

MINUTES of MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL held in the Council

Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 24 March

2015 at 2.00pm.

Present:- Provost Wallace, Depute Provost Coventry, Councillors Baxter, Beattie, Bennett, Bryant, Constable, de Vink, Imrie, Johnstone, Milligan, Muirhead, Pottinger, Rosie, Russell, Thompson and Young and Mr V Bourne and Mrs M Harkness.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Montgomery and Mr P Hayes.

1 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Young, Baxter and Thompson all declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item 7 - Pre-Election Publicity Guidance (paragraph 6 below refers), on the grounds that they were all prospective candidates in the forthcoming General Election. They indicated that it was their intention to leave the meeting for the duration of this particular item and not to contribute to any discussion thereof. Councillor Muirhead as election agent for one of the prospective candidates also declared a non pecuniary interest in this agenda item, indicating that it was his intention to do likewise and leave the meeting for the duration of this particular item and not to contribute to any discussion thereof.

2 Minutes of Council

The Minutes of Meeting of Midlothian Council of 17 February 2015 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

With regards the Financial Strategy 2015/16 to 2017/18 (paragraph 18, pages 1-850 to 1-853, refers) and in response to a question from Councillor Milligan regarding budget provision for the former Bonnyrigg Leisure Centre, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Thompson advised that it would be contained within the budget for the Lasswade Centre and sale of Cockpen.

3 Other Meetings

The undernoted Minutes of Meetings were submitted. The Council noted the Minutes and approved the recommendations contained therein: -

Meeting	Date
Cabinet	13 January 2015
Planning Committee	13 January 2015
General Purposes Committee	6 January 2015
Local Review Body	20 January 2015

Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee	20 January 2015
Audit Committee	3 February 2015
Midlothian Safer Communities Board	2 December 2014

4 Questions to Leader of the Council

It was noted that no questions to the Leader of the Council had been received.

5 Notices of Motions

Before moving to the Notices of Motion, the Provost drew to the Council's attention that the Penicuik High School senior football team had qualified for the final of the Scottish Senior Shield and that with Council's agreement he would like to write to the team and coaches congratulating them on this remarkable achievement, and this was agreed.

(Action: Provost)

(a) 30th Anniversary of the end of the Miners' dispute

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillor Wallace, countersigned by Councillor Bryant, as follows:-

"On the 3rd March 1985, the historic and heroic year long miners' dispute came to an end. Brutalised and beaten into submission by the UK establishment, the miners went back to their pits with their heads held high. However, their hopes for a better, fairer future for their families and communities at the start of the dispute were bitterly shattered.

This Council acknowledges the hardship faced by the miners of Midlothian in their struggle for survival against the onslaught of a Tory Government, for whom the people of Scotland did not vote, determined to not only beat the miners but their wives and children too by denying them welfare benefits.

We recognise the contribution miners and coal made to the economy of Midlothian and Scotland and we note that in 2013, of the 60million tons of coal used in the UK, 50million tons were imported from countries where the Health & Safety of the miners is not always of top importance."

The Council thereafter heard from Councillors Wallace and Bryant who in moving and seconding the motion respectively, both made mention of the work undertaken by Kenny MacAskill, a young lawyer at the time, who had been instrumental in having access to welfare benefits restored.

The Council then heard from Councillor Bennett who, having advised that he would not be opposing the motion but didn't think it went far enough, tabled and moved the following amendment to the motion:-

“Midlothian Council calls on the Scottish Government to agree to a Hillsborough-style Inquiry into the policing in Scotland during the 1984-85 Miners’ Strike, in light of the new evidence under the 30 year rule.”

Councillor Russell seconded the amendment.

Followed discussion, Council unanimously agreed to accept both the motion and the amendment, and in addition noted that the Provost would write to Kenny MacAskill thanking him for the role he had played in getting welfare benefits restored to striking miners families.

(Action: Provost)

(b) Equality in Politics

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillor Johnstone, countersigned by Councillor Rosie, as follows:-

“Midlothian Council supports the widely held belief that everyone should welcome and foster the equal participation of women in Scottish politics and that sexism should end now. For those of us who believe democracy is important, women should be encouraged to participate in politics and in order to be fully engaged support and respect is necessary.

Furthermore female politicians should be able to carry out their duties without being targeted by sexist or personal abuse.

Empirically many reasons reported for a lack of female representation in politics are issues such as long hours and a lack of opportunity to balance family life along with the challenges of working in a male dominated profession.

Midlothian Council believes that representation and participation in politics from women should be valued, embraced and fully encouraged.”

The Council thereafter heard from Councillors Johnstone and Rosie who moved and seconded the motion respectively.

Following discussion, the Council unanimously agreed to approve the motion.

(c) Support for Gala Days

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillor Thompson, countersigned by Councillor Constable, as follows:-

“The Council agrees to suspend Standing Orders in order to consider the following:-

Council agrees to recognise the unique position of Gala days and Community events in the Towns and villages of Midlothian; notes the potential for these events to be included in greater community decision making; and as such agrees to reinstate grants to these events at two thirds of the 2014 level as a transitional measure.”

Having unanimously agreed to suspend Standing orders for this particular item, the Council heard from Councillor Milligan who indicated that advice had been sought from the Monitoring Officer as regards the eligibility of the those Members who were actively involved with their local gala day committees to participate in the debate and that it had been confirmed that it was okay for them to do so as long as they didn't make direct reference to an individual group or organisation.

The Monitoring Officer provided confirmation of this advising that although Members could comment on the overall process and strategic approach being taken, that to comment on any specific individual organisation's application could prevent them from participating in any future consideration thereof.

Thereafter, Councillor Thompson moved, and Councillor Constable seconded, the motion.

The Council then heard from Councillor Young who tabled and moved the following amendment to the motion:-

"After "greater community decision making" delete to end and replace with ; and as such agrees to fully reinstate grants to these events at the 2014 level. Moreover, that this reinstatement of funds should remain in place for subsequent years, not simply in years where there is a General Election."

Councillor Milligan seconded the amendment.

In the course of ensuing debate reference was made to the unique position enjoyed by Gala days and Community events in Midlothian and the continued need to support them was accepted, however agreement could not be reached on the best means of achieving this.

Thereafter a vote was taken on the matter when 7 members voted for the amendment and 9 for the motion which accordingly became the decision of the Council.

Councillor Baxter requested that his abstention from voting be noted.

(Action: Joint Director, Health and Social Care)

(d) Umbrella Companies

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillor Pottinger, countersigned by Councillor Young, as follows:-

"This Council condemns the exploitation of workers through the use of so-called "umbrella companies" involving zero hours with exclusivity clauses, the payment by workers of employers' NI contributions, the rolling-up of holidays to deny paid leave and the use of expenses and Performance Related Pay as so-called pay supplements.

This Council recognises that, whilst the practice is particularly prevalent in the construction industry, where blacklisting and the exploitation of bogus self-employment has been a long standing concern of the trade union movement, there is a real danger that the exploitation of workers through umbrella companies could spread to other sectors.

This Council is particularly concerned that workers engaged to work on public sector contracts may be subjected to exploitation through umbrella companies.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To instruct the appropriate council officials to investigate and report back on the potential use of umbrella contracts on council related contracts;*
- If it is found that umbrella companies are involved in the delivery of such contracts, to review the terms of contracts in which the council is involved with a view to securing direct employment, with full employment rights, for workers engaged on such contracts; and*
- To communicate the council's concerns regarding the use of umbrella companies in Scotland to the Scottish Government, urging the Scottish Government to introduce measures to address the use of umbrella companies in public sector procurement rules and processes."*

The Council thereafter heard from Councillors Pottinger and Young who moved and seconded the motion respectively.

Following discussion, the Council unanimously agreed to approve the motion.

(Action: Director, Resources)

Sederunt

With reference to item 1 above, Councillors Young, Baxter, Thompson and Muirhead all left the meeting at this stage (2.51pm).

6 Pre-Election Publicity Guidance

With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minutes of Meeting of 5 November 2013, there was submitted report, dated 11 March 2015, by the Chief Executive, inviting the Council to approve guidance on publicity in the approach to the General Election on 7 May 2015.

The report explained that the guidance had been updated to incorporate lessons learned from the European Parliament election, the Independence Referendum and the Midlothian East by-election all held last year. The guidance also sought to distinguish the actions of councillors as elected members and as candidates in the General Election. A copy of the amended guidance was appended to the report.

Decision

- (a) To approve the Pre-Election Publicity Guidance; and
- (b) To agree that the Guidance take effect from the date of today's Council meeting.

(Action: Chief Executive)

Sederunt

Councillors Young, Baxter, Thompson and Muirhead all rejoined the meeting at this stage (2.54 pm)

7 People Strategy 2015-17

There was submitted report, dated 16 March 2015, by the Chief Executive, seeking Council's approval of the People Strategy 2015-2017. A copy of the Strategy was appended to the report.

The report advised that the People Strategy 2015-17 had been developed by reviewing evidence gathered from the Employee Survey results, employee engagement sessions, the Leadership Pathway programme, and external assessments of the Council's performance. Focus groups involving managers and employees had been use of to refine the key themes and priorities. Ongoing discussions had also taken place with the Trade Unions. The strategy aimed to support the new management and organisational structures providing an opportunity for new ways of working with a strong emphasis on the employee proposition: The experience offered by us as an employer in exchange for the productivity and performance of an employee - 'The Give and the Get'

The report further advised that the new strategy had a stronger emphasis on outcomes and business results and had three key strategic purposes;

Attract, engage and retain our workforce: including strengthening the Council's recruitment strategy, actively planning for succession as part of workforce development and supporting employee engagement and productivity. The right culture creates opportunities and greater empowerment of the lowest paid employees and opportunities to enhance their prospects through learning and development and career progression.

Make sure our organisation is fit for the future: including integration and partnership working, strengthening the Making Performance Matter outcomes and a focus on culture change through great leadership.

Develop our talent: includes identifying leadership talent and strengthening succession planning opportunities. As well as developing a coaching approach across the organisation and encouraging a mentoring approach to increase leadership effectiveness.

Decision

Having heard from the Chief Executive, the Council agreed:-

- (a) To note the strategic aims of the People Strategy 2015-17 as set out in the report and outlined above; and
- (b) To approve the People Strategy 2015-17.

(Action: Chief Executive)

8 City Deal for Edinburgh City Region: Progress Update

With reference to paragraph 19 of the Minutes of Meeting of 16 December 2014, there was submitted report, dated 6 March 2015, by the Chief Executive, providing an update on progress being made in the preparation of a bid for a City Deal for the Edinburgh City Region.

The report advised that since reporting to Council in December progress by the six participating Councils had been rapid in order to meet the timetable for submitting a first stage bid for a City Deal for the Edinburgh City Region. The economic benefits to the City Region and to each of the Councils were potentially very substantial. Therefore it was clearly in the interests of Midlothian to be a part of the City Deal. There were financial implications which need to be carefully considered, and these could form more detailed considerations in any second stage more detailed set of proposals.

Decision

- (a) To note the further progress towards submission of a City Deal bid for the Edinburgh City Region;
- (b) To authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council Leader, to act on behalf of the Council in agreeing the terms of the first stage City Deal bid submission; and
- (c) To receives further reports on the outcome of the first stage bid and any other matters relevant to City Deal.

(Action: Head of Communities and Economy)

9 Integration of Health and Social Care: Integration Schemes

With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minutes of Meeting of 16 December 2014, there was submitted report, dated 3 March 2015, by the Joint Director, Health and Social Care, inviting the Council to approve, for submission to Scottish Government, the Midlothian Integration Scheme required in Lothian to establish the Integration Joint Boards. A copy of the proposed Integration Scheme was appended to the report.

The report reminded Members of the legislative requirements for the Council and NHS Lothian to submit an Integration Scheme to Scottish Government; and provided further information on the amendments that had been to the original Integration Scheme approved by Council on 16 December 2014 as a result of the consultation exercise and further guidance from Scottish Government. Following submission to, and consideration by, Scottish Government it was anticipated that the new arrangements for the Midlothian IJB would go live in late June/early July 2015.

Decision

- (a) To approve the Midlothian Integration Scheme for final approval to submit to Scottish Government;
- (b) To agree to delegate school nursing and health visiting to Midlothian IJB in the first phase rather than phase two as had been originally planned;
- (c) To agree that if amendments were required to be made to the Integration Scheme by Scottish Government after submission, that these changes can be authorised by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council Leader, on behalf of the Council; and
- (d) To agree to the undernoted actions to ensure that the IJB members were involved in overseeing the carrying out of integration functions, viz:-
 - (i) The terms of reference and membership of the relevant committees of the parties shall be reviewed, and the IJB will be consulted as part of this process (and all future reviews); and
 - (ii) In order to develop a sustainable long term solution for the oversight of the integration functions by the IJBs, a working party will be convened, with membership from all four Lothian IJBs and the parties. This working party will develop recommendations for approval by the Lothian IJBs.

(Action: Joint Director, Health and Social Care)

10 Midlothian Council Care at Home Tender Exercise

There was submitted report, dated 2 March 2015, by the Joint Director, Health and Social Care, advising of the outcome of the tender exercise for the procurement of Care at Home services for Older People and the implications of implementation of the new contracts and transition process.

The report explained that for the purposes of the tender, Midlothian was split into three Geographical areas, with contracts being awarded as follows:-

Area	Provider
East	Care UK
Central	Aspire
West	Mears Care

Key factors incorporated into the new contracts to ensure quality and consistency of service and seek to achieve a confident, competent and stable workforce to be able to respond effectively to the needs of older people in the community now and in the future, included:

- Guaranteed minimum hours for all care at home workers
- Minimum of the “living wage” for all staff
- Travel time for carers out of the working week & travel expenses awarded.

Since the completion of the tender exercise and the award of the contracts, the following activities had been undertaken:

- Weekly meetings were in place with all providers from existing and new contract to work through the transition phase.
- All service users had been contacted to advise that the contracts had been awarded and if they were likely to have a new provider, and encouraging them to get in touch if they had any queries.
- All relevant staff had been briefed on the outcome of tender process and provided with Frequently Asked Questions to guide responses to service user queries.

Decision

To note the progressive approach being taken in adopting a commissioning approach that seeks to create a sustainable and valued workforce in the private sector to better meet the needs of the Council’s clients.

(Action: Joint Director, Health and Social Care)

11 Food Waste Collection Service

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Addendum to the Minutes of Meeting of 8 January 2013, there was submitted report, dated 5 March 2015, by the Head of Commercial Operations, providing Council with details of the proposed food waste collection service being planned for introduction by December 2015.

The report summarised the Legislative Framework and the experience of those Councils who had already commenced a separate food waste collection service giving details of the average collection weights and presentation rates, and the types of vehicle and various route/crew sizes utilised.

The report went on to explain that based on this information, it was proposed that the food waste collection service in Midlothian would be best served by adopting 4 routes with a driver plus 2 loaders and average round sizes of 2,000 households per vehicle. A fifth vehicle would be purchased to allow for repairs and breakdowns and cover. At this stage outlying areas with a rural post code would not initially be provided with a food waste collection service. The intention would however be to review collections in due course with the potential for all areas to be included at some point in the future. The intended timetable for the introduction of the food waste collection service, together with details of the planned promotional work which would be undertaken were also detailed.

The Council, having heard from the Head of Commercial Operations who responded to Members questions, welcomed the proposals. It was felt that in devising the collection routes it would be beneficial if consideration could be given to the possible inclusion of any rural communities en route to the Food Waste facility at Millerhill and also single days for presentation.

Decision

To agree the arrangements being put in place to allow for the introduction of a new food waste collection service at the end of 2015 as set out in the report.

(Action: Head of Commercial Services)

12 Universal Credit in Midlothian

With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minutes of the Cabinet of 3 March 2015, there was submitted report, dated 6 March 2015, by the Joint Director, Health and Social Care, providing an update on the key issues related to the introduction of Universal Credit in April, 2015 as part of a tranche roll out. Midlothian Council was included in the first Tranche for roll out during February – May, 2015, with an implementation date of 27 April, 2015.

The report explained that Midlothian Council administered Housing Benefit at present on behalf of the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) and had been responsible for implementing changes and charges locally. Universal Credit would be administered directly by DWP.

Universal Credit was a new single benefit that would apply to people of working age only. Only New Claimants would be affected who were:

- Single persons with no dependants
- Unemployed and considered fit for work
- Not in temporary accommodation
- Not owner occupiers

It replaced a number of existing benefits including:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-based Employment Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit

The report advised that the Council, DWP and key partners are continuing to collaborate over “Universal Support Delivered Locally” to

- Provide customers with digital advice and inclusion options
- Budgeting advice
- Support and training
- Employability Initiatives and support for those moving into work and up - skilling

The Council, having heard from the Joint Director, Health and Social Care, considered the issues arising from the move to Universal Credit and the challenges it posed to both the Council and the individuals likely to end up in receipt of it. Concerns were expressed regarding the level of information being provided by DWP and whether the necessary arrangements could be put in place in time to allow the transition to take place. Based on the evidence available to date it appeared that this was highly unlikely in spite of the best efforts of the Council staff and voluntary partners.

Decision

- (a) To note the update on the preparation work done to date related to Universal Credit;
- (b) To note that a Delivery Partnership Agreement is in place with DWP to deliver advice assistance and personal budgeting support to claimants in Midlothian;
- (c) To note the resource implications and risks as outlined in the report;
- (d) To note that the Welfare Reform Working Group will continue to monitor and report to Council accordingly as more information becomes available regarding Universal Credit implementation and its outcomes; and
- (e) To agree to write to the Minister highlighting the Council's concerns and seeking a delay, or even a stop, to the introduction of Universal Credit.

(Action: Head of Customer and Housing Services)

13 Participatory Budgeting in Midlothian

There was submitted report, dated 24 March 2015, by the Director, Education, Communities and Economy, providing background information on Participatory Budgeting and making recommendations for the next steps in further developing the approach in Midlothian.

The report explained the positive potential for participatory budgeting to support the shift in the relationship between the public and the public service providers was large, and was in line with the direction of national policy including the forthcoming Community Empowerment Act. Feedback from national and local pilots, academic presentations and examples of practice indicated that a careful well planned approach would be required.

Having heard from the Director, Education, Communities and Economy, the Council were supportive of a proposed model being developed by Officers in conjunction with the Community Planning partnership for further consideration. One area of concern to some Members was the proposed use of the Councillors' area improvement budgets, which were felt to be important in their own right, and should be retained.

Decision

- (a) To note developments nationally in respect of community empowerment and participatory budgeting;
- (b) To note that officers would develop a proposed model for participatory budgeting over the 2015/16 budget year, in partnership with other Community Planning partners as appropriate, with a view to further consideration being given to the introduction a pilot from April 2016; and
- (c) To agree that a seminar of the Council be held on participatory budgeting to further explore the options, issues and challenges.

(Action: Director, Education, Communities and Economy)

14 Adjournment and Reconvention

At this point (4.00pm) the Council adjourned for a short break and resumed at 4.11pm when the following members were in attendance:-

Provost Wallace, Depute Provost Coventry, Councillors Baxter, Beattie, Bennett, Bryant, Constable, de Vink, Imrie, Johnstone, Milligan, Muirhead, Pottinger, Rosie, Russell, Thompson and Young and Mr V Bourne and Mrs M Harkness.

15 Midlothian Council Grants Fund – Transition Fund Proposals 2015/16

With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minutes of Meeting of 16 December 2014, there was submitted report, dated 17 March 2015, by the Joint Director, Health and Social Care, informing Council of the outcome of the application process to the Transition Fund and seeking approval for the allocation of funding.

The report recalled that the fund had been created to mitigate the risk of organisational closure or immediate redundancy as a result of the changes in criteria and level of resources in the new grants scheme. Of the applications received all but one met the criteria as set out for the Transitional Fund and were recommended for funding.

The Council, having heard from the Joint Director, Health and Social Care, discussed the proposed awards. Members were not opposed to agreeing the awards as recommended, however, concerns were raised regarding the assessment process as it was considered far from clear how in assessing the applications the questions had been scored and therefore the basis on which the recommended awards were being made was also felt to be unclear. Concerns were also expressed regarding the use of underspends on the 2014/15 Former Fairer Scotland Fund grant budget to top up the Transitional Fund.

Decision

- (a) To approve the allocation of funding to voluntary organisations as outlined in the report;

- (b) To seek a further report for consideration on the assessment and scoring of the applications and on the use of underspends on the 2014/15 Former Fairer Scotland Fund grant budget to top up the Transitional Fund.

(Action: Joint Director, Health and Social Care)

Sederunt

Councillor de Vink left the meeting at the conclusion of the foregoing item of business, at 4.36 pm.

16 General Services Capital Plan

With reference to paragraph 23 of the Minutes of Meeting of 16 December 2014, there was submitted report, dated 9 March 2015, by the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support, providing an update on the General Services Capital Plan for 2014/15 through to 2017/18.

The report advised that since the Council meeting on 16 December 2014, amendments had been approved to the budgets for a number of projects and a number of new projects had been presented for inclusion in the Plan. Based on this, the expenditure over the period 2014/15 to 2017/18 had been adjusted from £75.736 million to £75.181 million. The expected external funding available to finance the plan had also been updated and had increased by £6.314 million over the period 2014/15 to 2017/18, to £54.785 million. This, along with the projected level of borrowing required, is as shown in the table below:-

GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL PLAN					
2014/15 to 2017/18					
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
EXPENDITURE					
Resources	9,804	7,621	4,695	5,145	27,265
Education, Community & Economy	4,959	26,695	13,843	180	45,677
Health & Social Care	167	457	150	150	924
Council Transformation	1,315	0	0	0	1,315
Total Approved Expenditure	16,245	34,773	18,688	5,475	75,181
FUNDING					
Government Grants	8,157	8,925	8,620	8,615	34,317
Receipts from Sales	4,159	6,650	0	1,094	11,903
Transfer to Capital Fund	(4,159)	(650)	0	(1,094)	(5,903)
Developer Contributions	3,041	10,828	0	0	13,869
Other Contributions	599	0	0	0	599
Total Available Funding	11,797	25,753	8,620	8,615	54,785
Approved Borrowing Required	4,448	9,020	10,068	(3,140)	20,397

Decision

To approve the proposed General Services Capital Plan 2015/16 to 2017/18 as detailed within the report

(Action: Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support)

17 Loanhead – Fields in Trust Land Agreement

With reference to paragraph 1 of the Addendum to the Minutes of Meeting of 12 August 2014, there was submitted report, dated 13 March 2015, by the Head of Property and Facilities Management, providing the Council with an update on negotiations with Fields in Trust regarding the use of the existing George V Park surrounding the Loanhead leisure centre as part of the new Loanhead combined education and community facility.

The report advised that through negotiations with Fields in Trust, it was proposed that, to allow development of the existing site within the George V Park, protected status be transferred to Memorial Park. In addition, and in spite of local rumours to the contrary, Memorial Park would retain its name and the existing children's play park would be relocated to the area adjacent to the existing school MUGA as part of the master plan for the redevelopment of the existing Paradykes School site prior to any disposal of the land.

Decision

- (a) To agree to instruct the Director, Resources to enter into an agreement with Fields in Trust to designate Memorial Park in Loanhead as a Queen Elizabeth park in exchange for Fields in Trust's agreement to the existing George V Park being developed for the new Paradykes Combined Community facility;
- (b) To agree to instruct the Director, Resources to enter into agreement with Fields in Trust to incorporate a replacement for the existing children's play park within the redevelopment master plan for the existing Paradykes Primary School site; and
- (c) To agree that the Cabinet portfolio-holder and local ward Members, together with appropriate officers, arrange to meet with those who had raised concerns locally in order to clarify the position.

(Action: Head of Property and Facilities Management)

18 Exclusion of Members of the Public

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Council agreed that the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the undernoted items, as contained in the Addendum hereto, as there might be disclosed exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6, 9 and 11 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

- (a) Review of Local Government Staff Terms and Conditions – Note and agree the recommendations; and
- (b) Newbattle Centre Stage Two Project Approval Submission – Note and agree the recommendations.

The meeting terminated at 5.00pm.