

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 17 May 2016

Present

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

Also present: Councillor Day (for item 1)

1. **Museum of Fire, 76-78 Lauriston Place – Motion by Councillor Day**

a) **Friends of the Museum of Fire – Deputation**

The deputation indicated that although there was no advertising, cafe facilities or commercial stock, the Museum of Fire still managed to attract 11,000 visitors over the past two years and had the advantage of being located on the Edinburgh tourbus route. The museum was appreciated throughout the worldwide fire fighting community who recognised Edinburgh as being the birthplace of firefighting engineering.

The deputation stressed that the artefacts and building itself at Lauriston Place were of historical importance and urged that the Chief Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service be asked to consider retaining the museum in its current location, possibly along the Glasgow model.

b) **Report by the Executive Director of Resources**

In response to a motion by Councillor Day on the future of the Museum of Fire, details were provided on the current status of the building at 76-78 Lauriston Place and options for the Museum's future.

Decision

- 1) To note the long and proud history of the Fire Service in Edinburgh and the national and international contribution the Service has made in the development of Fire and Rescue Services worldwide.
- 2) To agree that this history, and contribution to safer societies, should continue to be marked and celebrated by the maintenance of a Fire Service Museum in Edinburgh.
- 3) Whilst noting and welcoming the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service's commitment to relocate the museum within the city boundary, this Committee, on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council, urges the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to negotiate any terms of sale of the building at

Lauriston Place that would allow this unique piece of social history to remain in its current home.

- 4) To note that the Council remained committed to securing the Fire Museum as an asset for the Capital City; and thus instruct the Council Leader to meet with the Chair of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to offer Council expertise to explore commercial or other solutions to protect the museum at Lauriston, or confirm an alternative suitable venue prior to selling off this asset.

(References – Act of Council No 15 of 4 February 2016; report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted)

2. Citywide Review of Council-owned Sports Facilities and Services: Management Transfer of School Sport Facilities to Edinburgh Leisure

a) Swimeasy – Deputation

The deputation indicated that they had already suffered with a decrease in lets available to them since August 2015. They felt they were unable to plan for the future and were unable to take advance bookings.

They stressed that they provided an alternative choice for people and employment opportunities but that the current situation made them unable to plan for the year ahead.

b) UNISON – Deputation

The deputation indicated that they supported the proposals to increase community access but felt that there had been a lack of consultation with the Trade Unions and staff.

They indicated that timescales appeared to have moved forward and felt that a number of issues were still to be addressed before delegated authority to negotiate a licence to operate/occupy for Edinburgh Leisure was approved.

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

Details were provided on a business case which had been developed by Edinburgh Leisure (EL) in consultation with Council officers for the management transfer of secondary school sports facilities to EL.

Decision

- 1) To instruct Council officers to continue to work with Edinburgh Leisure to ensure that due diligence was exercised over the business plan and financial implications for the Council.
- 2) To note that consultation would continue with relevant stakeholders, including SportScotland, on the impact that the changes would have on existing funding of programmes and priorities.
- 3) To instruct a further report to be presented to the Committee on 14 June 2016 detailing the proposed way forward and timetable.

- 4) To note that the work would be taken forward by a Joint Implementation Steering Group of Council officers and Edinburgh Leisure personnel which would oversee the detailed proposals to implement the new arrangements.
- 5) To express concern with:
 - the delay of the report;
 - lack of reference to issues of the Mixed Economy Model;
 - the lack of consultation with interested parties;
 - the lack of information relating to the alternative savings proposals.
- 6) To call for the June 2016 report to Committee to address all the above issues.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 29 September 2015 (item 2); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

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

3. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 12 April 2016 as a correct record.

4. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan June to September 2016

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

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for June to September 2016.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan June to September 2016, submitted.)

5. 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 9	-	Citywide Review of Council-owned Sports Facilities and Services – Key Findings and Recommendations
Action 10	-	Proposals for a New Meadowbank – Improved Funding Package

Action 17 - Playing Out – motion by Councillor Burgess

2) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

6. Edinburgh Schools

In response to a motion by Councillor Burns, details were provided on the background to the recent school closures affected by structural issues together with the current position, planned activities and the Council's intention to instruct an independent inquiry into the matter.

Motion

- 1) To note the report by the Chief Executive.
- 2) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny.
- 3) To instruct an independent inquiry into this matter as per paragraphs 3.3.2 to 3.3.5 of the report.
- 4) To call for an update report with terms of reference for and timescale of the inquiry within one cycle.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ross

Amendment

- 1) To note the report by the Chief Executive.
- 2) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny.
- 3) To note as a result of continuing school closures, the additional costs faced by the Council and also by the whole school community including schools, after-school clubs, sports clubs and parents.
- 4) To agree to a full, independently led inquiry into the recent failure of PPP1 school buildings with the overarching aim of establishing the reasons for the failure and any responsibility that the Edinburgh School Partnership (ESP) and the Council had in that failure so that any necessary steps could be taken to ensure that the Council could provide a safe, excellent environment for the health, wellbeing, education and attainment of all its school pupils, the inquiry to include:
 - a) Establishing whether ESP fulfilled its responsibilities in constructing and managing these schools;
 - b) Establishing whether the Council properly fulfilled its responsibilities in commissioning these schools and its responsibilities for ensuring these schools were properly constructed;
 - c) Establishing whether other remedial work and maintenance regimes undertaken since the schools opened were sufficiently thorough and should have identified the recently found failures earlier;

- d) Considering whether the current contractual arrangements with ESP were best fit for purpose, and could guarantee appropriate ongoing school provision in Edinburgh, making recommendations for the future management of the schools and other lessons learned.
- 5) To agree a report with recommendations for an independent chair, the terms of reference and timescale of the inquiry would be brought to full Council on 2 June 2016.
- 6) To agree to fully determine and then seek recovery of the wider costs of the school closures.

- moved by Councillor Main, seconded by Councillor Burgess

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion - 11 votes
For the amendment - 2 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 12 April 2016 (item 15); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

7. 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 status of Universal Credit in Edinburgh.
- 2) To note the Council's ongoing activities relating to Welfare Reform.
- 3) To note the COSLA Paper Scotland's New Social Security Powers – Role of Local Authorities.
- 4) To note the current projection of spend on Discretionary Housing Payments.
- 5) To note the current projection on Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- 6) To note the current projection of spend on Scottish Welfare Fund.
- 7) To recognise that welfare advice services were an investment by this Council that helped tackle poverty and assisted some of our most vulnerable citizens at a time of very significant reductions in Welfare, including helping citizens manage debt and maximise their income.
- 8) To note that although a saving of £1.242 m from 'Safer and Stronger Communities' (Ref. CF/ST10) was agreed in February's Council budget, however further note that it did not specify that £1m was to be cut from Welfare Advice Services.

- 9) To note that elected members of the Welfare Reform Working Group were surprised to learn of the intention to cut £1m from Welfare Advice Services.
- 10) To accept that a review of welfare advice services provided by the Council and other organisations may well identify efficiency savings, however recognise that a £1m cut would be a very significant part of the entire budget of the Council's own Welfare Advice Shop and funding from the Council that supported third-sector organisations delivering welfare advice.
- 11) To therefore agree that there should be no pre-determined cut to welfare advice services but that the review of services should take place in the absence of such a target.
- 12) To request that the findings and recommendations of the review into welfare advice services were then reported to this Committee.

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

8. Nuclear Free Local Authorities - Membership

Details were provided on an invitation for the Council to renew its membership of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities organisation for 2016/17.

Motion

To agree to the Council renewing its membership of Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) for 2016/17.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ross

Amendment

To take no action on the invitation.

- moved by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Rust

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	10 votes
For the amendment	-	3 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.

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

9 Update on Red Flag System for events

The Committee had continued consideration of a report submitted in response to a motion by Councillor Mowat on Festival Events, which provided an update 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, to allow officers to have discussions with Councillor Mowat. Details of the outcome of discussions with Councillor Mowat were included in the amended report.

Decision

- 1) To note the Red Flag system had been in active use since 2014.
- 2) To note that a communication protocol had been adopted to ensure that local Councillors and the public were alerted as swiftly as possible to any late changes to access to public areas.

(References – Act of Council No 14 of 4 February 2016; Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 12 April 2016 (item 7); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)