

Minutes

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 6 December 2016

Present

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

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 8 November 2016 as a correct record.

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

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

Decision

- 1) To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for January to March 2017.
- 2) To note that item 2 (Schools Report) was likely to be reported in the February cycle.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan January to March 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 2	-	Physical Activity for Health Pledge
Action 4	-	Policies Assurance Statement
Action 8	-	ICT Acceptable Use Policy
Action 9	-	E-cigarettes (Vapourisers) – Update on Health Considerations
Action 19	-	Welfare Reform – Update

- 2) To ask that the next Welfare Reform Update Report include an update on the review into the welfare advice services.
- 3) To ask that the report on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on 24 January 2017.
- 4) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4. Promoting Community Cohesion in Edinburgh

An update and overview was provided of work being undertaken to promote good community relations in Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To agree that future work to promote good community relations in Edinburgh be undertaken alongside the development of new Council approaches to tackling poverty, equality and rights objectives.
- 2) To agree that actions and performance measures to monitor progress be embedded within the Council's strategic planning framework, including the Council Business Plan, Locality Improvement Plans for 2017-22, and the Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan for 2018-23.

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

5. Information and Communications (ICT) Acceptable Use Policy

The Committee had approved a new ICT Acceptable Use Policy clarifying the Council's expected standard of behaviour in relation to staff who used ICT at work or at home.

Following the latest review it was felt that the current policy was adequate and should remain unchanged.

Decision

- 1) To note that the latest review had resulted in no change to the current policy.
- 2) To note that Human Resources would work collaboratively with relevant Council colleagues and the Trades Unions to produce a more concise and simpler policy.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 2 December 2014 (item 5); report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

6. Smoke Free Policy Review

The Committee had approved the Council's Smoke Free Policy. Following consideration of an update on the evidence about health risks from the inhalation of e-cigarettes as it related to the Policy, it had noted that an annual report on the Policy would be provided by the end of 2016 which should explicitly highlight any developments on e-cigarettes with regard to additional evidence on health issues.

Details were provided on the up-to-date information about the health risks from the inhalation of e-cigarettes, which showed that no new material information had been published.

Decision

- 1) To agree to maintain the restrictions set out in the current Policy.
- 2) To note that any material changes which developed, such as Scottish or UK Government advice or significant public health research findings, would be reported to Committee, together with any implications for the Policy.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 1 December 2015 (item 5); report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted)

7. Update on the National Benefit Cap in Edinburgh

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee had called for a further update report on the impact of the Benefit Cap, which was the limit on the total amount of income from certain benefits a household could receive.

An update was provided on the impact of the change to those households affected from 7 November 2016 and the mitigating actions being taken to support the transition of these citizens, as well as details on further impacts to those who would be affected from January 2017.

Decision

- 1) To note the impacts on citizens of the reduction of the national benefit cap.
- 2) To note the mitigating actions being undertaken by Edinburgh Benefit Cap Partnership.
- 3) To ask that the next welfare reform update report include details of the strategic planning for the likely impact of forthcoming benefit changes, specifically the demand for temporary accommodation and also budget pressures.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 8 November 2016 (item 12): report by Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

8. Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) Policy

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee had previously approved the Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) Policy and agreed that it be reviewed when required.

Details were provided on proposed policy changes which had arisen as a result of national welfare reform initiatives.

Decision

- 1) To approve the revised DHP policy attached at Appendix 1 to the report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources.
- 2) To note a minor adjustment at Paragraph 4.4 in the Policy to read “for categories 4.2 above...”.

- 3) To amend Paragraph 4.17 in the Policy to read “Requests *should* be made....”.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 5 August 2014 (item 4); report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

9. New Performance Management Framework and Policy

Details were provided on a proposed new approach to managing performance and supporting people to perform at their best. This had been tested extensively across the organisation and negotiated with trade unions.

Decision

- 1) To note the ambitions to establish excellent performance management practices and create a positive culture of learning and performance, as represented in the new Performance Framework, which would come in to effect from 1 April 2017.
- 2) To agree the new Performance Management Policy (as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources) as a replacement to the Managing Work Performance Policy with effect from 1 April 2017, in line with the introduction of the new Performance Framework.
- 3) To request a review of the Policy after one year of operation (April 2018).

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

10. Physical Activity for Health Pledge

An update was provided on progress of the Physical Activity for Health Pledge to work with a range of partners to fully integrate physical activity for health into Health and Social Care and increase physical activity in Scotland.

Work and further discussions were in progress to formalise partners’ adherence to the delivery of all objectives within the Pledge.

Decision

- 1) To note that the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy would be reviewed and relevant aspects of the Physical Activity for Health Pledge included in future activity.
- 2) To agree that the Pledge should be presented to the Edinburgh Partnership to involve other key stakeholders.
- 3) To note that Health and Social Care would be asked to nominate relevant officers to become members of the Edinburgh Strategic Sports and Physical Activity Partnership. NHS Lothian had nominated Senior Health Promotion Specialist John Brennan.
- 4) To note the intention to report on Physical Activity to the Education, Children and Families Committee in March 2017.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 12 May 2015 (item 12); joint report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership and the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

11. Motion by Councillor Rust – Redford Cavalry and Infantry Barracks

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

“Committee:

- i notes with regret the planned closure of Redford Cavalry and Infantry Army Barracks in Colinton, currently scheduled for 2022;
- ii recognises that while the Ministry of Defence has to make the most efficient use of its estate and that it is vital for armed services personnel to have suitable modern accommodation, the decision will have far reaching implications for the local community in Colinton, particularly in relation to local schools and businesses;
- iii further recognises that any decisions in development and planning terms require to be taken strategically;
- iv therefore instructs the Chief Executive to initiate a Working Group or Task Force to consider the future for Redford Barracks and surrounding area; building on the informal work previously undertaken and suggests such Group to include senior officers from the Children and Families, Place and Health and Social Care departments;
- v requests that local elected members, Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership, local Community Councils and other constituted local groups are regularly updated with developments as appropriate;
- vi calls on all elected members at Council, Holyrood and Westminster to work together constructively for the benefit of both the army and civilian communities in the areas affected by this decision and to maintain regular dialogue on a non-partisan basis.”

Decision

To note that Councillor Rust had withdrawn his motion.