and Customer Services
Joan Tranent	Head of Children's Services
Ian Johnson	Head of Communities and Economy
Janet Ritchie	Democratic Service Officer

1 Apologies

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Bennett, Coventry, de Vink, Montgomery and Young.

2 Order of Business

The order of business was agreed with the Chair and amended as detailed below.

3 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

4 Public Reports

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
4.6	Education Performance Report Q1 2016/17	The Head of Education

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Head of Education presented the Quarter 1 2016/17 Performance Report for Education to the Committee highlighting that this quarter concentrates on the strategic direction for 2016/17 to create a world-class education system here in Midlothian focussing on four main priorities: Early Years; Sustained Positive Destinations; Lifelong Learning and Employability and the implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

The Emerging Challenges and Risks highlighted included: implementation of the Named Person; securing Teacher Numbers; Implementation of the New Education (Scotland) Act 2015 and to continue to progress Delivering Excellence and the budget savings required over the course of 2016/17 and beyond.

Thereafter the Head of Education responded to comments and questions raised by Member's which included:

- The delay in the implementation of the Named Person by the Scottish Government.
- The roll out of the Dashboard to Head Teachers which will allow them to monitor attendance and performance issues as well as management.
- An explanation on the data showing 'off target' for the 'eligible two year olds'.
- The early years, 3-5 year olds and the increase in the hours provided and how this can be achieved.

Decision

- To note the positive report.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
4.1	Midlothian Council Performance Report Q1 2016/17	The Chief Executive

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Chief Executive presented the Quarter 1 2016/17 Performance Report for Midlothian Council to the Committee highlighting the three top priorities for 2016-19, a summary of the emerging challenges as detailed in the report and also reported that Midlothian has its highest recorded sustained positive destinations to date and is 1.0% higher than the national average.

The 2015/16 plan year saw the end of a 3 year cycle of prioritising working together to improve outcomes for young people leaving school, improve lives of children in early years and their families, and improve the local economy. These priorities will continue to be further developed in 2016-19.

The Community Planning Partnership undertook a review and engagement process in 2015/16 resulting in changed priorities for the next three years 2016-19. Taking into consideration evidence about the comparative quality of life of people living in Midlothian, it is clear that less well off residents experience poorer health, have fewer or no choices in how they use low incomes, and also that there is a proven relationship between these factors and their learning. As a result the top three priorities for 2016-19 are:

- Reducing the gap in learning outcomes
- Reducing the gap in health outcomes
- Reducing the gap in economic circumstances

Thereafter the Chief Executive responded to comments and questions raised by Members which included:

- Issues around the Borders Railway.
- The financial challenges and the governance and timetable as agreed at the June Council.
- 'Shaping our Future' consultation document.

Decision

- To note the report

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
4.2	Adult Health and Social Care Performance Report Quarter 1 2016/17	The Head of Adult and Social Care

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Head of Adult and Social Care presented the Quarter 1 2016/17 Performance Report for Adult Health and Social Care to the Committee highlighting the change in local management with two joint Heads of Service with responsibility for Primary Care and Older People, and Adult Services.

The Head of Adult and Social Care provided details on the progress in key areas and a summary of the emerging challenges as detailed in the Report and thereafter responded to comments and questions raised by Member's which included:

- The reduction in funding for Alcohol and Substance Misuse across the Service and how this is getting addressed.
- The Recovery Cafe and Health Centre pilot work and the support this provides.
- Funding across the service and a small core group pulling together all information on this funding and looking at what areas need to be developed.

Decision

- To provide feedback at the next meeting on the analysis of the funding across the service.
- To otherwise note the report

Action

Head of Adult and Social Care

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
4.3	Customer and Housing Services Performance Report Q1 2016/17	The Head of Customer and Housing Services

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Head of Customer and Housing Services presented the Quarter 1 2016/17 Performance Report for Customer and Housing Services to the Committee highlighting the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and a summary of the emerging challenges as detailed in the Report.

Thereafter the Head of Customer and Housing Services responded to comments and questions raised by Member's around the issues regarding homelessness and accommodation.

Decision

- To note the report

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
4.4	Children's Services Performance Report Quarter 1 2016/17	The Head of Children's Services

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Head of Children's Services presented the Quarter 1 2016/17 Performance Report for Children's Services to the Committee highlighting the key priorities including the progress of the Children Services review and informing the Committee that Midlothian has been successful in being selected as only one of four test sites within Scotland to join the Permanence and Care Excellence Programme (PACE).

The Head of Children's Services also provided a summary of the emerging challenges as detailed in the Report.

Decision

- To note the report.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
4.5	Communities and Economy Performance Report Quarter 1 2016/17	The Head of Communities and Economy

Outline of report and summary of discussion

The Head of Communities and Economy presented the Quarter 1 2016/17 Performance Report for Communities and Economy highlighting to the Committee the progress in the delivery of strategic outcomes and summary of the emerging challenges as detailed in the Report.

Thereafter the Head of Communities and Economy responded to comments and questions raised by Member's including:

- EU Leader programme and the commitment on finance.
- Broadband providers

Decision

- To note the report

5 Private Reports

No private business submitted to this meeting.

The meeting terminated at 12:55