

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 23 February 2016

Present

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

1. Motion by Councillor Burgess – Playing Out

a) Edinburgh Playing Out – Deputation

The deputation indicated that they supported the motion by Councillor Burgess on Playing Out which they felt helped build communities and neighbourhoods, was of benefit to children being able to play outdoors free from the risk of traffic, and reduced social isolation. They outlined the Scottish Government's Play Strategy which sought to promote Scotland as the best place to grow up.

They indicated that barriers to playing out were the lack of clarity around the process; financial issues around the cost of advertising and the erecting of street barriers; and the applications for regular street barriers not being permitted.

They asked the Committee to look at introducing processes specifically aimed at applications for playing out, waiving advertising costs and communities being able to store their own barriers.

b) Motion by Councillor Burgess

The following motion by Councillor Burgess was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

"This Committee;

Notes the cross-disciplinary nature of Playing Out, involving Education, Communities and Transport;

Notes the motion passed unanimously by Full-Council in support of temporary road closures to allow Playing Out by children on Edinburgh Streets;

Notes the recent public meeting held by 'Edinburgh Playing Out' at the City Chambers and the weekend of street play being organised for 9-10th April;

However, recognises the ongoing frustrating regulatory, financial and practical barriers for residents in organising Playing Out on a regular basis;

Therefore requests a report on Playing Out to its next meeting, the report to include;

1. Full information about the current regulatory, financial and practical barriers to temporary closure of streets on a regular basis to allow Playing Out.
2. Prospects for removing or reducing such barriers at local and national levels to facilitate Playing Out.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burgess subject to the removal of the words “and national” from the final paragraph.

2. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 19 January 2016 as a correct record.

3. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan April to June 2016

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for April to June 2016 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for April to June 2016.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan April to June 2016, submitted.)

4. 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 3 – Corporate Debt Policy – Annual Update
 - Action 8 – Bullying and Harassment at Work Policy
- 2) To provide a completion date for Action 1 – The Future Management and Ownership of Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve (LNR).
- 3) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

5. Council Business Plan 2016-20 – referral from the City of Edinburgh Council

The Council had referred a report on the new Council Business Plan for 2016-20 which had been considered as part of the Council's Revenue Budget 2016-17 and Capital Investment Programme/Plan 2016/17 to 2023/24 to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee for further scrutiny.

Motion

To note the report by the Chief Executive.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Howat

Amendment

To note that this was approved at the Council meeting of 21st January 2016 with no opportunity for meaningful scrutiny and no prior consultation with opposition councillors and therefore does not consider the financial plan to be binding as a basis for setting future budgets and reserves the right to reject savings detailed in this as the basis of the financial plan for the period to 2019/20 because insufficient scrutiny and detail of the implications of these budget savings and the impact they will have on citizens has been brought forward

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Rose

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	12 votes
For the amendment	-	3 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.

(References – Act of Council No 2 of 21 January 2016; referral report from the City of Edinburgh Council, submitted.)

6. Welfare Reform

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 status of Universal Credit in Edinburgh.
- 2) To note the Council's ongoing activities relating to Welfare Reform
- 3) To note new welfare reforms, updated to reflect the Chancellors' Autumn statement effective from April and additional paper on projected effects for Edinburgh Citizens.
- 4) To note the current projection of spend on Discretionary Housing Payments.
- 5) To note the current projection of spend on Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

6) To note the current projection of spend on Scottish Welfare Fund.

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

7 Corporate Debt Policy – Annual Report

The Committee had approved a number of minor changes to the Corporate Debt Policy. An annual update was provided on appropriate guidance for the Council's income collection, debt recovery and related welfare support activities which included utilising the standard sundry debt recovery principles by the Edinburgh Shared Repairs Service and aligning the sundry debt write off provisions with other Council activities.

Decision

- 1) To approve the use of the standard sundry debt recovery principles for the new Edinburgh Shared Repairs Service.
- 2) To approve the extension of delegated write off powers for sundry debt cases relating to liquidation/sequestrations, where the debtor could not be traced or where the debtor was deceased and there were no funds in the estate.
- 3) To note the content of the Annual report.
- 4) To note that further updates relevant to the Corporate Debt Policy would be incorporated in various Transformation and performance reports throughout 2016.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 9 June 2015 (item 11); report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

8. Avoidance of Bullying and Harassment at Work Policy - Review

The Committee had approved the Avoidance of Bullying and Harassment at Work Policy on 4 August 2015. Details were provided on the outcome of its first review which had resulted in some minor adjustments being made.

Decision

- 1) To approve the revised Policy.
- 2) To note that the Policy would be reviewed annually unless otherwise requested.
- 3) To note that the next review should be undertaken with a view to reporting to Committee in February 2017.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 4 August 2015 (item 7); report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

9. Edible Edinburgh – A Sustainable Food City – Progress Report

Details were provided on the progress made by the Edible Edinburgh initiative in delivering the Sustainable Food City Plan since its launch in June 2014. Key successes were highlighted and areas for future action outlined.

Approval was also sought for the attendance of Councillor Hinds to attend the Sustainable Food Cities Network annual conference in Liverpool on 21-22 March 2016.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress with the Edible Edinburgh Sustainable Food City Plan.
- 2) To continue to support the Edible Edinburgh initiative in driving the Plan.
- 3) To continue to work with Edible Edinburgh to implement the Plan and to progress actions which required direct Council involvement.
- 4) To approve attendance at the Sustainable Food Cities Network annual conference in Liverpool on 21-22 March 2016 by the Convener of Transport and Environment and Chair of the Edible Edinburgh Partnership, Councillor Lesley Hinds.
- 5) To note that the funding application to the Edinburgh Partnership had not been successful.

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

10. External Funding Initiative and Smart City Priorities

An update was provided on progress of the External Funding Initiative and its alignment with ICT Solutions in order to pursue substantial domestic and EU funding opportunities relating to smart city initiatives.

Decision

- 1) To note the work to date of the External Funding Team, the value of bids submitted and bids awaiting outcomes and progress made.
- 2) To re-affirm the European Smart Cities Commitment as a key channel for harnessing external funding.
- 3) To note the alignment of external funding opportunities with the priorities of the ICT and Digital Strategy teams, and opportunities available as a result of the new ICT contract with CGI.
- 4) To note that the ICT Solutions and External Funding teams were working together to agree priority areas for 'smart cities' bid work and to actively pursue funding opportunities.
- 5) To refer the report by the Executive Director, Place to the Finance and Resources Committee for information.
- 6) To include in the report to the Finance and Resources Committee, in tabular form, a breakdown of successful projects and bids in the pipeline and their values.

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

11. Future Cities and Open Data Strategy

The Committee had approved the Open Data Strategy which would provide easier access to Council services and amenities through alternative channels, support innovative new ventures, enhance citizen participation in the decision making process

and make better use of public assets for citizens, communities, businesses and the Council.

An update was provided on the progress of partnership working with the University of Edinburgh to develop an Edinburgh Living Lab projects with Edinburgh Prewired and Code the City together with the Council's involvement with the Cities Standards Institute.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress on releasing data sets, with over 100 now available, as agreed at Corporate Policy & Strategy Committee on 24th March 2015.
- 2) To approve identification and delivery of a further 100 new data sets at level three of the agreed Open Data format hierarchy³ by September 2016 with timescales for each Directorate to deliver and publish a minimum of 20 data sets.
- 3) To endorse the identification of open data champions from within the Council to progress data recommendations and publishing, and develop an open data publication plan to align with Scottish Government recommendations (see decision 2).
- 4) To endorse the development of an API⁴ and integration with the Council's open data portal for Council online services where practical, to allow the flow of real-time data.
- 5) To approve the Council entering into an Edinburgh Living Lab Framework agreement with the University of Edinburgh, enabling partnership working and providing more opportunities for joint funding bids and projects.
- 6) To endorse the development of other Living Lab Framework agreements with Edinburgh's other Universities, enabling partnership working and providing more opportunities for joint funding bids and projects.
- 7) To note the Council's membership of the Cities Standards Institute and the opportunities this afforded for the Council.
- 8) To note the expectation that 260 data sets would be available by September 2016.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 10 June 2014 (item 9); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

12. Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership – Strategic Plan

The Edinburgh Integration Joint Board was legally required to invite the City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian to comment on the second draft of the Strategic Plan for Health and Social Care prior to the plan being finalised and approved by the Board.

A summary was provided of the content of the second draft together with recommendations on the feedback to be submitted by the Council to the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board.

Decision

- 1) To agree that the proposed response to the invitation from the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board to comment on the second draft of the strategic plan, attached as Appendix A to the report by the Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership, be submitted on behalf of the Council.
- 2) To note that an Internal Audit report on the Council's planned resourcing of the Integration Joint Board would be submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee for consideration.

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

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Edie declared a financial interest as Chair of the Care Inspectorate and left the meeting during the Committee's consideration of the above item.

Councillor Ricky Henderson declared a financial interest as a non-executive Director of NHS Lothian.

13. Policies – Assurance Statement

Details were provided on the development of a policy framework to ensure that all current Council policies were easily accessible and were created, revised and renewed in a consistent manner and to an agreed standard. To ensure that Council policies remained current and relevant, all Council directorates were required to review policies on an annual basis.

Decision

To note that the Council policies detailed in the report by the Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership had been reviewed and were considered as being current, relevant and fit for purpose.

(Reference – report by the Chief Officer, Health and Social Care, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Edie declared a financial interest as Chair of the Care Inspectorate and left the meeting during the Committee's consideration of the above item.