

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 12 April 2016

Present

Councillors Burns (Convener), Ross (Vice-Convener), Barrie, Burgess, Day (substituting for Councillor Child), Edie, Godzik, Ricky Henderson, Hinds, Lewis, Main, Mowat, Rankin, Rose and Rust.

1. Playing Out – Motion by Councillor Burgess

a) Edinburgh Playing Out – Deputation

The deputation indicated that they supported the proposals put forward by the Green Group in their tabled amendment. They felt that a simple and appropriate on-line form should be produced to streamline the application process and to keep costs to a minimum for both the Council and residents.

They indicated that they would welcome the opportunity to have an input into any guidance/review that was to be carried out and would be happy to engage with the Council in any pilot project to be carried out.

b) Report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families

In response to a motion by Councillor Burgess on the cross-disciplinary nature of Playing Out, details were provided on the current regulatory, financial and practical barriers to temporary closure of streets on a regular basis to allow Playing Out by children on Edinburgh streets.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To note that any subsequent road closure applications, including any associated charges, would be considered in due course by the Transport and Environment Committee.
- 3) To agree that a process for handling applications by residents for Playing Out events be established within the Council and accompanying guidance for residents organising such events be published before the Council Summer recess and that such guidance include information on possible funding sources for Playing Out events.
- 4) To discharge the motion by Councillor Burgess.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 23 February 2016 (item1): report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted)

2. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 23 February 2016 as a correct record.

3. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan May to August 2016

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for May to August 2016 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for May to August 2016.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan May to August 2016, 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 the following actions:

- Action 10 - Update of Proposal for a New Meadowbank Improved Funding Package
- Action 13 - Energy for Edinburgh
- Action 16 - Festival and Events Core Programme 2016 Etc
- Action 17 - Sustainable Energy Action Plan
- Action 21 - Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo – Australia and New Zealand
- Action 22 - Playing Out – Motion by Councillor Burgess.

2) To provide an update/completion dates for the following Actions:

- Action 3 - Follow-up Report 2014 Edinburgh People Survey
- Action 9 - Citywide Review of Council-owned Sports Facilities and Services – Key Findings and Recommendations
- Action 12 - Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2014-15.

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 April 2016 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To express appreciation to the Lord Provost as Chair of the Edinburgh Royal Military Tattoo.
- 2) To otherwise note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, submitted.)

5. 2015 Edinburgh People Survey Headline Results

Details were provided on the results of the 2015 Edinburgh People Survey.

Motion

- 1) To note the 2015 Edinburgh People survey headline results.
- 2) To refer the headline results report to the Edinburgh Partnership Board for information.
- 3) To note that an update would be provided in 6 months as part of the Council's Business plan.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ross

Amendment

- 1) To note the 2015 Edinburgh People survey headline results.
- 2) To refer the headline results report to the Edinburgh Partnership Board for information.
- 3) To note with concern that, whilst resident satisfaction with the City as a place to live and certain areas of Council performance was consistently high, there continued to be many examples where Council performance was still below 60% and had been worsening or had not significantly improved over the last 5 years for example:
 - only 33% residents felt able to have a say on local issues and services,
 - satisfaction with road and pavement maintenance, 51% and 53% respectively
 - satisfaction with the management of dog fouling 46%
 - 29% of residents believed the council displayed sound financial management
 - 51% of people asked felt there was alcohol related disorder in the city centre.

- 4) To request that for those areas of Council performance, the relevant committees consider:
- Further explanation of the possible reasons for the levels of satisfaction in each of these areas of Council performance;
 - Actions that could be taken to improve performance in each of these areas of Council performance.

- moved by Councillor Main, seconded by Councillor Burgess

Voting

The voting was as follows:

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

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

6. McCrae's Battalion Trust – Commemorative Service at Contalmaison Cairn – 1 July 2016

Approval was sought for the Council to be represented at the commemorative service at Contalmaison, France, on 1 July 2016.

Decision

To approve the attendance of Bailie Norman Work at the Commemorative Service at Contalmaison on 1 July 2016.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

7 Update on Red Flag System for events

In response to a motion by Councillor Mowat on Festival Events, an update was provided on the Red Flag process, alerts and updates which had been issued in the past two years since its implementation, together with their content and frequency.

Decision

To continue consideration of the matter to the next meeting of the Committee to allow officers to have discussions with Councillor Mowat.

(References – Act of Council No 14 of 4 February 2016; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

8. West Princes Street Gardens and Ross Bandstand – An Opportunity for Renewal

Details were provided on proposals to replace the Ross Bandstand, refurbish the Ross Fountain and provide investment into other elements of West Princes Street Gardens

including better pedestrian and vehicular access, landscaping, signage and visitor facilities.

Decision

- 1) To acknowledge the importance of the Ross Bandstand in West Princes Street Gardens to Edinburgh's reputation, its festivals and events programme and as a source of residents' pride in our city, and note that the Bandstand was no longer fit for purpose.
- 2) To welcome the work carried out to date, on a voluntary basis, by a potential benefactor and an independent Steering Group to develop an outline proposal to refurbish elements of West Princes Street Gardens and redevelop the Ross Bandstand.
- 3) To welcome and endorse the ambition demonstrated by the Steering Group to date and thank its members for their personal commitment to this project.
- 4) To note that a programme of capital works in West Princes St Gardens could provide the Council with enhanced assets, including a new Ross Bandstand.
- 5) To note that careful management of the project would be required, as technical, topographical and legal issues created inherent difficulties for any development in West Princes Street Gardens; these included the mainline rail route which cut through the Gardens, the site's status as inalienable Common Good land and the City of Edinburgh District Council Order Confirmation Act 1991.
- 6) To note that following further due diligence, a report would be presented to Council in June detailing the project's stages, decision points, timescale and legal requirements and seeking approval to proceed.

(References – Culture and Sport committee 21 October 2014 (item 5): report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

9 Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan Phase 4 – 2016-2018

The Council had a duty to further the conservation of biodiversity under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 which was achieved through the delivery of the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan (EBAP).

Approval was sought for the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan Phase 4 2016-2018.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan Phase 4 2016 – 2018.
- 2) To note the contributions made by members of the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership, including the significant contributions delivered through joint working by Council Service Areas.
- 3) To note that a celebration event to promote the Action Plan, involving partners and local schools, was planned to take place on 25 May 2016 as part of Biodiversity Week.
- 4) To recognise the contribution of groups of residents, such as Newington Cemetery Group, who worked closely with the Council cemeteries staff not only

to improve access, safety and clear unwanted growth, but also to keep areas untouched or lightly managed as wildlife havens and to encourage biodiversity.

- 5) To encourage the Council Parks department to continue to develop these partnerships as a contribution to the Action Plan.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

10. Sustainable Energy Action Plan – Annual Report 2015/16

An update was provided on the Council's Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) for the city which set out the proposed actions and initiatives to reduce carbon emissions by 42% by 2020 across the city.

The Green Group had submitted a proposed addendum to the recommendations in the report raising a number of issues and actions relating to the Action Plan.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director of Place and the substantive progress to date.
- 2) To refer the issues set out in the addendum by the Green Group to the Carbon, Climate and Sustainability Working Group for consideration.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 24 February 2015 (item 1); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

11. Redundancy Matrix

Details were provided on action which had been taken under the urgency procedures set out in the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions on the Redundancy Procedure which included a surplus/redundancy assessment form which could be used for selecting employees for redundancy.

Decision

- 1) To note the action taken under urgency procedures set out at paragraph A4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions.
- 2) To note that a revised redundancy scoring matrix would be used during transformation, replacing the existing matrix contained within the Redundancy Procedure 2010.
- 3) To note that this had been jointly agreed with the Trade Unions and was in line with ACAS guidelines.

(Reference – report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

12. Health and Social Care Integration Partnership Tripartite Agreement and Interface Group

The Council and NHS Lothian had established an Edinburgh Integration Joint Board in order to integrate health and social care functions in line with the requirements of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.

Details were provided on proposals for two key mechanisms to help manage the complexities which were in addition to and did not supersede the legal agreement established between the Council and NHS Lothian within the Integration Scheme.

Decision

- 1) To agree the Tripartite Agreement as a statement of principle and intention for joint working.
- 2) To agree that the Chief Executive sign on behalf of the Council.
- 3) To agree the purpose, remit and membership of the Interface Group and note that it would be reviewed after one year.
- 4) To note that both were informal mechanisms in order to establish principles of behaviour and transparency in the interest of strong partnership working.

(Reference – report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Edie declared a financial interest as Chair of the Care Inspectorate and left the meeting during the Committee's consideration of the above item.

Councillor Ricky Henderson declared a financial interest as a non-executive Director of NHS Lothian.

13. Consultation on the Creation of a Criminal Offence of Domestic Abuse

Details were provided on a Scottish Government consultation seeking views on the proposal to create a specific offence of domestic abuse. The deadline for submission of responses was Friday 1 April 2016 and the draft response which had been submitted by the Council was provided.

Decision

To approve the draft consultation response as submitted and as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Social Work Officer.

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

14. Thundering Hooves 2.0: Council Actions and First Annual Health Check – referral by the Culture and Sport Committee

The Culture and Sports Committee had referred a report summarising the findings of the first annual health check meetings which had been established to measure progress of how relevant Council functions were working to support the needs of the Edinburgh Festivals and delivering on the ambition to be a festival-friendly city for information.

Decision

To note the report by the Culture and Sport Committee.

(References – Culture and Sport Committee 4 June 2015 (item 11); report by the Culture and Sport Committee, submitted.)

15 Edinburgh Schools – Motion by Councillor Burns

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 to allow the Committee to give early consideration to this matter.

The following motion by Councillor Burns was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

- “1. Committee notes, with regret, the recent necessity to close several Edinburgh Schools – all of which were designed, constructed, and continue to be managed, by the Edinburgh Schools Partnership (ESP).
2. Committee also notes that the Council Leader has apologised for the significant inconvenience these closures have caused.
3. Committee further notes that the safety of children, and our staff, has to be the top priority and the Council cannot take any risks with such. Thus, given the professional advice from the Edinburgh Schools Partnership (ESP) – received on Friday 8th April – the Council had no option but to close these facilities.
4. Committee understands that the most immediate tasks which will be carried out as a matter of urgency will be: the continuation of educational-provision; ensuring the safety of the affected buildings; and seeing the facilities safely re-opened.
5. Committee thereafter calls for an urgent update report concerning this series of events, including a full update from the Edinburgh Schools Partnership (ESP), subject to an independent peer review, on the reasons for the identified defects; and instructs that the overall update report goes to the next meeting of the Corporate, Policy and Strategy Committee on Tuesday 17th May 2016.”

Decision

- 1) To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.
- 2) To agree that the update report include an update on the wider project/governance issues such as the council's management of the contract and the role of building control from the outset.
- 3) To agree that the following Green Group addendum be referred to the meeting on 17 May 2016 for consideration at that time:

“Committee also calls for a full inquiry into the failure of ESP buildings, including the contractual and other arrangements with the ESP regarding the quality assurance of the construction of the buildings; any responsibility CEC had during the construction phase including through Building Control; whether contractual terms have been adhered to; the management and maintenance of the buildings since construction; an assessment of costs incurred by the Council and by families and options for recovery.”.