MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the MIDLOTHIAN PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the Council Chambers, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith on Tuesday, 31 May 2011 at 09.00 am.

Present:- Councillors Thompson (Convener), L Beattie, Brown and Thacker.

Apology for Absence:- Councillors C Beattie, Constable Statham and Wilson

1 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were intimated.

2 2010/2011 Performance Reports

There were submitted Performance Reports detailing the final outcome of the Corporate Plans for the Education; Children and Families; Communities and Support; Business Transformation; Adult and Community Care; and Housing and Community Safety services for 2010/11. Each report contained a summary of the major successes achieved; the major challenges to be faced in 2011/12 and the actions to address them; the budget position and the impact of efficiencies and service reductions. Thereafter, the Committee received verbal updates in respect of each of the reports.

Decision

(a) To note that one site had so far been identified as being suitable to accommodate, in part, a replacement for Midfield House;

(b) To note that a Kinship Care Worker /Foster Care Recruitment Officer had been appointed;

(c) To note that the number of children in residential care had been reduced to 43;

(d) To note that in terms of Community Learning and Development, resources were directed towards particular target areas and that future reports in respect of this area of work would be presented with greater detail;

(e) To note that the relocation of facilities from Dalkeith CLC to the Dalkeith Miners Welfare Club would generate revenue savings whilst providing an opportunity to establish a “community hub” for the Woodburn area of Dalkeith and that a similar exercise could be repeated elsewhere in Midlothian if it met the Council’s needs;
(f) To note that deposits are now taken from competitors involved in race days at the Midlothian Snowsports Centre and that there had been a reduction in losses of equipment;

(g) To note that the Secondary School Catchment Area Review would be restarted following the outcome of the consultation on the merger of Penicuik and Beeslack High Schools;

(h) To note the intended consultation with elected Members on the presentation of Business Transformation information;

(i) To note the concerns expressed by the Adult and Community Care Service in respect of the transfer of female prisoners to Saughton Prison;

(j) To note the establishment of the Cares Strategy Group which would inter alia, seek to identify young people who were carers and endeavour to provide them with respite facilities;

(k) To note the review of the void house process by Housing and Community Safety in conjunction with Properties and Facilities Management with a view to reducing property void periods;

(l) To note the changes to legislation in respect of homelessness which would come into effect in 2012 and which would increase the need for homeless accommodation;

(m) To note the imminent appointment of a Housing Options Officer whose role would include preventing homelessness among young people;

(n) To note the intention to introduce an updated Dog Fouling Campaign;

(o) To seek the views of young people on the Council’s recycling initiatives having regard to the high number of ‘ECO’ schools having obtained awards;

(p) To note that Music tuition was being provided on a rechargeable basis; and

(q) To otherwise note the reports.

(Action: (d) Head of Communities and Support; (o) Head of Education/Head of Commercial Operations).

The Meeting terminated at 11.50am.