

Minutes

Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee

2.00 pm, Tuesday, 28 March 2017

Present

Councillors Child (Convener), Ritchie (Vice-Convener), Bagshaw, Bridgman, Dixon (substituting for Councillor Cairns), Gardner, Griffiths, Jackson, Keil and Lunn.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee of 29 November 2016 as a correct record.

2. Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Key Decisions Forward Plan for March 2017 was presented.

Decision

To note the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for March 2017.

(Reference - Key Decisions Forward Plan to March 2017, submitted.)

3. Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee Rolling Actions Log

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee Rolling Actions Log updated to 28 March 2017 was presented.

Decision

To note the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee Rolling Actions Log and to approve the closure of actions 3 and 6.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log March 2017, submitted.)

4. Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee Business Bulletin March 2017

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee Business Bulletin for 28 March 2017 was presented.

Decision

To note the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin – 28 March 2017, submitted.)

5. Social Justice Fund – Review and Allocations for 2017/18

Details were provided on the review of the management and administration of the Social Justice Fund, together with options for its future operation. Social Justice Grant funding of £264,600 for 2017/18 was recommended.

Decision

- 1) To note that responsibility for £111,529 for 2017/18 of the Social Justice Fund would be transferred to the IJB and £153,071 would remain within the Council. The 2017-18 budget of £264,600 was subject to the third year effect of an agreed Transformation Programme saving of 10% over three years.
- 2) To note the three options for the future management and administration of the remaining Council investment, as outlined in paragraph 3.6 of the joint report, and agree to further engagement in order to determine the preferred option.
- 3) To note that following further engagement, a report would go to the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee later in 2017 to agree a definitive course of action for the funds retained within the Council.
- 4) To approve Social Justice Fund grant allocations for 2017/18 as listed in Appendix 1 to the joint report to the value of £264,600.
- 5) To note the contributions to social justice in Edinburgh in 2015/16 as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

(References – Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee 9 February 2016 (item 6); joint report by the Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, submitted).

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Child and Bridgman declared non-financial interests in the above item as Chair and a member of the Board respectively of Cre8te Opportunities Ltd and left the meeting during the Committee's consideration of this item.

Chair

In the absence of the Convener, Councillor Ritchie chaired the meeting for this item.

6. Community Council Elections Update

The outcome of the 2016 triennial election of community councils was provided. 44 of the 46 potential community councils had taken part. 39 of these had been established without the need for a poll; four hadn't received sufficient nominations to continue, and an election had taken place at one (Leith Links).

During the process, community members had expressed concern that the current Protocol required the publication of candidates' home addresses. It was suggested this requirement could discourage some members of the community standing for election. In the light of this, and the heightened awareness about the need for personal safety for those in public roles, it was proposed to change the Protocol to remove the requirement to publish private addresses.

Decision

- 1) To note the outcome of the community council election process.
- 2) To approve the removal of the requirement to publish nominee addresses as part of the Election Protocol.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

7. Community Councils Update

An update was provided on support activity following the community council triennial elections. The introduction of additional support and guidance in relation to data protection and personal safety was proposed.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Chief Executive.
- 2) To agree that the cost of community council registration with the Information Commissioner should be met from the existing community council support budget.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

8. Participatory Budgeting

An update was given on the development and delivery of participatory budgeting in the city during 2016/17.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To refer the report to the Finance and Resources and Economy Committees for information.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

9. National Standards for Community Engagement

Responding to the increased policy focus on community empowerment, participation and the introduction of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the Scottish Government had commissioned updated National Standards for Community Engagement. Details of the new Standards, together with a programme of promotion and support, were provided.

Decision

- 1) To note the revised National Standards for Community Engagement.
- 2) To agree the adoption of the Standards and development of a programme of promotion and support.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

10. Foodbanks - Update

Through its Foodbank Working Group, the Council continued to work with foodbanks to improve processes for citizens to ensure access to foodbanks was a last resort, through access to services such as the Scottish Welfare Fund. During 2016/17, this included facilitating meetings and an element of direct funding.

Decision

- 1) To note the ongoing work of the Foodbank Working Group to help to address citizens in crisis.
- 2) To note the promotion of other funding streams as an alternative to repeated foodbank use.
- 3) To note that there were ongoing discussions regarding continued funding for Basic Banks Foodbanks and Community One-Stop Shop (Broomhouse) with a view to identifying continued funding, and that members would be kept updated on these discussions.

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

11. Locality and Partnership Governance

An update was given on locality and partnership governance arrangements. Multi-agency Locality Leadership Teams had been established in each locality to drive forward the key elements of locality working. Each team was chaired by a Council Chief Official, and reported into a Locality Management Board, which was led by the Executive Director of Place.

Decision

To note the report by the Chief Executive.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

12. Locality Improvement Plans – Phase 1

An update on the development of Locality Improvement Plans (LIPs) was provided. The city's earlier approach to developing these was consistent with more recent government guidance. A Phase 1 engagement had focused on identifying outcomes and actions which benefited local communities. A number of local priorities had been identified, and Phase 2 would identify and target smaller geographic areas and communities and individuals experiencing inequality and disadvantage.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress on the development of Local Improvement Plans.
- 2) To agree to receive an update on progress at a future meeting.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

13. Edinburgh's Third Sector Interface – 2016/17 and 2017/18 Funding

The performance of Edinburgh's Third Sector Interface organisations against agreed outcomes in 2016/17 was summarised. Approval was sought to maintain funding levels for 2017/18, to better support social enterprise development through Council prevention funding, and to undertake a review of outcome funding agreements during 2017/18.

Decision

- 1) To note the good progress made by the Edinburgh Third Sector Interface (TSI) against Chief Executive Division outcome funding agreements in 2016/17.
- 2) To approve the TSI outcome funding agreements for 2017/18, and agree to a review of these arrangements from September to October 2017, reporting back to Committee in December 2017.

- 3) To note the ongoing work to monitor the implications of the Scottish Government commissioned report about TSIs across Scotland.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

14. Contribution of Edinburgh's Third Sector – Annual Report 2016/17

The social, cultural, economic and environmental contribution of the City's third sector during 2016/17 was outlined. The report had been prepared in conjunction with Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council; Volunteer Centre Edinburgh and Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network. Representatives of these organisations were present to amplify points made in the report, and answer members' questions.

Decision

To note the extensive contribution of the third sector (including culture and sport organisations) to the City's social, economic and environmental fabric.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

15. A Framework to Advance Equality and Rights 2012/17

The second, and last, progress report about the Council's Equality and Rights Framework 2012/17 was provided. An initial proposed draft Framework for 2017/21, developed over recent months with stakeholders, was provided and approval sought for further engagement and co-production work, with a view to seeking Committee approval of a new Council Framework in June 2017.

Decision

- 1) To approve the progress report set out at Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive, on the Council's Framework to Advance Equality and Rights 2015/17.
- 2) To approve further engagement and co-production work to develop a new draft Framework 2017/21, as set out in Appendix 3 of the report, with a view to seeking Committee approval for the new Framework in June 2017.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

16. Valedictory

In recognition that this was the last Committee meeting before the forthcoming Local Government Elections, the following statements were made by members:

Councillor Child

Councillor Child thanked all members and officers for their contribution to the work of the Committee over the last five years, and wished them all the very best for the future.

Councillor Ritchie

Councillor Ritchie paid tribute to the contribution of Councillor Child as Convener. He indicated that it had been a pleasure supporting someone so community-minded during his term as Vice-Convener.

Councillor Jackson

Councillor Jackson indicated that this would be his last Committee meeting before retiring after over 40 years as an elected member. He too paid tribute to Councillor Child's skilful chairing, and also the effective support from Councillor Ritchie. He also thanked officers, particularly the support provided by Nick Croft.