

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 20 January 2015

Present

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

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 2 December 2014 as a correct record.

2. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan February to May 2015

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for February to May 2015 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To adjust the information provided for items 8 and 10 on the forward plan as appropriate.
- 2) To ask for a report to the Committee in March 2015 providing an update on the Open Data Strategy and its implementation.
- 3) To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for February to May 2015.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan February to May 2015, 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 amend the expected completion dates on Actions 5 and 6 to March 2015.
- 2) To agree to close Action 11 - Review of Community and Accessible Transport – Phase 1 Report

- 3) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4 Welfare Reform - Update

An update was provided on the progress being made by the Council and partners to develop arrangements in regard to the UK Government's welfare reforms.

Motion

- 1) To note the Council's ongoing activities relating to Welfare Reform.
- 2) To note the imminent launch of Universal Credit in Edinburgh.
- 3) To note the current projection of overspend on Discretionary Housing Payments.
- 4) To note the current projection of spend on Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- 5) To note the current projection on Scottish Welfare Fund.

- moved by Councillor Ricky Henderson, seconded by Councillor Cardownie

Amendment

- 1) To note the Council's ongoing activities relating to Welfare Reform.
- 2) To note the imminent launch of Universal Credit in Edinburgh.
- 3) To note the current projection of overspend on Discretionary Housing Payments.
- 4) To note the current projection of spend on Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- 5) To note the current projection on Scottish Welfare Fund.
- 6) To note that there had as yet been no response from the DWP about concerns raised by officers regarding the application of 'Sanctions' (benefit suspensions) that was contributing to the increasing reliance on emergency food aid at 24 foodbanks across the City as detailed at Appendix 2 of the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 7) To note that the report stated at 3.59 that, '*Local Authorities are free to increase DHP (Discretionary Housing Payment) funds from their own resources in order to meet local priorities, such as making payments in respect of any historical arrears*'
- 8) To further note the report stated at 3.8 that, '*there is a legacy of arrears of around £482,000 for the period in which DHP was not available*'
- 9) To note that DHP payments from the Council to Council tenants to compensate for Bedroom Tax (Under Occupancy Charge) applied during 2013/14 would be immediately recouped by the council as rent payments, therefore lifting council tenants out of historical rent arrears at no net cost to the council;
- 10) To therefore agree to consider using Council funds to increasing the DHP fund with the intention of reducing council tenants' rent arrears due to the Bedroom Tax applied in 2013/14 with a report back to the next committee.

- 11) To note the report at 3.9 *'Currently around 130 under occupying tenants out of 3300 affected have still not engaged with local rents teams, the welfare reform teams or partners in the voluntary sector. **It is likely that many of these tenants will be informed that formal action to recover possession will be taken by the Council.***'

However, instructs officers that any formal court action was a payment action for rent arrears only at this stage and did not include action for recovery possession (eviction).

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Chapman

Voting

The voting was as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|----------|
| For the motion | - | 13 votes |
| For the amendment | - | 2 votes |

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Ricky Henderson.

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

5 Proposals for a New Meadowbank

The Council had agreed to commission an appraisal for a new build facility at Meadowbank.

Details were provided on the conclusions of a feasibility study and business case which had been prepared and benchmarked against other UK facilities to allow cost consultants to calculate 10 year revenue projections..

Decision

- 1) To note that the feasibility work completed since February 2014 had reviewed a range of different options for funding a new Meadowbank.
- 2) To note that the Member Officer Working Group had concluded that the typical package used by UK local authorities to fund sport and leisure developments would be the most appropriate funding method for a new Meadowbank as it would secure delivery within the proposed timescale and retain Council control of the new facility.
- 3) To note that there was a funding shortfall of between £11.3m and £19.8m of the estimated £43m total cost of the project.
- 4) To note that expenditure of up to £0.100m on an intrusive ground survey and preparation of a Development Brief would potentially reduce the total cost and funding gap, and provide more financial certainty.
- 5) To note the proposed sporting facility mix and proposed Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage C design for a new Meadowbank.

- 6) To note that the current timeline anticipated that a new Meadowbank would open by the end of 2017, should approval be given to proceed, and to demolish the existing facility before construction began.
- 7) To note the potential funding identified to date (capital receipt from sale of surplus land at Meadowbank; revenue savings from closure of the existing facility; prudential borrowing based on income projections for the new Meadowbank; and a **sportscotland** grant) and the consequent funding shortfall.
- 8) To refer the report to the Council budget meeting on 12 February 2015 and if Council considered it appropriate, and identified funding, note that Council would require to:
 - a) approve expenditure of up to £0.040m from the Corporate Governance revenue budget 2014/15 for an intrusive ground survey as phase one;
 - b) approve as phase two, subject to the Director of Corporate Governance being satisfied with the ground conditions, expenditure of up to £0.060m from the Corporate Governance revenue budget 2014/15 to prepare and agree a Development Brief with Planning;
 - c) note that throughout phases one and two, soft market testing and negotiations would continue with external stakeholders and potential partners to reduce the funding gap, and that any resultant changes in the financial costs and funding package would be reported to the appropriate committee;
 - d) subject to satisfactory completion of phases one and two, approve the proposed sporting facility mix and proposed Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage C design for a new Meadowbank;
 - e) agree to progress the proposed design to RIBA Stage D (design development), and subject to satisfactory completion of Stage D, to Stage E (technical design);
 - f) agree to demolish the existing facility before constructing the new Meadowbank;
 - g) approve the ringfencing of any capital receipt from sale of surplus land at Meadowbank for a new Meadowbank to proceed;
 - h) note the potential funding identified to date (capital receipt from sale of surplus land at Meadowbank; revenue savings from closure of the existing facility; prudential borrowing based on income projections for the new Meadowbank; and a **sportscotland** grant);
 - i) consider the consequent funding shortfall.
- 9) To call for a further report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee on proposed financial packages including partnership funding.

- 10) To thank the members of the Working Group for the work undertaken by them to date.

(References – Act of Council No 5 of 13 March 2008; report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Lewis declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Director of Edinburgh Leisure.

6 Health and Social Care Integration Scheme: Draft for Public Consultation

The Council had delegated authority for the Draft Integration Scheme to be approved for consultation by the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee at its meeting on 20 January 2015.

The Draft Integration Scheme between NHS Lothian and the City of Edinburgh Council, in line with the requirements of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act, was presented together with details of the consultation process and the timeline for the creation of the new Integration Authority for Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Draft Integration Scheme for the purposes of public consultation.
- 2) To note the planned consultation process and review the list of consultees.
- 3) To note that the “final” Integration Scheme would be submitted to the Council in March for approval prior to submission to the Scottish Government by 31 March 2015.
- 4) To note the implementation steps and timeline.

(References – Act of Council No 7 of 11 December 2014; report by the Chief Executive, 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.

7 Review of Community and Accessible Transport: Feedback from Working Group on Phase One Report

The Committee had continued consideration of a report on phase one of the Review of Community and Accessible Transport to enable the Review of Community and Accessible Transport Working Group to consider the report and refer any comments back to the Committee.

Details were provided on the feedback from a recent meeting of the Working Group, together with the Equalities and Rights Impact Assessment.

Decision

- 1) To note the feedback from the Working Group.
- 2) To note the desire of the Working Group to move forward with the review on a co-production basis.
- 3) To approve the Proposed Solution in Appendix 2 to the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities.
- 4) To note that, subject to approval of decision 3), the detailed concerns raised by the Working Group would be addressed during phase two of the Review.
- 5) To note that a report had been prepared for consideration on 15 January 2015 by the Finance and Resources Committee seeking to extend service level agreements for community and transport providers.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 4 November 2014 (item 12); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

8 Tackling Poverty and Inequality in Edinburgh – Strategic Framework and Action Planning – referral from the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee had referred a report on progress towards strategic outcomes to tackle poverty and inequality through practical action, using the Council's community planning roles and mainstream service planning and delivery.

Decision

To endorse the strategic aspects of the poverty and inequality outcomes as detailed in the report by the Director of Health and Social Care.

(References – Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee 25 November 2014 (item 8); referral report from the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee, submitted.)