

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

2:00pm, Monday, 19 October 2015

Present

Councillors Balfour (Convener), Dixon, Gardner, Howat, Keil, Main, Mowat, Munro, Orr, Redpath, Shields and Tymkewycz.

Also present: Councillor Cameron Rose for consideration of item B1.2

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of 23 September 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 7, 13 and 15.
- 2) To note the remaining outstanding actions.

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

3. Work Programme

Decision

To approve the Work Programme.

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

4. Pride in our People and Key Engagement Activity Update 2015

Committee considered an update on the employee engagement activities undertaken over the past year. Details were also provided on the Pride in our People 2015 theme and the introduction of staff engagement sessions with the Chief Executive and Directors in response to demand for increased leadership visibility.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of 9 October 20114 (item 4); report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

5. Revenue Monitoring 2014/15 – Outturn Report

The City of Edinburgh Council on 17 September 2015 considered a report on the provisional 2014/15 revenue outturn position for the Council based on the unaudited financial statements. The report was referred to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for consideration as part of its workplan.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note that the Head of Finance would explore ways to use the common good fund to pro-actively maintain and refurbish common good property.

(References – Act of Council No 9 of 17 September 2015; report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

6. Revenue Monitoring 2015/16 – Month 3 Position

The City of Edinburgh Council on 17 September 2015 considered a report on the projected month three monitoring position for the Council based on period two data. The report was referred to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for consideration as part of its workplan.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Act of Council No 10 of 17 September 2015; report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

7. Treasury Management – Annual Report 2014/15

The City of Edinburgh Council on 17 September 2015 considered a report on Treasury Management in 2014/15. The report was referred to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Act of Council No 11 of 17 September 2015; report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

8. Committee Report Process

Details of the actions proposed to make efficiencies to the committee report process were provided.

Decision

- 1) To note the efficiencies and more consistent committee report process established across the Council outlined in paragraphs 3.12 to 3.18 of the report by the Deputy Chief Executive.
- 2) To request that the Strategy and Governance Manager circulate a breakdown of the committee report figures detailed in paragraph 3.12 of the report by the Deputy Chief Executive, outlining those which were statutory and decisions-making.
- 3) To investigate technology offered by the new IT provider with a view to improving report format and reducing officer workload. To request a progress report back to Committee in one year.
- 4) To refer the report to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee to review the volume of reports considered, in particular those by the Finance and Resources Committee and to review the Terms of Reference to re-balance the workload of each Committee.
- 5) To request that the Strategy and Governance Manager organise workshops with elected members on what was required from a committee report

(References – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of 23 April 2015 (item 1), report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

9. Whistleblowing Update

An overview of the operation of the Council's whistleblowing hotline from the period 1 May to 31 August 2015 was provided.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee of 27 August 2015 (item 20), report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

10. Resolution to consider in private

The Committee, under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 15 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

11. Whistleblowing: Monitoring Report

The committee considered an overview report on the disclosures received and investigation outcome reports for the period 1 May to 31 August 2015.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee of 19 September 2013 (item 2), report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

12. Monitoring Officer Investigation: Cameron House

The Committee considered the report by the monitoring officer in relation to Cameron House.

Councillor Cameron Rose was heard as part of the consideration of this report.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To recognise that Council officers did not always meet the professional standards that would be expected in their dealings with the Centre and recommend that the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Communities and Families, on behalf of the Council, should issue an apology to the Cameron House Management Committee and the users of the Centre for the inconvenience caused as a result of these failures.
- 3) To recognise the breakdown in the relationship that had occurred between the Council on one side and the Cameron House Management Committee on the other and to request the Chief Executive to ensure that the Executive Director of Communities and Families and the Acting Head of Corporate Property take the necessary steps to ensure that the relationships were restored to a normal position. To request an update in 6 months as to progress made in restoring this relationship.
- 4) To request that the Executive Director of Communities and Families and the Interim Head of Property meet with the current management committee of Cameron House, to convey the Council's apology to discuss restoring the relationship between the Council and the Management Committee and for the Convener and the Monitoring Officer also attend.
- 5) To request the Head of Legal and Risk investigates whether any relevant legal records were available.
- 6) To continue consideration of the report to the next meeting to allow the attendance of the Executive Director of Communities and Families and the Monitoring Officer.

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