

# Minutes

## Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 5 August 2014

### Present

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

### 1. Chair

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#### Decision

In the absence of the Convener, Councillor Cardownie took the chair.

### 2. Edinburgh's Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2013/14 Event Update

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#### a) Underbelly and Unique Events – Deputation

The deputation indicated that they provided a wide range of activities during the Christmas and Hogmanay season and that 97% of those who attended had been satisfied. Footfall over the period had increased which was good for Edinburgh businesses.

They indicated that they were planning a new opening event for 2015 to involve more school and youth groups and were looking at the affordability of the attractions provided. They outlined the Council's financial contribution to the events and the need for sponsorship but stressed that they believed that the event was a major festival for the City.

#### b) Report by the Director of Corporate Governance

An update was provided on the delivery of the 2013/14 Edinburgh's Christmas event programme and Edinburgh's Hogmanay festival by the consortium comprising Underbelly Ltd and Unique Events Ltd.

#### Decision

- 1) To note the delivery of year one of the new Edinburgh's Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay.
- 2) To agree that a further report be submitted by December 2014 on performance outcomes.

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

### 3. Health and Social Care Integration – Options Analysis of Integration Models

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a) Unison - Deputation

The deputation indicated that Unison had been closely involved with the integration process for the past 2 years and had made a commitment to make it a success. They expressed concern that they had been working towards a Body Corporate Model and that any proposal to change this to a Lead Agency Model was a concern for staff members.

The deputation felt that transferring staff to the NHS would mean that the Council lost control of those staff and the services which they provided. There were also the practicalities of continuity and pensions to be considered.

They urged the Council to retain control of the Social Work services by agreeing to the Body Corporate Model for integration.

b) Report by the Director of Health and Social Care

Details were provided on an options analysis of the available models for the creation of an Integration Authority within the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act.

**Decision**

- 1) To note the outputs of the technical options analysis as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Health and Social Care.
- 2) To agree that models c) and d) in the report had been dropped from further work on the basis that they were not viable for Edinburgh.
- 3) To agree that Model a) Integrated Joint Board as detailed in the report, provided the best fit in terms of the strategic considerations and Council's organisational values.
- 4) To agree the preparation of the Integration Scheme jointly with NHS Lothian for submission to Scottish Government Ministers on the basis of Model a) as detailed in the report.

(Reference - 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.

## 4. Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) Policy

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### a) Lothian Federation of Anti Bedroom Tax Groups – Deputation

The deputation welcomed the proposal to pay Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) for 2014-15 to all affected by the Bedroom Tax and asked that this be done without means testing or the need to fill in an application form.

They expressed concern that there had been no proposal to backdate DHP for affected tenants for 2013-14 and urged the Council to pay backdated DHP from 1 April 2013 to all affected and to press the Scottish Government to provide funding to cover this.

### b) Report by the Director of Corporate Governance

Details were provided on the backdating of DHP claims to April 2013.

#### **Motion**

To approve the revised DHP policy as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.

- moved by Councillor Cardownie, seconded by Councillor Ricky Henderson

#### **Amendment**

- 1) To approve the revised DHP policy as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 2) To agree that in principle, Discretionary Housing Payments to cover Bedroom Tax (Under-occupancy penalty) should be backdated in full to April 2013 when the Bedroom Tax was introduced and therefore agree that the Council Leader would contact the Scottish Government to request that sufficient funding be provided to cover backdating of DHP for Bedroom Tax to April 2013 and that the Convener report back the response at the next meeting.
- 3) To further agree that whilst the funding for backdating of DHP to April 2013 was being confirmed, that the Council would not take legal action over any element of rent arrears that were the result of Bedroom Tax (under-occupancy penalty) applied from April 2013.

- moved by Councillor Chapman, seconded by Councillor Booth

#### **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

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

#### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Cardownie.

(References - Act of Council No 1 of 26 June 2014; report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted)

## 5. Minute

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### Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 10 June 2014 as a correct record.

## 6. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan September to November 2014

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

### Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for September to November 2014.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan for September to November 2014, submitted.)

## 7. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Rolling Actions Log

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

### Decision

- 1) To agree to close actions 4, 5, 11, 15 and 16.
- 2) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

## 8 Welfare Reform – Further Update

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An update was provided on 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.

### Decision

- 1) To note the Council's ongoing activities relating to welfare reform.
- 2) To note that the next update would be reported to Committee on 7 October 2014.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 22 January 2013 (item 7); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted)

## 9 Update on the Events Governance Review

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An update was provided on progress made on the action plan to implement improvements identified in the Events Governance Review.

### Decision

To note the progress made against the action plan to date.

(References - Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 25 February 2014 (item 6); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

## 10. Political Management Arrangements – Annual Review of Working Groups

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The Committee had agreed to an annual review of the number and scope of working groups, to be completed to enhance governance and corporate oversight.

Details were provided on the initial review and rationalisation which had been undertaken.

### Decision

- 1) To agree the current status of Council Working Groups as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 2) To note that a review of the effectiveness of Policy Development and Review Sub-Committees would be considered by the Council in October 2014.

(References: Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 3 December 2013 (item 4); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

## 11 Commercial and Procurement Strategy

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Details were provided on the Council's new Commercial and Procurement Strategy which set out how the Council would direct this external expenditure for the next three years and the objectives it sought to deliver.

### Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 2) To approve the Procurement Strategy.

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

## 12. Complaints – Unacceptable Actions and Behaviour Policy

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Details were provided on the Council's amended Unacceptable Actions and Behaviour Policy. The Policy update was required to ensure that the Council's principles were consistent with those of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.

### Decision

To approve the amended Unacceptable Actions and Behaviour Policy.

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

## **13 Corporate Performance Framework – Performance Report – Improvement Actions**

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An update was provided on actions to improve performance against six corporate indicators highlighted by the Committee, namely:

- Duration of Homelessness
- Waste sent to landfill and recycling
- Priority road repairs
- Hospital discharge delays
- Resident satisfaction with the Council
- Budget and procurement savings.

### **Decision**

To note the report by the Director of Corporate Governance and the actions taken to improve performance for the six highlighted indicators.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 10 June 2014 (item 7); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted)

## **14. Summary of the Draft Regulations to Support the Public bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014**

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A summary was provided on the draft Regulations which had been released by the Scottish Government to support the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 which were now the subject of consultation with stakeholders.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the summary of the draft Regulations.
- 2) To note that the Council response to the consultation on the draft Regulations was the subject of a separate report (item 15 refers).

(Reference – 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.

## **15 Health and Social Care Integration – Responses to Draft Regulations relating to the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014**

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Details were provided on the Council's proposed response to the Draft Regulations relating to the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. This highlighted the implications for Council governance and functions.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note that a copy of the response to the Draft Regulations – Set 1, marked ‘draft subject to Committee approval’ as detailed in the report by the Director of Health and Social Care, was shared with the Scottish Government on 1 August 2014 in line with their response timeline.
- 2) To approve the response to the Draft Regulations – Set 1 in the report as final.
- 3) To approve the response to the Draft Regulations – Set 2 in the report as final.
- 4) To note that the responses to both sets of draft regulations would be submitted to the Scottish Government by no later than 6 and 18 August 2014 respectively.

(Reference – 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.

## **16. Eurocities AGM and Conference**

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The Committee was invited to nominate delegates to attend the Eurocities AGM and Conference to be held in Munich on 5-8 November 2014.

## **Decision**

- 1) To approve the attendance of Councillors Hinds and Ross at the Eurocities AGM and Conference in Munich in November 2014.
- 2) To note that further information on the benefits of attendance would be provided after the event.

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