

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 15 May 2018

Present

Councillors McVey (Convener), Day (Vice-Convener), Aldridge, Burgess, Cameron (substituting for Councillor Perry), Dixon (substituting for Councillor Rankin), Doggart, Macinnes, Main, McLellan, and Mowat (substituting for Councillor Whyte).

Also Present

Councillor Lang (for item 18).

1. Deputations

(a) Friends of the Earth (Edinburgh)

The deputation noted that an early version of the Edinburgh 2050 City Vision had not fully acknowledged the key importance of reducing carbon emissions in addressing climate change. A subsequent petition, which they had organised, had highlighted the importance of this issue. They welcomed the inclusion of zero carbon targets in the latest City Vision update, and the Council's commitment to future consultation on this. The deputation highlighted the key role of city authorities in driving key projects, freeing up project log-jams which currently existed.

(b) Comman nam Pàrant

The deputation welcomed the preparation of the Gaelic Language Plan 2018 – 22, and in particular the positive discussions with officers about how the Plan could develop. They highlighted the key value of gaelic education and the fragile state of the current provision. Comman nam Pàrant believed that gaelic education was not a political issue, and sought full cross-party support for the Plan's implementation.

(c) Misneachd Dhùn Èideann

The deputation expressed disappointment that the current Plan was, as they saw it, based on 2017 information; that it wasn't available in gaelic, and that it had only been publicly available a week before this meeting, giving them little time to prepare a response. The Council's inability to provide a translator for this meeting was also unhelpful. While they broadly commended the Plan, the group felt that a number of its proposals were not specific enough to allow detailed scrutiny. Two particular shortfalls in the report were (i) too great a focus on new, rather than middle or higher, learners, and (ii) no recognition of the value of a dedicated language centre (as available in Ireland/Wales), with all the social and cultural benefits this could bring.

2. Gaelic Language Plan 2018 - 22

The Council had a statutory duty to produce a Gaelic Language Plan every five years. Details were given of the proposed Plan for 2018 – 22, including the extensive engagement undertaken during its development. If approved, this would not be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for consideration.

Decision

- (1) To approve the final Gaelic Language Plan for 2018-22, which had been informed through an extensive public consultation process.
- (2) To note that, following approval, the report must be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for their consideration and that officers had engaged actively with the Bòrd in the completion of the plan to ensure that it was in line with their requirements.
- (3) To note that the final monitoring report on the original 2012-18 Gaelic Language Plan would be reported separately to Committee for approval.
- (4) To approve the final Gaelic Language Plan for 2018-22 subject to the following changes: Under Strategic Priority 1, Corporate action 5 (signage) (page 18), insert the following wording at the end of this action: "Encouraging all council ALEOs and partner organisations to consider Gaelic or bilingual signage/branding as and when new or refreshed signage/branding was introduced."
- (5) To acknowledge the substantial ongoing work of Fèis Dhùn Èideann and Fèisean nan Gàidheal in enriching Gaelic education, arts and culture in the City; wishes this partnership to continue; notes that some local authorities offered the use of facilities to Fèisean nan Gàidheal, and agrees to consider a short report at the next meeting of the Gaelic Implementation Group to examine whether Edinburgh could do the same, and to consider a timetable and wider actions to engage with Gaelic arts groups.
- (6) To agree that the foreword of the Plan should be in Councillor Dickie's name.
- (7) To agree that the annual monitoring report should contain income and expenditure details.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 27 February 2018 (item 10); report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Burgess declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item, as a parent of children attending the Gaelic Primary School.

3. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 27 February 2018 as a correct record.

4. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan

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

Decision

- (1) To request that officers bring reports to Committee within agreed deadlines.
- (2) To otherwise note the key decisions forward plan.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan, May 2018, 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 that the submission date for item 8 (Fair Trade and Resource Use Policy) should be August 2018.
- 2) To agree to close actions 5, 11, 13 – 15 and 20.
- 3) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

6. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Business Bulletin

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Business Bulletin was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

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

7. Local Police Plan 2018 - 21

The statutory Local Police Plan outlined policing priorities for the Edinburgh City Division for 2018 – 21. Its over-arching aim was, as Edinburgh continued to grow both economically and in population, to protect people, reduce crime and ensure the city continued to be a safe place.

Mark Rennie, Police Scotland, spoke to the Plan, and responded to members' questions on the proposals.

Decision

- 1) To request that the Plan made specific reference to Council-funded community police officers.
- 2) To note that comments about the deployment of armed officers would be relayed to the relevant officials.
- 3) To otherwise note the Plan.

(References – Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee, 3 March 2017 (item 6); report by the Divisional Commander, submitted).

8. Armed Forces Reservists

Six Council employees were Reservists. As part of its commitment to Armed Forces Reservists, the Council intended publicising the Armed Forces Covenant; celebrate Armed Forces Day, and support the employment, where appropriate, of wounded, injured or sick veterans. Following an earlier Council motion, the risk that the Council did not have adequate arrangements in place to support and monitor Reservists within the workplace would be added to the appropriate risk registers.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To approve the updated Reserve Forces Training and Mobilisation Policy and related guidance.
- 3) To note the risk which had been added to the Human Resources and Strategy and Insight risk registers.
- 4) To request further information on (a) the number of Edinburgh Council reservists compared with other local Scottish authorities, and (b) the gender profile of the Council's reservists.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 5 December 2017 (item 15); report by the Chief Executive, submitted).

9. Council Health and Safety Policy

Approval was sought for an updated Council Health and Safety Policy. This took account of feedback from stakeholders, as well as learnings from health and safety audits.

Decision

To approve the updated Health and Safety Policy.

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

10. Council Water Safety Policy

A new Water Safety Policy had been devised, replacing an earlier Control of Legionella Bacteria policy. Sitting within the over-arching Council Health and Safety Policy (see previous item), this sought to protect the health and safety of employees and third parties from risks associated with inhalation and ingestion exposure to water containing

bacteria, chemicals or other harmful contaminants. It also took into account the Council's new structural arrangements, and provided greater clarity on health and safety roles and responsibilities.

Decision

To approve the Water Safety Policy.

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

11. Implementing the Programme for the Capital: Coalition Commitments

A final set of indicators to measure performance against defined targets for each of the 52 Coalition Commitments had now been prepared. These would continue to be revised and updated following ongoing monitoring. The performance framework would also be reviewed annually, including where appropriate refreshing the measures, actions, milestones and targets.

Decision

To note the set of indicators set out at Appendix 1 of the report by the Chief Executive.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 27 February 2018 (item 9); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

12. Gaelic Language Plan, 2012 – 17 – Final Monitoring Report

The final statutory monitoring report for the Gaelic Language Plan 2012 – 17 was submitted.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Monitoring Report at Appendix 1, and submit this to Bòrd Na Gàidhlig for their comment and approval.
- 2) To note that this was the final monitoring report for the Council's first Gaelic Language Plan, for the period 2012-2017, and that the second plan, for 2018-2022, had been produced to continue to progress and consolidate the achievements made so far.
- 3) To note that the 2018-22 report was the subject of a separate Committee paper (item 2 refers).

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

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Burgess declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item, as a parent of children attending the Gaelic Primary School.

13. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - Consultation

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was consulting on developing its operating model to take account of new and emerging risks, such as a growing elderly population

needing support to stay safe in their homes, and the threat of terror attack. A draft response was submitted for the committee's consideration.

Decision

To agree the Council's response to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service consultation, subject to amending the response to the consultation question on page 8 of Appendix 1 of the report entitled 'Latest technology should be used where possible to improve firefighter and public safety' from 'No opinion' to 'Agree in principle'.

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

14. Welfare Reform Update

An update was provided on the Council's ongoing Welfare Reform activities. This included Edinburgh's amended date to move to full service Universal Credit; the benefit cap and the impact on Edinburgh citizens, and the Council's initial allocation of £5.2m in 2018/19 for Discretionary Housing Payment, with a further top up later in the year.

Decision

- 1) To note the ongoing work to support Universal Credit (UC) and Welfare Reform, 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 Welfare Reform Working Group activities to support benefit take-up and financial inclusion.
- 4) To agree to circulate the impact assessment in relation to the removal of paper-based benefit forms.
- 5) To agree that a paper would be brought to the next Welfare Reform Working Group on the shortfall between Local Housing Allowance and the private rents.
- 6) To agree that officers would clarify with the DWP FOI responder the reasons why it would cost in excess of £600 to provide information on benefit advance refusal rate.

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

15. Young People's Contribution to Decision Making

The Education, Children and Families Committee had agreed an approach to meaningfully engage and consult on the best ways of ensuring young people's views were heard and taken account of. A further feedback report would be considered in October 2018. Meantime, this committee was invited to endorse the proposals.

Decision

- 1) To endorse the approaches agreed by the Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 2) To agree the process for engaging with young people through Pupil Councils in schools.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee, 6 March 2018 (item 17) and referral report from the Education, Children and Families Committee, submitted.)

16. 2017 Edinburgh People Survey – Headline Results

The key findings of the 2017 Edinburgh People Survey were summarised. 300 residents aged 16 and over were surveyed in each Council ward between September and November 2017, representing the largest face-to-face survey undertaken by any local authority on its services, reputation and quality of life issues.

Decision

- 1) To note the findings of the 2017 Edinburgh People Survey.
- 2) To note that service briefings had taken place and that services were expected to mainstream any actions taken in response to the Edinburgh People Survey findings as part of the strategic planning framework.
- 3) To refer the findings to the four Locality Committees for information.

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

17. Sustainable Energy Action Plan - Progress

The 2015 Sustainable Energy Action Plan agreed a five-year strategic programme aiming to reduce carbon emissions by 42% by 2020. Progress against its objectives was reported, noting an overall reduction in Edinburgh's carbon emissions of 30% since 2005.

Decision

- 1) To note the 2017/18 progress report on the Sustainable Energy Action Plan.
- 2) To recognise that with 24 months left to run, Edinburgh's Strategic Energy Action Plan would currently fall at least 12.5% (172.2 ktCO₂) below the carbon reduction required to meet its target.
- 3) To further note that it was unclear what amount of carbon reduction from ongoing SEAP projects was likely to be delivered within the next 24 months towards achieving the target.
- 4) Therefore, to call for a report every two cycles until 2020 on how the SEAP could be progressed in order to meet its 2020 carbon reduction target, including what additional resources would be required.

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

18. Motorcycle Community Improvement Partnership

Information was provided on the ongoing work within the multi-agency Motorcycle Community Improvement Partnership to address motorcycle theft and associated antisocial behaviour. This followed an earlier Council motion on this issue.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – report by the Acting Head of Safer and Stronger Communities, submitted.)

19. Valedictory Remarks – Harry Robertson

The Convener noted that Harry Robertson, Acting Head of Safer and Stronger Communities, would shortly be retiring. He paid tribute to Harry's long service to the Council, and wished him well for his retirement.