

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN PERFORMANCE REVIEW

AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Wednesday 27 November 2013 at 11.00 am.

Present: Councillors Muirhead, (Chair), Bennett, Imrie, Pottinger, Rosie, Russell and Wallace.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Baxter and Milligan.

1 Chair

In the absence of Councillor Milligan, Councillor Muirhead was appointed to the Chair.

2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

3 2012/13 SPI Results and Revised National Dataset

There was submitted report, dated 21 October 2013, by the Executive Officer, Business Transformation, presenting the Statutory Performance Indicator comparison results for 2012/13. The report advised that overall, in 2012/13, the Council's performance had improved with a higher percentage of indicators in the top two quartiles than in 2011/12 (31% and 33% respectively).

Decision

- (a) To note that future year's comparisons would be on the basis of benchmarking criteria developed by SOLACE which would compare Councils with similar populations; demographics; geographical features etc;
- (b) To note the improvement in Council Tax collection of 0.3%; and
- (c) To otherwise note the report.

Sederunt

Councillor Rosie joined the meeting during discussion of the foregoing item of business (11.20 am).

4 2013/14 Performance Reports – Quarter 2

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; and Finance and Human Resources. Each report contained a summary of the progress in delivering Strategic Outcomes; and a summary of emerging challenges and risks. Thereafter, the Committee received verbal updates in respect of each of the reports.

Decision

- (a) To note that the Council continued to meet recycling targets;
- (b) To note that work to provide a food waste plant was scheduled to commence in the Spring of 2014 and that a detailed progress report in this respect would be submitted to the Council on 17 December 2013;
- (c) To note that officials were investigating the provision of LED street lighting throughout Midlothian and which would be the subject of a report in due course;
- (d) That, having regard to (c) above, the Head of Planning and Development investigate whether the provision of LED street lighting could be a standard condition in any planning consent for major developments;
- (e) To note that Police Scotland intended to discontinue providing traffic warden services and that a report on the possibility of introducing a decriminalised parking scheme administered by the Council would be submitted in early course;
- (f) To note the substantial increase in rent arrears following the introduction of Welfare Reform;
- (g) To note that 48 tenants had been affected by the benefit cap introduced as part of Welfare Reform;
- (h) To note that there had been 369 disbursements from the Scottish Welfare Fund totalling £135,000;
- (i) To note that the rules on eligibility criteria in respect of the Scottish Welfare Fund had been relaxed to encourage further applications;
- (j) To note that a report on new rules in respect of the Code of Corporate Connection, which prevented the use of personal computers to undertake Council work, would be submitted to the Council on 17 December 2013;
- (k) To note that the "Purchase to Pay" project was on schedule and would be extended to schools in 2014;
- (l) To note that tenders for the next housing developments to be constructed in phase 2 of the Council's Social Housing Programme were planned to be received in quarter 4;

- (m) To note that trainers and coaches in Leisure Centres had now been placed on annualised hours contracts;
- (n) To note that new drainage had now been installed at the Midlothian SnowSports Centre;
- (o) To note the continuing efforts being made to streamline processes associated with “HUBCO” contracts; and
- (p) To otherwise note the reports.

(Action: (d) Head of Planning and Development)

Sederunt

Councillor Pottinger left the meeting during discussion of the foregoing business (12.01 pm).

The meeting terminated at 12.45 pm.