

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 4 December 2012

Present

Councillors Burns (Convener), Cardownie (Vice-Convener), Burgess, Chapman, Child, Nick Cook, Edie, Godzik, Ricky Henderson, Hinds, Lewis, Mowat, Rose and Ross.

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 6 November 2012 as a correct record.

2. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan December 2012 to March 2013

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Key Decisions Forward Plan for December 2012 to March 2013 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for December 2012 to March 2013.

(Reference - report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted)

3. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Bulletin 4 December 2012

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Business Bulletin for 4 December 2012 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted)

4. Welfare Reform - Update

The Committee had agreed that the new Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee should retain oversight of Welfare Reform and establish a corporate programme to deliver the changes involving the Council. The Committee had requested a draft mitigation plan setting out how the Council would deal with specific impacts of Welfare Reform.

An update on Welfare Reform and the progress being made by the Council and partners to develop arrangements to mitigate, where possible, the negative impact of the UK Government's welfare reforms was provided.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress being made on assessing the impact of welfare reforms and developing partial mitigation strategies.
- 2) To welcome the announcement of additional Scottish Government funding of £9.2m for the Scottish Welfare Fund, in addition to Social Fund monies being transferred from the DWP, and agree to receive a further report on how the Council would administer the Fund from 1 April 2013.
- 3) To agree to receive a further report on the new investment to increase welfare rights advice and advocacy services in the Council and Third Sector as detailed in paragraph 2.36 of the report by the Director of Corporate Governance to be considered as part of the 2013/14 budget planning work.
- 4) To agree to receive a further report on funding required to match the Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) allocation by a factor of 1.5 times.
- 5) To agree to receive a further report on representations to the Scottish Government for adequate funding of set up costs for the new Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- 6) To note the cost of the corporate programme team, and welfare reform communications being prepared for staff and the public, was estimated at £0.08m in 2012-13 and £0.216m in 2013-14 and that these costs would be funded from existing resources within Directorates.
- 7) To ask for a further report in January 2013 on proposals for closer collaboration with the Third Sector on welfare information advice.
- 8) To offer members a briefing on the implications for homelessness services.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee of 2 October 2012 (item 4); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

5. Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee Work Programmes

The work programmes for the Policy Development and Review Sub-Committees of the Economy and Health, Wellbeing and Housing Committees were presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the policy development and review work programmes for the Economy and Health, Wellbeing and Housing Committees.
- 2) To note that work programmes for the remaining Policy Development and Review Sub-Committees would be referred to future meetings of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee.

(References – Act of Council No 8 of 20 September 2012; report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

6. ICT Strategy Development

Details were provided on an ICT strategy currently being developed to outline how ICT would support the Capital Coalition Commitments, the Council's strategic needs and enable transformational change. The development of the strategy aimed to reflect the Council's current strategic and changing information needs.

Decision

- 1) To agree the direction of travel for the ICT Strategy.
- 2) To agree to be engaged in the development of the strategy.
- 3) To note that further updates would be provided as the strategy developed.
- 4) To ask the Director of Corporate Governance to brief Group leaders and Conveners on the background to the development of the Strategy.

(Reference – report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

7. Corporate Resilience: Annual Report (1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012)

Details were provided on the Corporate Resilience activities and initiatives undertaken during the period 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012.

Decision

- 1) To note the resilience activities undertaken.

- 2) To ask that an annual update report be provided.

(Reference – report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

8. Annual Performance Report 2012

Details of the Annual Performance of the Council for 2011/12 were provided.

Decision

To approve the 2011/12 Annual Performance Report.

(Reference – report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

9. Local Development Plan – Aims and Delivery

Details were provided on the Council's first Local Development Plan. This plan was to replace two existing local plans and would guide the growth of the city.

Decision

- 1) To note that the first Local Development Plan for Edinburgh was being prepared and that it would meet the growth requirements in the strategic development plan for South East Scotland.
- 2) To note the five aims for the Local Development Plan as detailed in paragraph 2.1 in the report by the Director of Services for Communities.
- 3) To note that the adopted Local Development Plan would be accompanied by a statutory Action Programme to be updated periodically, and request that the first Action Programme and subsequent updates should be reported for approval by the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee as well as by the Planning Committee.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

10. Operational Governance - Update

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had referred a report detailing the Council's governance review programme, updates on key areas of the corporate risk register and the significant progress made in key areas.

Decision

To note the Council's governance review programme, the updates on key areas of the corporate risk register and the significant progress made in relation to operational governance.

(References – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of 6 November 2012 (item 7); report by the Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance, submitted.)