

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Wednesday 25 November 2015 at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Beattie, Bennett, Coventry, Imrie, Muirhead, Pottinger, and Young.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Baxter, Milligan, Montgomery, Russell and Wallace

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 2015/16 Performance Reports – Quarter 2

There were submitted Performance Reports for 2015/16 in respect of Commercial Operations; Finance and Integrated Services, Property and Facilities Management and Midlothian Council. 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 as a result of a Health and Safety issue, the commissioning of the waste treatment plant at Millerhill would be slightly delayed and as an interim measure waste would be transferred to the waste treatment plant at Powderhall, Edinburgh;
- (b) To note that work was progressing on the issue of decriminalised car parking and a progress report would be submitted in early 2016;
- (c) To note that a meeting with Network Rail in respect of matters associated with the Borders Rail Project was scheduled for 27 November 2015;
- (d) To note that the Council would be entitled to a share of profits from any electricity generated from the residual waste plant at Millerhill and subsequently sold to the National Grid;

- (e) To note that food waste caddies were being delivered to enable collections of food waste to begin on 7 December 2015;
- (f) To note that as result of a later than usual confirmation of the Council's Scottish Government Grant Settlement, it was likely that the Council's budget for 2016/17 would not be set until 9 February 2016;
- (g) To note that any buildings now surplus following EWiM moves would either be sold to allow reinvestment in the estate;
- (h) To note that the future use or disposal of the former Dalkeith High School site would be determined following the conclusion of the Dalkeith Town Centre feasibility study;
- (i) To note that there was still no decision from the Office of National Statistics which would allow the Newbattle High School replacement project to proceed and that the Council's costs in respect of the project remained protected;
- (j) To note that the process for the demolition of houses at Newbyres had commenced and services to the site were expected to be disconnected by mid December 2015;
- (k) To note the substantial financial challenges faced by the Council and the need to address these by way of business transformation and community partnership, in addition to making the public aware of the extent of the issues facing the Council; and
- (l) To otherwise note the reports.

Sederunt

Councillor Bennett left the meeting during discussion of the foregoing business (2.55 pm)

The meeting terminated at 3.35 pm.