

Minutes

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 12 May 2015

Present

Councillors Burns (Convener), Howat (Vice-Convener), Burgess, Chapman, Child, Nick Cook, 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 24 March 2015 as a correct record.

2. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan June to September 2015

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

Decision

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

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan June to September 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 agree to close the following actions:–
 - Action 4 - Sex Work in Edinburgh – Harm Reduction Framework
 - Action 7 - 2014 Employee Survey Results and Next Steps
 - Action 14 - Edinburgh World Justice Festival 2015 – Motion by Councillor Burns
 - Action 15 - Physical Activity Levels – Motion by Councillor Burns
- 2) To ask that a completion date be provided for Actions 6 and 8.
- 3) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Business Bulletin for 12 May 2015 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

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

5. 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.

Decision

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

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

6. 2014 Employee Survey: Progress Report

The Committee had agreed that a six month progress report be provided on the sixth Employee Survey of the Council.

Details were provided on an additional analysis of the survey results which had been undertaken within service areas with each one prioritising key actions.

Decision

- 1) To note the actions taken to date in responding to the findings of the 2014 Employee Survey.
- 2) To agree that a further progress report, highlighting the outcome of the Healthy Working Lives annual compliance review be submitted to Committee in September 2015.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 30 September 2014 (item 8); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

7 Follow-up Report:2014 Edinburgh People Survey

The Committee had noted the results of the Edinburgh People Survey in the context of the previous five years of survey research together with highlights of the long term positive progress made across the broad range of services.

Details were provided on the results of the analysis of nine areas which had been identified, the performance position of services relative to perception and a summary of those actions which were already underway or proposed.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 2) To note the changes being made to the Edinburgh People Survey in relation to questions around services for older people and community safety.
- 3) To note the actions being taken to improve performance against the indicators highlighted in the report.
- 4) To note that the survey flagged up areas which had been raised as problems by councillors with the relevant departments, such as problems with rubbish collection in Southside Newington Ward, dissatisfaction with gull proof bag collections in the City Centre Ward, and dog fouling across the City. Whilst it was welcome that these issues were being recognised at a corporate level, it was frustrating that in a report documenting the Council's response to the People's survey, known issues were being flagged up with no associated solutions. Committee requests that regular reports be made to the relevant committees on each of the areas of concern detailing improvements. The Transport and Environment Committee should consider how street cleanliness could be measured, as current measures showed a static or improving situation whilst the survey showed growing dissatisfaction with the cleanliness of streets.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 24 March 2015 (item 8); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

8. Consultation on Climate Change Public Bodies Duties Reporting

The Scottish Government had issued a consultation on the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Part 4 and their proposed mandatory reporting for public sector organisations in relation to sustainability and climate change.

Details were provided on the Council's proposed response.

Motion

- 1) To approve the consultation response as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Corporate Governance, for submission to the Scottish Government.
- 2) To note the challenges and opportunities for the Council associated with 'required reporting' compliance.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Child

Amendment

- 1) To approve the consultation response as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Corporate Governance for submission to the Scottish Government subject to changing the response to Question 1 as follows:

Question 1: Do you agree that the powers of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 should be used to improve climate change reporting by public bodies?

Response: No. Mandatory reporting will impose burdens on this Council disproportionate to the benefits to be achieved.

- 2) To note the challenges and opportunities for the Council associated with 'required reporting' compliance.

- moved by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Nick Cook

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	11 votes
For the amendment 1	-	3 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.

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

9 Council Transformation Programme and Improvement Plan

A single, consolidated overview of progress was provided on the work to refresh the Council's strategic planning framework together with the objectives, key initiatives and delivery of the Council Transformation Programme and an overview of progress on all actions in response to the Best Value Audit.

Decision

To note the progress made to date across all areas of the Council's transformation programme and improvement plan as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.

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

10. Edinburgh World Justice Festival Request for Support

In response to a motion by Councillor Burns, details were provided on a meeting which was being arranged between relevant Council services and the World Justice Festival to explore the proposal for an annual Edinburgh World Justice lecture.

Decision

To note the arrangements for a meeting between relevant Council Services and the World Justice Festival to explore the latter's proposal for an annual Edinburgh World Justice lecture.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 24 March 2015 (item 12): report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

11. Invitation from Geneva – UniverCites Network

Decision

To note the action taken under Paragraph A4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions, in approving the attendance of Councillor Lewis at the inaugural meeting of a new network of cities, initiated by Geneva, alongside the Vice Principal International of the University of Edinburgh held in Geneva on 19 and 20 March 2015.

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

12. Physical Activity for Health Pledge

In response to a motion by Councillor Burns, details were provided on a proposal for the Council and NHS Lothian to jointly sign and/or commit to the Scottish Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties Pledge "We will work with a range of partners to fully integrate PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR HEALTH into Health and Social Care and increase physical activity in Scotland".

Decision

- 1) To note the ongoing extensive work to promote physical activity for health under the aegis of Edinburgh's Physical Activity and Sport Strategy.
- 2) To note that the Pledge would be presented to the Health and Social Care Partnership for consideration once it was formally established.
- 3) To agree that the Pledge would be presented to an early meeting of the Edinburgh Partnership to involve other key stakeholders.
- 4) To note that an update on progress would be presented to this Committee in May 2016.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 24 March 2015 (item 13): report by the Director of Health and Social Care, submitted.)

13. Edinburgh's Multi-agency Sexual Exploitation Policy

Details were provided on the Council's draft multi-agency sexual exploitation policy which provided a set of guiding principles and definitions in relation to the prevention of sexual exploitation, the support and protection of victims and the management of perpetrators.

Decision

- 1) To approve the multi-agency sexual exploitation policy as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Social Work Officer.
- 2) To note that the Edinburgh Partnership would be asked to adopt the policy at its next meeting on 18 June 2015.
- 3) To note that associated and separate strategies and action plans for the sexual exploitation of children and adults would be developed and their progress monitored as part of the Council's improvement activity.
- 4) To agree that details of the further strategies be submitted to the Committee in August 2015.

(Reference - report by the Chief Social Work Officer, submitted.)

14. Corporate Asset Strategy 2015-2019

Details were provided on the Council's fourth Corporate Asset Strategy which incorporated feedback from the Audit Scotland audit review and addressed matters highlighted by external auditors in December 2014 during the drafting of their follow-up report on major capital investment in Councils.

Decision

To approve the Corporate Asset Strategy 2015 – 2019 which set the current context for the Council's Transformational Programme and the forthcoming Asset Management Strategy workstream.

(Reference - report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

15. Edinburgh and South East Edinburgh City Region City Deal

The Economy Committee had referred a report on the progress in developing an outline business case for an Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region City Deal for further consideration.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Economy Committee.
- 2) To note the 3 criteria by which to judge the proposal – of GVA per £ spent; addressing inequality; and ensuring geographic spread of economic benefits across the region; and to add a fourth: that the investment should be consistent with and deliver on the city's stated ambition to advance a sustainable economy as agreed at Economy Committee in September 2013.

(References: Economy Committee of 28 April 2015 (item 10); referral report from the Economy Committee, submitted.)