

Minutes

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 10 June 2014

Present

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

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 13 May 2014 as a correct record.

2. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan June to September 2014

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for August to October 2014 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for August to October 2014.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan for August to October 2014, submitted.)

3. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Rolling Actions Log

Details were provided of the outstanding actions arising from decisions taken by the Committee.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close actions 3, 4, 6, 8, 16, 20 and 21.
- 2) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4 Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act; Update

The Committee had continued consideration of an update which had been provided on the progress of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Bill.

Decision

- 1) To note that the Bill had progressed through the parliamentary process and, following amendments, was passed on 25 February 2014. It was granted Royal Assent on 1 April 2014.
- 2) To note that the Finance and Resources Committee, of 7 May 2014, agreed that the Chief Executive should convene a meeting of relevant Conveners/Vice-Conveners, to review overall progress with the project; and that this meeting had now happened.
- 3) To note that the Finance and Resources Committee, of 7 May 2014, further agreed that a monthly progress update – on the *delivery* of the Integration Authority - would be provided to that Committee.
- 4) To agree that the preferred option for the creation of the Integration Authority was option a. the Integration Joint Board; but further note that a final decision on the Draft Integration Scheme would not take place before September 2014 at the earliest (paragraph 3.15) and therefore agrees:
 - to instruct the Director of Health and Social Care to provide a full options appraisal on each of the potential models to the meeting of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee on 5 August 2014, prior to the Draft Integration Scheme being approved.
- 5) To note that work was in hand to progress the establishment of the Edinburgh Integration Authority and was reported formally through the Corporate Programmes Office Major Projects arrangements; and that *policy development* for this area would remain with the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee.
- 6) To note that the Draft Integration Scheme would be submitted to full Council for approval prior to consultation and submission to Scottish Ministers.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 6 August 2014 (item 10) and 13 May 2014 (item 9); report by the Director of Health and Social Care, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Ricky Henderson declared a financial interest in the above item as a Non-Executive Director of NHS Lothian.

Councillor Edie declared a financial interest in the above item as Chair of the Care Inspectorate and left the meeting during the Committee's consideration.

5. Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Annual Report and Improving the Delivery of Carbon, Climate and sustainability Outcomes

The Council had approved the “Sustainable Edinburgh 2020” policy framework which set out the aims, objectives and targets for the sustainable development of the Council and the city to 2020.

The second Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Annual report was presented together with proposals to improve the delivery of carbon, climate and sustainability outcomes for the Council.

Motion

- 1) To approve the Annual Report and note the significant progress made on sustainability initiatives across the Council and by partner organisations to meet the objectives of Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 (SE2020).
- 2) To approve the SE2020 Work Plan as detailed in the recommendations in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Corporate Governance,
- 3) To approve the establishment of a new corporate project team to better co-ordinate sustainability activity within the Council, chaired by the Director of Economic Development and supported by the Corporate Policy and Strategy Team.
- 4) To note that the Carbon, Climate & Sustainability Member Officer Working Group agreed that 'projects rated as Amber to be expanded upon included:
 - Reason(s) why they were Amber
 - What actions were being taken to address the lack of progress/barriers to progress.
 - A timeline for when the project could be expected to be re-profiled as Green
- 5) To note that an update of the objectives rated as Amber would be considered at the next meeting of the Working Group.

- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor McVey

Amendment

- 1) To note the report
- 2) To note that the Action Plan recommendations for 2014-15:
 - a) were presented almost three full months into 2014-15;
 - b) contained actions which were simply repeated from other streams of Council work.
- 3) To note that the report highlighted that the issues covered by the report had grown increasingly diverse and complex and recognised the need to clarify and simplify this area of Council activity.
- 4) To call for a report in 3 cycles on an action plan for sustainability policy and actions which would prioritise:
 - a) complying with legal obligations on the Council;
 - b) measures to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

- moved by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Nick Cook.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	12 votes
For the amendment	-	3 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Hinds

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee of 27 March 2012 (item 4); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

6. Achieving Excellence Performance Report October 2013 to March 2014 and Complaints Management 2013/14

An update was provided on Council performance against all of the Council's strategic outcomes covering the period October 2013 to March 2014 together with complaints management for 2013/14.

Decision

- 1) To note performance for the period from October 2013 to March 2014 and note complaints analysis for the period 2013/14.
- 2) To further, welcome that the majority of the Council's performance targets had been met, but note there were a number of significant targets that had been missed, including;
 - duration of homelessness;
 - waste sent to landfill and recycling;
 - priority road repairs;
 - hospital discharge delays;
 - resident satisfaction with the Council; and
 - budget and procurement savings.
- 3) To therefore call for a report to Committee within one cycle on the actions that would be taken to improve performance in areas where performance was not meeting targets.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 3 December 2013 (item 6); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

7 Corporate Performance Framework – Annual Update

The Council had approved a revised Corporate Performance Framework aligned to political, partnership and operational outcomes.

An annual update of the Corporate Performance Framework was provided.

Decision

- 1) To agree the annual update to the performance indicators as outlined in the Strategy Maps included in the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 2) To agree the Strategic Service Plan 2012-17 which had been updated to reflect progress and priorities after the first year of implementation.
- 3) To agree the five Directorate plans which provided further planning detail across service areas.

(References – Act of Council No 12 of 24 October 2013; report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted)

8. Nuclear Free Local Authorities - Membership

The Council were invited to renew its membership of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities organisation.

Motion

To agree to renew membership of Nuclear Free Local Authorities.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Burgess

Amendment

That no action be taken on the invitation to renew membership.

- moved by Councillor Rose, seconded by councillor Nick Cook

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	12 votes
For the amendment	-	3 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.

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

9 Strategy for Open Data

Details were provided on the Council's proposed Open Data Strategy which would provide easier access to Council services and amenities through alternative channels, support innovative new ventures, enhance citizen participation in the decision making process and make better use of public assets for citizens, communities, businesses and the Council.

Decision

To approve the Open Data Strategy.

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

10. Pension Auto-enrolment Update

The Council had implemented pension auto-enrolment for all staff on 1 April 2013. Details were provided on the number of employees who had been auto-enrolled and the financial costs to the Council.

Decision

- 1) To note the successful implementation of the pension legislative changes.
- 2) To note that 112 employees were auto-enrolled in a Council occupational pension scheme on 2013/14.

- 3) To note that the initial costs associated with auto-enrolment had been contained within budgets.

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

11 Crackdown on Legal Loan Sharks – Payday Lending

The Committee had agreed to the establishment of an Officer Working Group to take forward agreed actions which had been identified within the petition ‘Crackdown on Legal Loan Sharks’, as possible Council contributions to protect people from the actions of payday loan companies. A report had also been requested back to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee within one calendar year:

Details were provided on actions which had already taken place within the Council to reduce the impact of payday loan services to residents of the city as well as employees of the Council. Further potential actions which could be considered if additional sources of funding were secured were outlined.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities and the actions taken to minimise the impact of payday lending.
- 2) To note that any proposals to lease council property to payday loan companies would be considered by the Economy Committee with ratification from the finance and Resources Committee.
- 3) To agree to discharge the outstanding remits from the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 11 June 2013 and the Economy Committee of 6 March 2014.
- 4) To note that Craigmillar Credit Union was now known as Castle Credit Union.

(Reference – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 11 June 2013 (item 9); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

12. Krakow Partnership Agreement Re-signing

Details were provided on proposals for the re-signing of the Krakow Partnership Agreement between Edinburgh and Krakow for a further five years with a number of project proposals being considered through the Partner Cities Anniversary Working Group. It was further proposed that the Lord Provost travel to Krakow in October 2014 to formally re-sign the Partnership Agreement.

Decision

- 1) To approve the re-signing of the Partnership Agreement between Edinburgh and Krakow for a further five years to 2019.
- 2) To approve travel for the Lord Provost in October 2014 to formally re-sign the Agreement and launch a range of activities, including welcoming Krakow to the UNESCO City of Literature network, founded by Edinburgh.

(Reference – report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted)

13 Communities and Neighbourhoods Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee Work Programme 2014-15 – referral from the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee

The work programme for the Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee was presented.

Decision

To note the Communities and Neighbourhoods Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee Work Programme for 2014-15.

(References – Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee 6 May 2014 (item 7); referral report from the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee, submitted.).

14. Discretionary Housing Payments for Bedroom Tax – Motion by Councillor Burgess

The following motion by Councillor Burgess had been submitted in terms of Standing Order 16.1:

“Committee;

Notes that the Scottish Government has undertaken to fully fund Councils for the cost of Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) paid to mitigate the Bedroom Tax (Underoccupancy);

Further notes that the UK Government has agreed to enable the Scottish Government to achieve this undertaking and that therefore, subject to the legal process being completed, there is no budgetary limit for the Council for such payments;

Recognises that whilst there is a delay in the legal process there is continuing concern and confusion amongst tenants some of whom believe that the “Bedroom Tax” has been “abolished” from 1 April 2014 and that many council and housing association tenants are accumulating rent arrears and many of these have not yet made applications for DHP;

Therefore agrees that the Council’s DHP policy is amended accordingly such that all qualifying Bedroom tax (Underoccupancy) DHP applications are appropriately backdated and paid in full without the need for a financial assessment, noting that this will greatly streamline the application process for tenants, housing associations and the Council and increase take up of DHP amongst some groups of tenants.”

Decision

Councillor Burgess withdrew his motion.

15. Council Powers in Relation to Poor Performance of Contractors

The Committee, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

The Committee had called for a further report within 2 cycles, on the implications of including provisions in all future framework agreements which the Council procured which would allow for the suspension of a party from a framework agreement in certain specified circumstances, including where work carried out under that framework agreement was sub-standard.

Decision

To note the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 25 March 2014 (item 12); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted).