

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 24 February 2015

Present

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

1. Sustainable Energy Action Plan

a) Friends of the Earth – Deputation

The deputation indicated that they regarded the proposals in the Sustainable Energy Action Plan as a step forward to facing up to the challenges ahead, but expressed concern that this was still not a plan and not one which showed how targets were to be met. They felt that the Council needed to look more at the work which could be done in conjunction with external organisation.

The deputation agreed that if the actions listed were completed, Edinburgh would make a significant contribution to tackling climate change. They indicated that although the plan had the right structure, they felt that the content was inadequate and needed to be more concrete, setting timetables and quantifying emissions that could be saved by each measure. They stressed that it was unclear from the report how the Council's targets would be achieved and urged the Council to involve members of the public, outside organisations and public bodies more.

b) Report by the Director of Economic Development

Details were provided on the draft Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) for the city which set out the actions to reduce carbon emissions by 42% by 2020.

Motion

- 1) To approve the Council signing up to the Covenant of Mayors programme.
- 2) To approve the draft Sustainable Energy Action Plan.
- 3) To ask the Council Leader and Chief Executive to write to key stakeholders asking for sign up to the Plan by September 2015.
- 4) To note that a further report on stakeholder contributions would be submitted to this Committee in October 2015.

- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor McVey

Amendment 1

- 1) To approve the Council signing up to the Covenant of Mayors programme.
- 2) To approve the draft Sustainable Energy Action Plan.
- 3) To ask the Council Leader and Chief Executive to write to key stakeholders asking for sign-up to the Plan by September 2015.
- 4) To note that a further report on stakeholder contributions would be submitted to this Committee in October 2015.
- 5) To note with concern, despite consultation since June 2014 and the interest of some City partners, the lack of engagement by many partners in the draft SEAP and therefore request that the letter from the Council Leader and Council Chief Executive requesting participation in the SEAP includes; all major banks & financial institutions, all individual members of the Chamber of Commerce, all Edinburgh-based participants in Scotland's 2020 Climate Group, NHS Lothian, all of Edinburgh's Universities and Colleges, all major non-departmental public bodies with offices in Edinburgh eg. the Prison Service, the Scottish Parliament Corporate Body and the Scottish Government.
- 6) To note the draft SEAP highlights the need for the Council to lead by example in reducing City-wide climate-changing emissions however, that the Council's current 2% annual target for emissions reduction would not itself amount to a 42% reduction of the Council's own emissions by 2020.
- 7) To note that the draft SEAP stated that proposed actions would only achieve around 65% of the required city-wide carbon emissions reductions by 2020 and therefore requests that a further report proposes further actions towards meeting this target.
- 8) To note that the potential carbon emissions reduction from many of the proposed actions had not been quantified, however requests that as many of these actions were quantified as soon as it became possible to do so and requests these were included in a further report.
- 9) To note that the SEAP stated that a new Council team would be required to take forward the five programmes of the plan, but that such resources had not been specifically identified and therefore requests a further report providing clarity on the governance of the SEAP and the council resources allocated to its delivery.
- 10) To agree that the annual SEAP progress report be submitted to Corporate Policy & Strategy Committee.

- 11) To note that Section 5 of the report contained no significant detailed estimates (high level or otherwise) of the financial costs of the Action Plan and report that such benchmark estimates be prepared and reported to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee within two cycles.

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Chapman

Amendment 2

- 1) To approve the Council signing up to the Covenant of Mayors programme.
- 2) To approve the draft Sustainable Energy Action Plan.
- 3) To ask the Council Leader and Chief Executive to write to key stakeholders asking for signup to the Plan by September 2015.
- 4) To note that a further report on stakeholder contributions would be submitted to this Committee in October 2015.
- 5) To note that Section 5 of the report contained no significant detailed estimates (high level or otherwise) of the financial costs of the Action Plan and report that such benchmark estimates be prepared and reported to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee within two cycles.

- moved by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Mowat

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion	-	9 votes
For Amendment 1	-	3 votes
For Amendment 2	-	3 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Hinds.

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

2. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 20 January 2015 as adjusted.

3. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan March to June 2015

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

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for March to June 2015.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan March to June 2015, submitted.)

4. 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 Action 9 – Mortonhall Action Plan – Update.
- 2) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

5. Business Bulletin

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Business Bulletin for 24 February 2015 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

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

6. Annual Treasury Strategy 2015/16

Details were provided on the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for the Council for 2015/16 which included an annual Investment Strategy and Debt Management Strategy.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/16.
- 2) To approve the revised Treasury Policy Statements.
- 3) To refer the report to Council for its approval and remit to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny.

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

7. Parental Leave Policy on the Birth or Adoption of a Child

Details were provided on a new statutory right to Shared Parental Leave (SPL) which was to come into effect from 5 April 2015. The Council's provisions for leave relating to Maternity and Adoption had been reviewed and updated to include this new right and the way in which the Council would manage SPL was outlined.

Decision

To note the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.

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

8. Energy for Edinburgh

The Council had approved the establishment of an ESCO for the Council with interim Directors for a year and the appointment of three elected members to the Board.

An update was provided on progress towards the establishment of the energy services company (ESCO) Energy for Edinburgh. A key issue for the ESCO was the need to identify start up funding to provide the new vehicle with specialist project management capacity to be identified as well as allowing further specialist advice to be commissioned.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress to date in progressing Energy for Edinburgh and that interim advisers would be appointed to support the Board.
- 2) To note that funding of £150,000 was approved at Council on 12 February 2015 to support the development of the company including any further specialist and technical advice.
- 3) To note the intention to submit a further report in May 2015 on the detailed business case for the company.
- 4) To agree to a data room being set up to scrutinise the business cases prior to these being brought forward to the Committee.

(References – Act of Council No 8 of 25 September 2014; Act of Council No 3 of 12 February 2015; report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Hinds and McVey declared a non-financial interest in the above item, as interim Directors of the Energy Services Company (ESCo) for Edinburgh.

9. Conference Invitation “Local Governance : Setting the Agenda” – COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference and Exhibition 2015 (12-13 March)

Details were provided on an invitation for the Council to nominate delegates to attend the COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held at Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire on 12-13 March 2015.

Decision

To approve the attendance of the Council’s COSLA delegates on the morning of Friday 13 March 2015.

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

10. Risk Management Policy Update – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had referred a report on the Council’s approach to risk management, and the activities and responsibilities required to ensure that risk management was embedded comprehensively and consistently across the Council.

Decision

To approve the updated Risk Management Policy.

(References – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 29 January 2015 (item 5); referral report from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee submitted.)

11. BOLD Business Cases: Delivering a Lean and Agile Council – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

The Finance and Resources Committee had referred a report on the Better Outcomes Leaner Delivery (BOLD) portfolio which was focused on developing a number of transformational savings plans across five strategic themes to allow improved focus on Council outcomes and to support the implementation of a new Council delivery model.

Decision

To note the strategic delivery of the overall BOLD programme.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 15 January 2015 (item 2); referral report from the Finance and Resources Committee submitted.)

12. Motion by Councillor Burns – Parliament Hall – Common Good

The Convener ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency in order that early progress could be made to address the anomaly identified.

The following motion by the Councillor Burns was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16.2:

“Committee

1. Notes that in late 2005 the Scottish Ministers undertook a voluntary registration of title to the court complex between Parliament Square and the Cowgate. The Registers of Scotland requested the Ministers seek consent from various bodies to the proposal and in April 2006, the Ministers wrote to the Council seeking confirmation it had no legal interest in this land, and consented to the Ministers registering their title to it.
2. Notes that the Council checked its asset register at that time, and this did not disclose the Council as being the owner of this land. Given this, the Council issued a letter to the Ministers in the terms requested and Scottish Ministers were issued with a Land Certificate by Registers of Scotland which recorded them having a good title to the court complex including Parliament Hall.
3. Notes that shortly after completing the registration of their own title, the Ministers gifted the Laigh Hall (the library underneath Parliament Hall) to the Faculty of Advocates, who were then issued with their own Land Certificate to that property, again recording them as having a good title.
4. Notes that in November 2013, it came to officers’ attention that the confirmation given in 2006 was incorrect and that Parliament Hall, including the Laigh Hall, formed part of the common good property owned by the Council.

5. Notes that in June 2008, Finance and Resources Committee resolved that a review of a property's potential common good status would be undertaken only on a proposed change of use or disposal of a property, given the staff time which would otherwise be involved and some of the associated legal complexities and that this is still the current practice.
6. Notes that Council officials have initiated talks with the Scottish Government to have this common good asset restored to the Council.
7. Notes that there may be legal remedies available to the Council but in order to save the expenditure of public funds in potentially lengthy and costly litigation it would be preferable to resolve the matter voluntarily in discussions with Scottish Government.
8. Therefore requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Permanent Secretary seeking a voluntary resolution to restore ownership of this common good asset to the Council."

Decision

- 1) To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.
- 2) To refer the matter to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for further scrutiny of the issues within the motion and also those within a Green Group addendum:-
 - Adds to part 4 of the motion:

Notes, however, that a report to council officers in October 2006 clearly highlighted that the council had confused Royal High School and Parliament House and that the latter was likely to remain common good, in spite of which no action was taken;
 - Further notes, that the annual report on common good stewardship to Finance and Resources Committee of July 2014 made no mention of Parliament House despite its relevance to the question of whether members are satisfied that Common Good is being managed properly;
 - Adds to part 5 of the Emergency motion:

In light of the issues highlighted in this report and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill, requires a report to the next meeting of Finance and Resources Committee as to the adequacy of the current practice of only reviewing the status of common good property upon change of use or disposal, and options for improvement.