

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

2pm, Wednesday 23 September 2015

Present

Councillors Balfour (Convener), Child, Bill Cook (substituting for Councillor Munro), Gardner, Howat, Keil, Lewis (substituting for Councillor Dixon), Main, Mowat, Orr, Redpath, Shields and Tymkewycz.

Also present: Councillor Ricky Henderson

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of 13 August 2015 as a correct record.

2. Outstanding Actions

Details were provided of the outstanding actions arising from decisions taken by the Committee.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close actions 8 and 15.
- 2) To request a verbal update on action 21 at the October meeting of the Committee.

(Reference – Outstanding Actions - September 2015, submitted.)

3. Work Programme

Decision

- 1) To approve the Work Programme.
- 2) To request that consideration be given to the property conservation reports on the Finance and Resources Committee agenda of 24 September 2015 being referred to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.

- 3) To invite the Convener and Vice Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee to the October meeting if the reports on property conservation are referred by the Finance and Resources Committee.

(Reference – Governance, Risk and Best Value Work Programme – September 2015, submitted.)

4. CEC Transformation: Progress Update

The Finance and Resources Committee on 27 August 2015 considered a report on the Council Transformation Programme, aimed at delivering a lean and agile Council, centred on customers, services and communities. The report was referred to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for further consideration.

Decision

To note the report.

(References - Finance and Resources Committee of 27 August 2015 (item 4), report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

5. Internal Audit Report: Integrated Health and Social Care

A summary of the outcome of the review conducted by Internal Audit on the progress made in setting up and transitioning oversight of care to the Integration Joint Board was provided. Internal Audit identified concerns over the current state of the project in relation to Governance and Finance.

Councillor Ricky Henderson was heard as part of consideration of this report.

Decision

- 1) To note the concerns identified on the integration project at its current stage and the creation of the Integrated Joint Board contained within the report by the Chief Internal Audit and Risk Officer.
- 2) To request an update on the process and timings for sign off of the Council's response to the statutory consultation on the Strategic Plan.
- 3) To request an update on the critical and high risks identified in the audit report to the December Committee.
- 4) To ask the Finance and Resources Committee to refer relevant reports on health integration to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.

(Reference – report by the Chief Internal Audit and Risk Officer, submitted.)

6. City of Edinburgh Council – Report to those Charged with Governance on the 2014/15 Audit

A report summarising the principal findings arising from the Council's 2014/15 external audit was provided. While primarily focused on the review of the financial statements, the audit's scope included wider consideration of the Council's financial position, governance structures, use of resources and arrangements for securing best value.

There had been a minor change in the Audited Financial Statements on page 126 of Appendix 3 to the report by the Deputy Chief Executive, in regard to sums due in respect of Non-Domestic Rates and this page had been re-circulated to the Committee.

Representatives from Audit Scotland were in attendance.

Decision

- 1) To note that, following the audit process, an unqualified audit opinion had been issued on the Council's Annual Accounts for 2014/15.
- 2) To refer the Annual Accounts for 2014/15 to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval and thereon to Council to set aside the £0.162m increase in the in-year underspend within the Council Priorities Fund.
- 3) To note that, following approval, the Annual Accounts for 2014/15 would be submitted to the External Auditor.
- 4) To note the extent of progress made in addressing the improvement actions contained within the previous Best Value report issued in December 2014 and that delivery of the remaining actions set out in the action plan in Appendix IV would be reported to the Committee during the year.

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

7. Internal Audit Quarterly Update Report: 1 April 2015 – 30 June 2015

An update was provided on the progress made by Internal Audit in the first quarter of the audit year from 1 April 2015 – 30 June 2015.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress of Internal Audit in issuing 10 internal audit reports during the quarter and to note the areas of higher priority findings for reviews issued in this quarter.
- 2) To ask that a summary of the Internal Audit findings on management of HMO licenses be circulated to members of the Regulatory Committee for information.

(Reference – report by the Chief Internal Audit and Risk Officer, submitted.)

8. Internal Audit follow-up arrangements: status report from 1 April 2015 to 30 September 2015

An overview of the process adopted by Internal Audit for following up the status of audit recommendations was provided. The open audit recommendations at 30 June 2015 that were past their initial estimated closure date were highlighted.

Decision

- 1) To note the status of follow-up actions.
- 2) To request an update to the December committee on ICT contract management, governance and change control arrangements, and the transition process to the new ICT provider.

(Reference – report by the Chief Internal Audit and Risk Officer, submitted.)

9. Corporate Leadership Group (CLG) Risk Report

Information on the Corporate Leadership Group's (CLG) prioritised risks as at August 2015 was provided. The current highest priority risks of the Council along with the key controls in place to mitigate these risks were highlighted and a plan was in place for further review and scrutiny.

Decision

To note the prioritised risk information for the Corporate Leadership Group.

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

10. Looked After Children: Transformation Programme Progress Report

An update was provided on the Looked After Children (LAC) Transformation Programme, which was shifting the balance of care towards more preventative services that reduce the need for children to come into care. The programme aimed to secure better outcomes for children, avoid a continued increase in costs and deliver cashable savings by 2015/16.

The service was on or ahead of target with the overall number of LAC, the number of LAC in foster care and the number placed with kinship carers. The service was behind target on prospective adoptions but this was mainly due to the increased success in placing children with kinship carers.

The service was behind target on the proportion of foster care placements being provided by the Council's own carers and the number of LAC in residential and secure care. Actions were in place to mitigate these issues where possible.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made to date against the targets as set out in appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Communities and Families.
- 2) To note the actions in progress to achieve the targets to March 2018.
- 3) To note that the next update would be provided in March 2016.
- 4) To refer the report to Education, Children and Families Committee.
- 5) To ask for performance indicators from previous years to be included in future reports to allow for comparison.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

11. Capital Monitoring 2014/15 – Outturn and Receipts

The Finance and Resources Committee on 27 August 2015 considered a report on the final outturn on the Council's Capital Programme for 2014/15 that included details of capital receipts and slippage/acceleration on projects within the Capital Investment Programme. The report was referred to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee as part of its workplan.

Decision

To note the report.

(References - Finance and Resources Committee of 27 August 2015 (item 12), report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

12. Capital Monitoring 2015/16 – Month Three Position

The Finance and Resources Committee on 27 August 2015 considered a report on the overall position of the Council's capital budget at month three and the projected outturn for the year. The report was referred to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee as part of its workplan.

Decision

To note the report.

(References - Finance and Resources Committee of 27 August 2015 (item 13), report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)