

## Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 2 September 2014

### Present

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

### 1. Managing Retirement Policy and Death in Service Benefit Scheme

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#### a) Unison and Unite – Deputation

The deputation expressed concern at the proposals in the Managing Retirement Policy which they felt would lead to a reduction of staff terms and conditions which would affect the lowest paid staff members and may have a knock on effect for the services which they provided. The deputation asked the Committee to continue consideration of the Managing Retirement Policy for further consultation to be carried out on the proposals.

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

Details were provided on the Managing Retirement Policy which covered retirement, flexible retirement and early payment of pension together with the outcome of a review which had been carried out on the Council's Death Benefit Scheme.

The current Death in Service Benefit Scheme resulted in a payment of £3,000 to the estate of an employee who died in service and it was recommended that this be raised to £4,000.

#### Decision

- 1) To refer the report to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval of the proposal to increase the Death in Service payment to £4,000.
- 2) To continue consideration of the remainder of the report by the Director of Corporate Governance to the meeting of the Committee on 4 November 2014 to enable the Director to report further on the issues raised by members.

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

## 2. Lord Provost Visit to Qatar

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### a) Unison - Deputation

The deputation expressed concern at the proposal for the Lord Provost to visit Qatar in view of the human rights record of Qatar and in particular those concerning labour laws and practices which had led to the death or grievous harm to workers. They indicated that these laws had been highly criticised by organisations such as The United Nations, the International trade union Confederation and Amnesty International

The deputation asked that the Lord Provost's invitation be declined.

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

Details were provided on an invitation which had been extended by the Chief Executive Officer of Qatar airways for the Lord Provost to visit Qatar from 28 September to 1 October 2014.

#### Motion

- 1) To accept the invitation from Qatar Airways and approve the Lord Provost's visit to Qatar, the Lord Provost to be accompanied by a City Officer and permission granted to take the civic chain.
- 2) To request that the written representation by Unison presented at committee be provided to the Lord Provost, to ensure its delivery to the Qatari authorities.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Cardownie

#### Amendment 1

To accept the invitation from Qatar Airways and approve the Lord Provost's visit to Qatar, the Lord Provost to be accompanied by a City Officer and permission granted to take the civic chain.

- moved by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Mowat

#### Amendment 2

To take no action on the invitation.

- moved by Councillor Edie, seconded by Councillor Burgess

The Convener ruled that a first vote be taken for or against Amendment 2 and that if it were carried, that would be the end of the matter, but if it were not carried, a second vote be taken between the Motion and Amendment 1.

#### Voting

In the first vote the voting was as follows:

For Amendment 2	-	3 votes
Against Amendment 2	-	12 votes

In the second vote the voting was as follows:

For the Motion	-	9 votes
For Amendment 1	-	3 votes

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.

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

## **3. Minute**

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### **Decision**

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 5 August 2014 as a correct record.

## **4. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan September to December 2014**

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

### **Decision**

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

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

## **5. 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**

To note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

## **6 Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2013-2014**

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The Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2013/2014 was presented. Details were provided on the new format which was intended to help information sharing and benchmarking across services regarding good social work practice and improvement activity.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the Chief Social Work Officer's Annual Report for 2013/14.
- 2) To note that the figure of £2.2m on page 16 of the report should read £221.28m for the annual cost of alcohol-related harm in Edinburgh with the breakdown as follows:

Health Service: £23.46m

Social Care: £29.91m

Crime: £82.21m

Productive Capacity: £85.70m.

- 3) To note that the figure of £455 per head was reached by dividing the total cost by their figures for Edinburgh's population.

(References – report by the Chief Social Work Officer, submitted)

### **Declaration of Interests**

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.

## **7 Public Protection in Edinburgh Annual Reports 2013-2014**

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Annual reports were presented for each of the five committees/partnerships that together oversaw the main multi-agency public protection activity in the city. These were:

- The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee
- The Edinburgh Adult Support and Protection Committee
- The Edinburgh Offender Management Committee
- The Edinburgh Drug and Alcohol Partnership
- The Violence Against Women Partnership

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the annual reports from each of the public protection Committees.
- 2) To note the importance of ensuring an integrated approach across the Council and between the Council and its key partners NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and voluntary sector organisations, to allow for effective, shared prioritisation for resource allocation.
- 3) To approve the Forced Marriage Policy and Practice Guidelines as detailed in Appendix 7 to the joint report by the Chief Executive and the Chief Social Work Officer.

(References – joint report by the Chief Executive and the Chief Social Work Officer, submitted.)

### **Declaration of Interests**

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.

## **8 Economy Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee Work Programme August 2014 – June 2015 – referral from the Economy Committee**

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

## **Decision**

To note the Economy Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee Work Programme for August 2014 – January 15.

(References – Economy Committee 19 August 2014 (item 9); referral report from the Economy Committee, submitted.).