

Minutes

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 27 February 2018

Present

Councillors McVey (Convener), Day (Vice-Convener), Aldridge, Burgess, Daggart, Macinnes, Main, McLellan, Perry, Rankin and Webber (substituting for Councillor Whyte).

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 5 December 2017 and 22 January 2018 as correct records.

2. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan, 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 add an action to reflect the Council decision on 24 August 2017, requesting a report to Committee on action to address the underlying issues which lead to crime and antisocial behaviour.
- 2) To add expected completion dates to all actions.
- 3) To provide an update on Actions 1 - Craiglockhart Hill and 3 – Common Good Asset Register.
- 4) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Business Bulletin

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Business Bulletin was presented.

Decision

- 1) To request a report back to Committee on long term options and costs for the National Barrier Asset.
- 2) To otherwise note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Business Bulletin, submitted.)

5. Welfare Reform – Update

Details were provided of the Council's ongoing Welfare Reform activities, including the current Universal Credit (UC) position following the significant changes announced by the UK Chancellor on 23 November 2017. The update also outlined the impact of the benefit cap on Edinburgh citizens and related transitional activities. Committee considered a service proposal to phase out and withdraw paper-based application forms for Housing Benefit/Council Tax Reduction in favour of digital applications.

Decision

- 1) To note the ongoing work to support University Credit (UC) and Welfare Reform, in particular the extension of the benefit cap in Edinburgh.
- 2) To note the current spend projections for DHP, Council Tax Reduction Scheme and the Scottish Welfare Fund.
- 3) To agree in principle to withdraw paper application forms for Housing Benefit/Council Tax Reduction in favour of a digital only application, subject to a further report on the consultation/impact assessment, and final decision by this committee.
- 4) To agree to refer this report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee to consider as part of its work programme.
- 5) To request further information in the next report to Committee on the number of people refused short term benefit advances by the Department of Work and Pensions.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 3 October 2017 (item 2); report by the Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

6. Full Cost Charges in Care Homes for Older People Managed by the Council

Proposals were outlined to standardise the method and timescales for setting full cost charges for all residents of care homes for older people managed by the Council.

Decision

- 1) To approve the following recommendations to take effect from 1 April 2018:
 - i. the charges for residential care managed by the Council and the two homes owned by the Council and managed by Four Seasons would be calculated in December each year to take effect from 1 April in the following year; the charge would be based on the budgeted cost of providing the accommodation for the coming year;
 - ii. in all cases, the 'full cost' charge would reflect the associated costs of providing different levels of care (residential, nursing and specialist care, temporary stays and short breaks);
 - iii. in the case of the two homes managed by Four Seasons, the full cost charge would be the cost to the Council of the contract for the service, plus any capital charge borne by the Council;
 - iv. in the case of the nine homes owned and managed directly by the Council, the full cost charge would be the full cost of providing the service; in the case of homes to which a capital cost was attached, this should be included;
 - v. where residents liable to pay the full cost have moved from one Council-managed home to another, regardless of whether the move was instigated by the Council, the full cost charge for the home they move to would apply;
 - vi. in the case of Gylemuir, the full cost charge should be the budgeted cost to the Council of providing the service, but must not include any nursing costs borne by NHS Lothian, as these services were free at the point of delivery;
 - vii. those residents who currently had protected status would retain this as long as they lived in the same home and existing residents of Gylemuir would continue to be charged at the National Care Home Contract rate until they moved on to another home.
- 2) To request a Briefing Note on the full charging structure and methodology for Council-managed care homes.
- 3) To request a report back to Committee in 12 months on the impact of the change.

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

7. Citizen's Basic Income Pilot

An update was provided on progress made to develop a Citizen's Basic Income pilot in Scotland. Details were provided of the availability of Scottish Government funding to support feasibility research into pilot projects, timescales for bids to access that

funding, and next steps for collaborative cross-local authority work to support development of a pilot scheme.

Motion

- 1) To note progress underway to develop a pilot scheme for a Citizen's Basic Income in Scotland.
- 2) To approve City of Edinburgh Council continued participation in the feasibility research for a pilot scheme, subject to further reports to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee as the scope of pilots develops and any associated costs were clarified.
 - moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

To take no action.

- Moved by Councillor McLellan, seconded by Councillor Doggart

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	8 votes (Councillors Aldridge, Burgess, Day, Macinnes, Main, McVey, Perry and Rankin)
For the amendment	-	3 votes (Councillors Doggart, McLellan and Webber)

Decision

- 1) To note progress underway to develop a pilot scheme for a Citizen's Basic Income in Scotland.
- 2) To approve City of Edinburgh Council continued participation in the feasibility research for a pilot scheme, subject to further reports to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee as the scope of pilots develops and any associated costs were clarified.

(References – Act of Council (No. 13), 24 August 2017; report by the Head of Strategy and Insight, submitted.)

8. Champion Mayors Coalition for Inclusive Growth

Committee approval was sought for the City of Edinburgh Council to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Champion Mayors Coalition for Inclusive Growth, which all members of the Scottish Cities Alliance had been invited to join in December 2017.

Decision

- 1) To accept the invitation to join the Champion Mayors Coalition for Inclusive Growth Cities.
- 2) To agree to support the commitments to inclusive growth outlined in the New York, Paris, and Seoul outcome documents.
- 3) To appoint the Head of Strategy and Insight as the point of liaison for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) secretariat on this initiative.
- 4) To request an update report on the benefits of membership in 12 months.

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

9. Implementing the Programme for the Capital: Council Performance Framework 2017-22

The City of Edinburgh Council considered a report on 23 November 2017 that detailed the approach to implementing the Programme for the Capital. The report included detail of the performance measures proposed for assessing progress against the 52 Commitments. The report was referred to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee to agree specific and assessable performance measures, milestones and actions for all commitments. Details were provided of the development work undertaken since November 2017 and progress made.

Decision

- 1) To note the original report (Item 8.2 – Implementing the Programme for the Capital – Council Performance Framework 2017-22).
- 2) To agree the revised performance measures and actions in Appendix 1.
- 3) To note the revised Strategy Map in Appendix 2.
- 4) To note the intention to report back to Committee in six months, including refined targets and timescales, baseline figures and considerations by Executive Committees.

(References – Act of Council (No. 7), 23 November 2017; report by the Head of Strategy and Insight, submitted.)

10. Gaelic Language Plan, 2018-2022: Update on Progress

An overview was provided of progress to date with the production of the Gaelic Language Plan for 2018-2022, which was required by the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 to be produced every five years, and the next steps required to ensure its completion.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress in developing the Gaelic Language Plan 2018-22 and that an extension had been sought from Bòrd na Gàidhlig for submission to them.

This would enable proper regard to be paid to the extensive responses made to the public consultation on the draft report.

- 2) To approve that the Gaelic Language Plan 2018-22: Report on Feedback from Public Consultation could be circulated as a public document.
- 3) To note the progress made with secondary Gaelic Medium Education (GME) which was continuing alongside the development of the Plan.

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

11. Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan Annual Progress Report for 2017

An update was provided on the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan and the key activities and outcomes delivered by the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership in 2017.

Decision

To note the progress made by the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership in the last year in delivering the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-18.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 12 April 2017 (item 9); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

12. Eurocities Conference and Cities4Europe Initiative

Committee considered Edinburgh's engagement in the Eurocities network's new 'Cities4Europe' programme. Details were provided on the ongoing preparations for Edinburgh's hosting of the Eurocities 2018 conference on 28-30 November 2018.

Decision

- 1) To agree a commitment to engage with the Eurocities' 'Cities4Europe' initiative, recognising the opportunity to link activities to those outlined for Scotland's Year of Young People, and to the Eurocities 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and conference which would be hosted in Edinburgh in November, where the conclusions of the initiative would be presented.
- 2) To note that the Lord Provost would represent Edinburgh at the Eurocities Mayors' Summit on 7 May 2018 in Brussels, as part of the preparation of the programme and agenda for the Eurocities AGM and conference 2018.
- 3) To note that, under the terms set out in Paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions, the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Council Leader has nominated the Convener of the Housing and Economy Committee to attend the Eurocities Executive Committee in Vienna on 27 and 28 February 2018.
- 4) To note that follow up reports for both visits would be reported back to Committee as part of the Council's process for international visits.

- 5) To refer this report to the Housing and Economy Committee, to update members on the progress made with the Eurocities AGM and conference.

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

13. Contact Performance Update: July – December 2017

An update was provided on Contact Centre performance, including current trends and ongoing service improvement activities.

Decision

- 1) To note current performance trends within the Contact Centre.
- 2) To note ongoing service and performance improvement activities to ensure that Council services were easy to access and citizen queries and complaints were dealt with effectively.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 3 October 2017 (item 7) and 28 March 2017 (item 10); report by the Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

14. Councillor Complaints Procedure

Details were provided of work undertaken to review the procedures currently in place for dealing with potentially inappropriate behaviour by Councillors, following a motion approved by the City of Edinburgh Council on 23 November 2017, and a proposed way forward was outlined. Committee also considered a proposed response to a Standards Commission consultation on changes to the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of this report.
- 2) To approve Option 2 in the report as the way forward.
- 3) To approve the proposed submission to the Standards Commission consultation on behalf of the Council.
- 4) To request a briefing note to all Councillors on the procedures, including contact details for relevant officers who could be approached directly in relation to complaints.

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

15. Scottish Government Consultation – Review of Gender Recognition Act 2014

Committee considered the City of Edinburgh Council's proposed response to a Scottish Government consultation on the Review of the Gender Recognition Act 2014.

Decision

- 1) To note the closing date for submitting a response to the Review of Gender Recognition Act 2014 consultation was 1 March 2018.

- 2) To approve the content of the Appendix, which sets out the Council's response to the consultation.

(References – Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee, 28 March 2017 (item 15); Policy and Strategy Committee, 12 June 2012 (item 5); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

16. 2018/19 Annual Police Plan: Response to Consultation

The City of Edinburgh Council's response to a consultation by Police Scotland on the 2018/19 Annual Police Plan was provided. As the closing date for the consultation had fallen before the Committee meeting, the response was submitted in consultation with the Convener and Vice-Convener, using the urgency provisions within the Council's Standing Orders.

Decision

To note the response by Council officers to the consultation on the 2018/19 Annual Police Plan.

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