

Minutes

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10am, Thursday 3 March 2016

Present

Councillors Balfour (Convener), Child, Dixon, Keil, Main, Mowat, Munro, Orr, Redpath, Ritchie, Robson (substitute for Cllr Gardner), Shields, and Tymkewycz.

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of 28 January 2016.

2. Outstanding Actions

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

Decision

- 1) To agree to close actions 2, 15, 17, 18 and 19.
- 2) To note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Outstanding Actions – March 2016, submitted.)

3. Work Programme

Decision

- 1) To approve the Work Programme.
- 2) To ask that a report detailing the background of current waste collection difficulties across the City and action being taken to resolve them be submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee meeting in May prior to coming to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in June 2016.
- 3) To ask for a joint report from the Acting Executive Director of Resources and the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families about recent developments in Gaelic education provision in Edinburgh. The report to contain detail of whether due process was followed and identify lessons learnt, and should be submitted to the Education, Children and Families Committee in May,

prior to coming to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in June 2016.

(Reference – Governance, Risk and Best Value Work Programme – March 2016, submitted.)

4. Internal Audit Plan 2016/17

A summary was provided of Internal Audit's annual planning process for the Internal Audit Plan for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

Decision

To note the Internal Audit plan for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

(Reference – report by the Chief Internal Auditor, submitted.)

5. Internal Audit Follow-Up Arrangements – Status Report from 1 October 2015 – 31 December 2015

Committee was provided with an overview of the process adopted by Internal Audit for following up the status of audit recommendations, as well as details of recommendations past their initial estimated closure date at 31 December 2015.

Decision

To note the status of follow-up actions.

(Reference – report by the Chief Internal Auditor, submitted.)

6. Internal Audit Quarterly Update Report: 1 October 2015 – 31 December 2015

Details were provided of Internal Audit activity between 1 October and 31 December 2015.

Decision

To note the progress of Internal Audit in issuing 11 internal audit reports over the quarter and the areas of higher priority findings.

(Reference – report by the Chief Internal Auditor, submitted.)

7. Welfare Reform

Following the implementation by the Department for Work and Pensions of Universal Credit, effective for new single claimants in Edinburgh from March 2015, an update

report was provided which detailed the Council's ongoing activities with regard to Welfare Reform.

Decision

- 1) To note that the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee approved the recommendations in the report at their meeting on 23 February 2016.
- 2) To note the status of Universal Credit in Edinburgh, and the Council's ongoing activities with regard to Welfare Reform.
- 3) To note the new welfare reforms, updated to reflect the Chancellor's Autumn statement effective from April 2016, and the additional paper on projected effects of these on Edinburgh citizens.
- 4) To note the projection of spend on Discretionary Housing Payments, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, and the Scottish Welfare Fund.
- 5) To request that comparative figures for 2 years ago and now, in regard to the number of welfare rights tribunals taking place be circulated to the Committee members.

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

8. Corporate Leadership Team Risk Update

Details were given of the Corporate Leadership Team's risk register as at January 2016, fully updated to reflect the current highest priority risks of the Council, the compensating controls and related action plans to mitigate risks to a tolerable level.

Decision

To note that the Risk Management Policy had been reviewed by the Chief Risk Officer in accordance with the Council's policy framework and, other than a few minor changes to update team names, was considered current, relevant and fit for purpose.

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

9. Place Risk Update

Committee considered a report which presented the Place Senior Management Team's prioritised risks as at January 2016, and detailed key controls in place to mitigate these risks.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To agree that a definition and examples of what constitutes a 'non housing asset' would be appended to the minute of the meeting.

- 3) To ask that an update report on the Place risk register be provided to Committee in August 2016 specifying action taken to mitigate high risks and whether it has been successful.

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