



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE CABINET**

**TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2016
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

Committee Members Present:

Councillor S Akhtar
Councillor D Grant
Councillor N Hampshire
Councillor W Innes (Convener)
Councillor M Veitch

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor D Berry
Councillor S Brown
Councillor S Currie
Councillor J Goodfellow
Councillor P MacKenzie
Councillor F McAllister
Councillor K McLeod
Councillor J Williamson

Council Officials Present:

Mrs A Leitch, Chief Executive
Mr D Small, Director, Health and Social Care Partnership
Ms M Patterson, Depute Chief Executive – Partnerships and Community Services
Mr A McCrorie, Depute Chief Executive – Resources and People Services
Mr J Lamond, Head of Council Resources
Ms S Saunders, Head of Children and Adult Services
Mr D Proudfoot, Head of Development
Ms A Macdonald, Head of Access and Older People
Mrs M Ferguson, Service Manager – Legal and Procurement
Mr P Vestri, Service Manager – Corporate Policy and Improvement
Ms J Mackay, Media Manager

Clerk:

Ms A Smith

Apologies:

Councillor T Day
Councillor J McMillan

Declarations of Interest:

None

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – CABINET 13 SEPTEMBER 2016

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet of 13 September 2016 were approved.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTRACTS AWARDED BY EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL, 1 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2016

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services) advising Members of all contracts awarded by the Council from 1 to 30 September 2016, with a value of over £150,000.

Councillor Goodfellow welcomed the new council housing being built in North Berwick.

Decision

The Cabinet agreed to note the award of contracts with a value of over £150,000, as listed in Appendix 1 to the report.

3. SMARTER WORKING FOR BETTER OUTCOMES: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATIVE WORKING WITH POLICE SCOTLAND THROUGH CO-LOCATION AT JOHN MUIR HOUSE

A report was submitted by the Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services) seeking approval in principle for collaborative working with Police Scotland through the co-location of police at the Council headquarters, John Muir House.

Paolo Vestri, Service Manager – Corporate Policy and Improvement, presented the report. He outlined the background to the report, which focused on two issues; the use of the former Sheriff Court building and partnership working with Police Scotland. He referred to the Christie Commission report which had identified four key objectives for public sector reform and, in response to these recommendations, to the Joint Asset Plan that had been developed with the Council's community planning partners and agreed by the East Lothian Partnership in May 2015. He drew attention to the joint statement by the Chief Executive and Divisional Commander. He took Members through the options appraisal exercise in detail, highlighting the preferred options; 3a, 3b and 3c, which linked to recommendation 2.1.

In response to questions from Councillor MacKenzie about any other interested parties, Mr Vestri stated that discussions had taken place at the Joint Asset Management Group; no other options had come to the fore other than the Police Scotland joint working collaboration proposal so the Group had felt it most appropriate to pursue this option.

The Chief Executive, Angela Leitch, responded to questions from Councillor Currie. She advised that, as mentioned by Mr Vestri, the East Lothian Partnership had agreed the Joint Asset Plan a couple of years ago, all public agencies in East Lothian had been involved in its preparation. In terms of achieving some of the ambitions fairly quickly this proposal had arisen, so energies were being focused on this at present. Responding to further questions, Mrs Leitch reported that the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) was working closely with Police Scotland; there was a clear remit from the SFT and the Scottish Government to reduce the number of different locations the public had to visit to access information. She added that the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) had instigated a review of stations across Scotland; the SFT was undertaking this piece of work on behalf of the SPA.

Councillor Berry raised several questions. In relation to the financial implications, Mr Vestri clarified the commitments. With regard to potential rental income, Mr Vestri stated that

discussions were ongoing with Police Scotland, the amount would be the same for any organisation; it would be a commercial rent. In relation to designated parking spaces for the operational Police vehicles, Mr Vestri confirmed this was a requirement that had to be met and formed part of ongoing discussions. Regarding community policing, which Councillor Berry stressed should be based in the community and not centralised, Mr Vestri stated there was no implicit closure of police stations contained within this report.

Councillor Akhtar asked how constituents would benefit from the co-location. Mr Vestri advised that in terms of the service provided by Police Scotland the public would still be able to access the same service; there would be a dedicated desk at the John Muir House Court Street reception with clear separation of Police and Council areas. In addition, co-location would ensure closer working relationships with Council officers across many service areas; this was the experience from co-location at Brunton Hall.

Responding to Councillor McLeod, Mr Vestri confirmed that the proposals were on track; meetings were scheduled next week to finalise the business case, which would be presented to the SPA Finance Committee on 8 November.

Councillor Currie stated that the key issue was the capital commitment; he commented on the financial implications and the funding allocation for New Ways of Working. He expressed concerns about the SPA's review of their premises and possible outcomes, stressing the need for a police presence in all East Lothian towns.

Councillor Berry made reference to lack of investment in the building by the Scottish Court Service; refurbishment was required. He also commented on the poor facilities within Haddington Police Station. There was a synergy to this proposal, there was a sound operative argument; he welcomed the report.

Councillor Veitch remarked that this was an excellent solution, irrespective of which option 3 was chosen. Regarding earlier comments, he stated that no-one would support the closure of police facilities in East Lothian. In relation to the financial implications outlined, he remarked that if this proposal went ahead Police Scotland would likely be long term tenants.

Councillors Akhtar and Grant both expressed support for the proposal, which would ensure more effective joint working.

The Convener stressed that the key issue was the quality of service provided to the people of East Lothian. He agreed with Councillor Veitch; closure of police facilities would not be supported. This proposal was not about closure, it was about moving to a co-location, and to a more modern and efficient way of joint working with Police Scotland.

Decision

The Cabinet agreed:

- i. in principle to the co-location of all operational and community Police currently based in Haddington Police Station to the former Sheriff Courts and John Muir House;
- ii. that this opportunity be used to enable 'smarter' and more integrated ways of working between the Council, the Police and other partners to support the prevention agenda, to make a positive impact on as broad a range of outcomes as possible and further enhance public service delivery;
- iii. that a joint business case between Police Scotland and the Council was developed which delivered fair and equitable benefits to all partners and confirmed a mechanism whereby costs (revenue such as rental and/or capital contributions) were

apportioned/recharged/recovered in a fair and equitable way, and agreed to work with Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) on these matters; and

- iv. to support immediate consultation around this to inform the joint business case to be presented to the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) Finance Committee on 8 November 2016, for SPA approval on or around 15 December 2016.

4. OLDER PEOPLE'S INSPECTION REPORT

A report was submitted by the Director of the Health and Social Care Partnership presenting the joint inspection report from the Care Inspectorate and Healthcare Improvement Scotland on services for older people in East Lothian and the aligned draft local action plan.

Alison Macdonald, Head of Access and Older People, presented the report. She referred to the joint inspection carried out in 2015, which had scrutinised how the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) delivered services for older people and their carers. The inspection methodology had included a set of 9 quality indicators, outlined in table 1. The inspection report had noted that the HSCP had a clear and compelling vision and strategic plan for future integrated delivery of services. She highlighted areas of good practice, including East Lothian Service for Integrated Care of the Elderly (ELSIE). She referred to table 2, which detailed the 10 Inspectorate recommendations for improvement. She advised that the action plan was under development. The HSCP progress report was attached for information.

Councillor MacKenzie asked for details of the information behind the joint inspection report process. Ms Macdonald advised that a self-assessment had been carried out; feedback from the Inspectors was that too hard an approach had been taken for the self-assessment.

Ms Macdonald clarified, in response to questions from Councillor Berry, that the report before Members was an update of the joint inspection report and that the action plan was currently under development.

Responding to questions from Councillor Akhtar regarding outcomes for older people and their carers, Ms Macdonald advised that positive feedback had been received in relation to the offer of a carer's assessment, this was a key issue.

In response to Councillor Currie's questions Ms Macdonald confirmed there were some serious and significant issues to be addressed. Regarding a query about the lack of financial implications as indicated in the report, she advised that some of the recommendations within table 2 were areas that could be addressed quite quickly within current resources. In response to further questions, she clarified that some of the recommendations were more complicated and would be dealt with in the action plan. She confirmed that delayed discharge figures continued to rise. In relation to further questions, David Small, Director of the Health and Social Care Partnership, informed Members that the joint inspection report had been received in the spring of 2016; he stressed that as regards the 10 action points detailed in table 2 there should not be an implied absence of work in anticipating care plans, it was not a clear-cut scenario.

Councillor McLeod queried the current figure for delayed discharges; Ms Macdonald advised this was 51 at the last count. In response to queries about staff recruitment, she stated that one of the challenges concerned external providers; other measures were being looked at. Regarding staff absence, Ms Macdonald stated that significant progress had been made through the Managing Attendance Policy; robust procedures were in place to get staff back to work, if required staff could be encouraged to return to different duties.

Responding to questions from Councillor McAllister about the annual budget, amount spent and remaining, Mr Small advised that the Integration Joint Board (IJB) budget did not work in those terms; he gave details of how the budget process worked in relation to the IJB. Councillor McAllister also asked when vacant rooms at a care home in Musselburgh would be returned to use; Ms Macdonald advised that discussions were taking place regarding this.

Councillor Grant requested confirmation that the methodology of counting delayed discharges had changed. Ms Macdonald confirmed this, explaining that previously if a patient was due to leave hospital up to 3 days post census they were not counted; now patients were counted on the day of the census at hospital. She also confirmed that delayed discharge figures were rising across all the Lothian areas.

Councillor Grant thanked all staff for their significant contribution. The report before Members was a synopsis and update of the joint inspection report. The HSCP progress report reflected key actions and updates as regards the inspection recommendations. Areas of good practice had been highlighted, ELSIE had been praised. Progress was being made regarding areas for action. The action plan would go to the Policy and Performance Review Committee (PPRC) for scrutiny and monitoring.

Councillor Currie also praised the efforts of staff throughout all communities in East Lothian, particularly against a background of reducing budgets. He referred to table 2, expressing concerns about the impact of planned efficiency savings; item 10 was particularly concerning in this regard. The budget for adult social care was not adequate. There were significant problems with delayed discharges in the county. He welcomed the action plan going forward to the PPRC, adding that the IJB Audit and Risk Committee would also review this.

Councillor Berry remarked that he was also hugely impressed with the front line services provided. Demand however continued to exceed supply. He highlighted two specific areas where he felt this Council was culpable; lack of social rented housing that carers could occupy, in the areas where the care was required and decisions taken by the Council many years ago to sell care homes in North Berwick and Gullane; not having adequate local authority care home provision in East Lothian was a key factor to the current situation.

Councillors Akhtar and Hampshire welcomed the report, thanked staff, highlighted actions being taken in the HSCP progress report and also referred to challenges facing the social care sector across Scotland.

Councillors McAllister and McLeod also expressed appreciation of the work done by staff.

The Convener stated there was an ambition and determination to keep improving services. There were many complex issues to be dealt with in relation to care for the elderly and this was a demographic that continued to rise. With regard to Councillor Berry's comments about care homes he stated that the strategy had been to care for people in their own homes, measures had been taken to be less reliant on the residential sector. Referring to other comments he remarked that the previous SNP-led Administration had outsourced care to the private sector. The staff cohort was aware of where the challenges lay and the Administration was doing all it could to ensure provision of the best available solutions.

Decision

The Cabinet agreed:

- i. to note the joint inspection report and its key recommendations;
- ii. to note the significant contribution of staff in contributing to the positive evaluations against key quality indicators; and

- iii. to note the detail draft action plan which addressed the key recommendations for improvement and agreed that this should be referred to the Policy and Performance Review Committee for scrutiny and monitoring.

5. MINUTES FOR NOTING

The minutes of the Sustainable Economy Partnership held on 15 June 2016, the Resilient People Partnership held on 22 June 2016, and the Safe and Vibrant Communities Partnership held on 27 June 2016, were noted.

Signed

Councillor Willie Innes
Council Leader and Convener of the Cabinet