

## Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 8 November 2016

### Present

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

### 1. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

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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.

Details were provided on a request from the UK Government to resettle a small number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) accepted by the UK following closure of the Calais refugee camp by the French authorities.

#### Decision

- 1) To agree that Edinburgh should offer to accept a small number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) who had been resettled in the UK following the closure of the Calais refugee camp – the number to be determined in discussion with Communities and Families and Safer and Stronger Communities staff.
- 2) To note that the city had been asked to consider involvement in a national UASC dispersal scheme and that detailed financial modelling was currently being undertaken with a view to bringing a report back to Committee, hopefully before Christmas.

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

### 2. Minute

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#### Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 4 October 2016 as a correct record subject to, in respect of Item 1 - Business Case for the Management Transfer of Secondary School Sport Facilities to Edinburgh Leisure – Progress Report, noting that there had been a submission of comments by ClubSportEdinburgh.

### 3. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan December 2016 to February 2017

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The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for December 2016 to February 2017 was presented.

## **Decision**

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for December 2016 to February 2017.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan December 2016 to February 2017, submitted.)

## **4. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Rolling Actions Log**

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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 - Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Annual Report 2015-16  
Action 8 - Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2014-15  
Action 17 - Emergency Motion by Councillor Mowat – General Switchboard and Website Enquiries

- 2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

## **5. Place Directorate Proposed Changes to Chief Officer Structure**

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The Council approved the new Executive Structure for the Council on 25 June 2015.

Details were provided on a new Place Directorate structure which was required to deliver improved service delivery, better value and a more integrated approach, including across all development functions. In recognition of and in response to internal and external drivers and challenges, a revised Senior Management Team structure had been developed for approval.

### **Decision**

- 1) To approve the proposed changes to the Chief Officer structure in the Place Directorate as detailed in the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To circulate details of the new staffing structure, including reporting lines, to members as soon as possible for information.

(References: Act of Council No 3 of 25 June 2015; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted).

## **6. Visit by the Lord Provost to the United Arab Emirates**

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Details were provided of an invitation for the Lord Provost to travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 16-20 November 2016, to attend the opening ceremony of the Abu Dhabi Science Festival, an event which had been co-delivered by the Edinburgh International Science Festival since 2011.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the acceptance of the invitation extended to the Lord Provost from the Edinburgh International Science Festival to attend the sixth edition of the Abu Dhabi Science Festival.
- 2) To note that a post-visit report would be provided after the event

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

## **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Rose declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Board Member of the Edinburgh International Science Festival.

## **7. Council Resilience Annual Report (1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016)**

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Details were provided of corporate resilience activities and initiatives undertaken during the period 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the resilience activities undertaken during the period 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016.
- 2) To note the resilience model and reporting structure outlined at Appendix 5 of the report by the Chief Executive.
- 3) To approve the proposed Resilience service forward work plan for 2016/17 set out at Appendix 6 of the report.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

## **8. Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Annual Report 2015-16**

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The Council had approved the “Sustainable Edinburgh 2020” policy framework which set out the aims, objectives and targets for the sustainable development of the Council and the city to 2020.

The Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Annual Report 2015 was presented which provided details on the position statement which set out where the Council currently was with respect to sustainability together with challenges and opportunities. Proposals for the next steps were outlined.

## **Motion**

- 1) To note the position statement in Appendix 1 of the report by the Chief Executive and key actions for 2016/17.
- 2) To note the significant progress made by the Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership (ESDP) in promoting a partnership approach to achieving the aims of a Sustainable Edinburgh 2020.
- 3) To note the establishment of a stand-alone Sustainable Edinburgh website to promote and capture the sustainability work that was being carried out across the city.

- 4) To note progress made moving towards integrating Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 into the new Local Outcome Improvement Plan which would be based on the three pillars of sustainability: economy, society and environment.
- 5) To note that details of the full community planning framework would be included in the report back to Committee on the Council's Business Plans.

- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor Ross

#### **Amendment**

- 1) To note that due to resource and time constraints extensive engagement and consultation across the Council had not taken place to collate projects delivering sustainability outcomes and request that SE2020 was updated at the earliest opportunity.
- 2) To request that the Corporate Leadership Team specifically address the Challenges, Opportunities and Priorities set at Paragraphs 3.7-3.9 of the report by the Chief Executive.

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Main

#### **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

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

#### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Hinds

(Reference - report by Chief Executive, submitted.)

## **9. Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2015-16**

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The Committee had approved the Council's response to the Scottish Government's proposed mandatory reporting for public sector organisations in relation to sustainability and climate change.

Details were provided on the Council's proposed first required annual report on compliance with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties for submission to the Scottish Government

#### **Motion**

- 1) To approve the submission to the Scottish Government of the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2015/16 as outlined in Appendix One to the report by the Chief Executive.
- 2) To agree that the new arrangements be embedded as outlined in paragraph 3.5 of the report to ensure more robust, regular monitoring of the Council's carbon footprint.

- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor Ross

## **Amendment**

- 1) To approve the submission to the Scottish Government of the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2015/16 as outlined in Appendix One to the report by the Chief Executive.
- 2) To agree that the new arrangements be embedded as outlined in paragraph 3.5 of the report to ensure more robust, regular monitoring of the Council's carbon footprint.
- 3) To note that Scottish Government's Climate Change Assessment Tool (C-CAT) had not been employed to date and support its use in informing future Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reports.
- 4) To recognise the potential to more widely employ the Council's Sustainability, Adaptation, Mitigation (SAM) e-tool and the role that senior officers and members could play in enforcing its use.
- 5) To note that the Council's total carbon emissions had increased by 8.5% and 4.4% in each of the previous two years respectively; further note that the Council's overall carbon emissions reduction since 2005/6 stood at 22%, against a target of 42% by 2020; acknowledge the contribution of changing emissions factors to shifting targets and re-affirm that Council carbon emissions should be reduced in-line with the existing Council target.

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Main

## **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

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

## **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Hinds

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 29 September 2015 (item 9); report by Chief Executive, submitted.)

## **10. Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Update on Participation Requests and Asset Transfer Requests**

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An update was provided on provisions contained within the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 with specific reference to Parts 3 and 5 covering participation requests and asset transfer requests. The indicative timescale for the provisions coming into force, together with proposals for the Council's approach in preparing for these new duties were outlined.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the indicative timescale for the duties under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 coming into force.

- 2) To agree the proposed approach to addressing the duties in relation to participation requests and asset transfer requests.
- 3) To refer the report to Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee on 29 November 2016 for information.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

## **11. Committee Decisions July 2015 to June 2016**

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An update was provided on decisions taken by the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee not included on the Rolling Actions Log for the period covering July 2015 to July 2016.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the position on the implementation of Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee decisions as detailed in the Appendix of the report by the Chief Executive.
- 2) To note that the next summary report would be presented to the Committee in March 2017

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 3 November 2015 (item 4); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

## **12. Welfare Reform Update**

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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 ongoing work to support citizens transition into Universal Credit and through other Welfare Reforms in Edinburgh.
- 2) To note the current spend projections for Discretionary Housing Payments, Council Tax Reduction Scheme; and the Scottish Welfare Fund.
- 3) To note the work being undertaken collaboratively with Department for Work and Pensions to support those impacted by the new benefit cap.
- 4) To agree the Council's response to Scottish Government's consultation on Social Security in Scotland.
- 5) To agree that a further update report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on the impact of the Benefit Cap.

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

## **13. General Switchboard and Website Enquiries**

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Arising from a motion by Councillor Mowat, details were provided on performance information and service design for the Council's online and telephone channels. Proposals for ongoing improvement activities for both services were outlined.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the current performance reporting for Customer Contact.
- 2) To note potential future improvements to customer experience and performance reporting.
- 3) To adjust the Rolling Actions Log to reflect that the motion by Councillor Mowat had not been discharged.
- 4) To agree that a full progress report be submitted to Committee in quarter one of 2017.
- 5) To refer the report to the Transport and Environment Committee for information.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 6 September 2016 (item 9); report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted)

## **14. Locality Improvement Plans 2017-2022 – referral from the City of Edinburgh Council**

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The City of Edinburgh Council had referred a report on the development of Locality Improvement Plans (2017 to 2022), which would build upon previous work undertaken to develop Neighbourhood Partnership Local Community Plans, to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee for information.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

(References – Act of Council No 5 of 22 September 2016; report by the City of Edinburgh Council, submitted)

## **15. Fiduciary Duty – referral from the Pensions Committee**

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The Pensions Committee had referred a report that outlined legal opinion regarding the Pension Committees in Scotland exercising their fiduciary duty (the Opinion), to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee for noting.

The Opinion reaffirmed the position taken by Senior Counsel in England & Wales and confirmed that the advice was also applicable in Scotland. This in turn reinforced the approach taken by the pension funds to date.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

(References – Pensions Committee of 28 September 2016 (item 3); report by the Pensions Committee, submitted)