

Minutes

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 30 September 2014

Present

Councillors Burns (Convener), Barrie (substituting for Councillor Cardownie), Burgess, Chapman, Child, Nick Cook, Godzik, Ricky Henderson, Lewis, Mowat, Munro (substituting for Councillor Hinds), Rose and Ross.

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 2 September 2014 as a correct record.

2. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan November 2014 to January 2015

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for November 2014 to January 2015 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for November 2014 to January 2015.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan for November 2014 to January 2015, 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 note the Rolling Actions Log.
- 2) To agree to close action 5 (Contact in the Capital).
- 3) To note that it was hoped that actions 1 (Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve) and 6 (Review of Community and Accessible Transport) would be responded to by the next meeting of the Committee.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4 Welfare Reform - Update

An update was provided on the progress being made by the Council and partners to develop arrangements to mitigate, where possible, the negative impact of the UK Government's welfare reforms.

Decision

- 1) To note the Council's ongoing activities relating to welfare reform.
- 2) To note the change to the reporting cycle from bi-monthly to quarterly.
- 3) To seek an official response from the Scottish Government about funding to cover Under Occupancy Regulations in 2013-14.
- 4) To agree that future Welfare reform update reports include information on the use of foodbanks in the City including the location of foodbanks and frequency of use.
- 5) To agree that officers formally raise concerns with representatives of the DWP regarding the Sanctions policy which was resulting in suspension of welfare payments and dependence on foodbanks.
- 6) To request information in future update reports on the number of unsuccessful Crisis Grant applications.

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

5 Strategic Response to Welfare Reform in Edinburgh

Details were provided on the Council's response to the substantial changes in welfare benefits controlled by the UK government which had potential implications for the city in terms of increased poverty and inequality.

Motion

To approve the Council's Strategic Response to Welfare Reform in Edinburgh and related action plan.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Barrie

Amendment

- 1) To approve the Council's Strategic Response to Welfare Reform in Edinburgh and related action plan.
- 2) To express concern regarding "political language" in aspects of the report by the Director of Corporate Governance, particularly the Executive Summary.

- moved by Councillor Rose, seconded by Councillor Mowat

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	11 votes
For the amendment	-	3 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.

(Reference – report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

6 Corporate Debt Policy – Annual Update

An annual update was provided on relevant activity of the Corporate Debt Policy which set out a range of actions undertaken during the past year to strengthen and embed the provisions within the policy.

Decision

- 1) To note the good progress made in building on and embedding a number of the good practice principles underpinning the policy.
- 2) To note the intention to present to Council an updated policy, incorporating a number of minor changes to the level of late-payment fees and relevant responsible officers, as part of a wider governance update later in the year.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 3 September 2013 (item 5); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

7 Information Governance Policies

Details were provided on an Information Governance Strategy which had been developed to help ensure compliance with legislative, regulatory and best practice standards.

Decision

- 1) To note the Information Governance Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 2) To approve the Information Governance Policies as set out in Appendices 2 to 6 of the report.

(Reference – report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

8 2014 Employee Survey: Results and Next Steps

Details were provided on the key findings of the sixth Employee Survey of the Council which prioritised the key areas for attention and identified the next steps.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 2) To agree the next steps and proposed actions in the report.
- 3) To agree that a progress report be submitted to Committee for consideration in six months.

(Reference – report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

9 Learning in Partnership: Policy for Student Placements in Health and Social Care and Children and Families

Details were provided of a proposed policy to support the education and development of the future workforce across Children and Families and Health and Social Care.

Decision

To adopt the policy statement as detailed in Appendix 1 to the joint report by the Directors of Children and Families and Health and Social Care; Learning in Partnership: Policy for Student Placements in Health and Social Care and Children and Families.

(Reference – joint report by the Directors of Children and Families and Health and Social Care, submitted.)

10 BOLD Portfolio Update

An update was provided on the Better Outcomes through Leaner Delivery (BOLD) programme which had been established as an overarching approach to the Council's transformation programme.

Decision

- 1) To note the establishment of BOLD as the Council's overarching portfolio of change.
- 2) To note the 2015/16 budget proposals as they related to BOLD themes.
- 3) To note the workstreams that comprised Phase 2 of the BOLD portfolio.

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

11 Finance and Resources Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee Work Programme August 2014 - January 2015 – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

The work programme for the Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee of the Finance and Resources Committee was presented.

Decision

To note the Finance and Resources Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee Work Programme for August 2014 – January 2015.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 28 August 2014 (item 19); referral report from the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

12 Integrated Children's Services – referral from the Education, Children and Families Committee

The Education, Children and Families Committee had referred a report on the consultation process regarding the further development of Integrated Children's Facilities.

Decision

To note the report by the Education, Children and Families Committee.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 11 September 2014 (item 15); referral report from the Education, Children and Families Committee, submitted.)