

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 28 February 2017

Present

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

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 24 January 2017 as a correct record.

2. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan March to August 2017

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for March to August 2017 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for March to August 2017.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan March to August 2017, 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 | - | Managing Customer Contact in a Fair and Positive Way |
| Action 5 | - | Avoidance of Bullying and Harassment at Work Policy - Review |
| Action 7
(06.12.16) | - | Welfare Reform – Update |
| Action 9 | - | Eurocities AGM and Conference |
| Action 11 | - | Unity in Diversity Summit |
| Action 15 | - | Update on the National Benefit Cap in Edinburgh |

2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Business Bulletin for 28 February 2017 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin for 28 February 2017

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

5. Avoidance of Bullying and Harassment at Work Policy

The Committee had approved the revised Avoidance of Bullying and Harassment at Work Policy on 23 February 2016. Details were provided on the outcome of its annual review which had resulted in no adjustments requiring to being made.

Decision

- 1) To note that policy had been reviewed and remained unchanged.
- 2) To agree this policy should be reviewed annually or to comply with changing legislation or when a business need to do so had been identified.
- 3) To note that the Acting Executive Director of Resources intended to undertake a review of the HR policy reporting procedure and report to a future meeting of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee with recommendations on a proposed way forward.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 23 February 2016 (item 8); report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

6. 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 ongoing work to support Universal Credit and Welfare Reform, in particular the extension of the Benefit cap in Edinburgh.
- 2) To note the current spend projections for Discretionary Housing Payments, Council Tax Reduction Scheme; and the Scottish Welfare Fund.
- 3) To refer the report to the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee on 9 March 2017 as part of the Committee scrutiny programme.

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

7. Managing Customer Contact in a Fair and Positive Way Policy – Assurance Statement

Details were provided on the outcome of the review of the Council's Managing Customer Contact in a Fair and Positive Way Policy which set out the process for addressing unreasonable demands or behaviour from customers.

Decision

- 1) To note this policy had been reviewed and was considered to remain current, relevant and fit for purpose.
- 2) To note that this policy would form part of a wider review into complaints management and would link in to the Council's Customer Strategy.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 3 September 2013 (item 4); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

8. Domestic Abuse Service Redesign Update: Developing a Coordinated Community Response

An update was provided on the project to reshape domestic abuse services in Edinburgh. The key work streams which had been developed following extensive consultation with staff, service providers and service users across the city were outlined.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities and Chief Social Work Officer and the strategy and improvement plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report.
- 2) To note that it was intended to submit the finalised Strategy and Improvement Plan to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee and the Finance and Resources Committee in Summer 2017.
- 3) To record the Committee's thanks to the Domestic Abuse Lead Officer for her work in developing the Strategy.

(Reference – report by the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities and Chief Social Work Officer, submitted.)

9. Consultation on the Councillors' Code of Conduct

Details were provided on the proposed response to the Scottish Government consultation on a proposed change to the Councillors' Code of Conduct regarding declarations of interests in connection with quasi-judicial or regulatory matters.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Council's response to the consultation by the Scottish Government as follows:
 - a) Whilst sympathetic to the issues experienced in the Nestrans area the issues experienced by Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council

have not arisen in Edinburgh and subsequently the City of Edinburgh Council has no requirement to seek a change to the Councillors' Code of Conduct. The proposed change raises a concern that an increase in the scope of the specific exclusion at paragraph 5.18 (2) of the Code could damage public trust and confidence in the Council's decision making process in particular the planning and licensing processes.

- b) If the decision of the Scottish Government was to change the Code due to the needs of other local authorities then the City of Edinburgh Council asks that the extension of the specific exclusion is restricted to those public bodies outlined in the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc (Scotland) Act 2000. This would ensure that Arms Length External Organisations would not be covered by the specific exclusion for quasi-judicial matters. This would reflect their status as arms length from the relevant Council and emphasise that councillors who are members have specific duties to that organisation which could be seen to prejudice their decisions at committees.
- 2) To agree that the constitutions of both Nestrans and SESTRAN be explored further to clarify the remit of these organisations.

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

10. Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000: Outcome of Inspection by the Office of Chief Surveillance Commissioner

An update was provided on surveillance activity, including the inspection by the Office of Chief Surveillance Commissioner which had taken place in June 2016.

Decision

- 1) To note the positive outcome of the inspection.
- 2) To note that a refreshed corporate training plan would be rolled out and that this would include an appropriate briefing for members of the Council Leadership Team.
- 3) To note that appropriate training would be made available for elected members after the Council elections in May 2017.

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

11. EUROCITIES Mayors' Summit

Details were provided on the attendance by the Convener of the Economy Committee, Councillor Barrie, at the Mayors' Summit in Brussels on 7 March 2017.

Decision

- 1) To note the action taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Council Leader in approving the attendance of Councillor Barrie at the Mayors' Summit in Brussels on 7 March 2017, under the urgency provisions set out in paragraph

3 of the Committee Terms of Reference, due to the need to confirm arrangements for attendance.

- 2) To note that a post-visit report would be provided after the event.
- 3) To circulate to members a synopsis of the outline programme for the 2018 Summit to be held in Edinburgh.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)