

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 23 June 2016

Present

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

1. Order of Business

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of item B1.1 – Update on Cameron House Investigation Action Plan to August 2016.

2. Recent Developments in Gaelic Education Provision in Edinburgh

(a) Deputation – by Comann nam Pàrant

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Sarah Scott and Marion Thompson from Comann nam Pàrant

The deputation raised the following points in relation to the report:

- Concern was raised on the appropriateness of the distance from school criteria for Gaelic Medium Education (GME) pupils' admission to Secondary School. The catchment area for GME pupils was the entire city; therefore they were the most affected by the distance from School policy.
- The lack of catchment Secondary School for GME pupils did not demonstrate best value for money for the Council and would result in Gaelic education provision spread across the city or concluding at Primary 7.
- The report stated that there was no GME catchment area for James Gillespie's High School, the legal effects of this position were questioned and it was highlighted that the same problem would occur next year if a Secondary School for Gaelic education was not allocated. .

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the related report.

(b) Recent Developments in Gaelic Education Provision in Edinburgh

The Education, Children and Families Committee on 24 May 2016 considered a report on the recent developments in Gaelic education provision in Edinburgh. The report was referred to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for consideration. .

Decision

- 1) To request a report to the Education, Children and Families Committee then to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on the Council's current policy for GME access to secondary schools, the corresponding Government policy and an assessment on whether this was being met.
- 2) To request that the current policy for GME access to secondary schools was published on the Council website and to review the appropriateness of the distance from school criteria for GME admissions to secondary school. A work-plan of how this would be achieved, including actions in place to avoid any future legal challenge, should be in place by November 2016.

(Reference – referral report by the Education, Children and Families Committee, submitted.)

3. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of 26 May 2016 as a correct record.

4. Outstanding Actions

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

Decision

- 1) To agree to close items 6 and 11(action 1).
- 2) To otherwise note the outstanding actions.

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

5. Work Programme

Decision

To approve the Work Programme.

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

6. Internal Audit Opinion and Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2016

Committee considered the report based on the Internal Audit activity undertaken for the financial year ended 31 March 2016, prepared as required by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

Decision

To note the internal audit opinion for the year ended 31 March 2016.

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

7. Internal Audit Quarterly Update Report: 1 January 2016 – 31 March 2016

Details were provided on the Internal Audit Activity from 1 January 2016 – 31 March 2016.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress of Internal Audit in issuing 18 internal audit reports during the quarter and to note the areas of higher priority findings for reviews issued in this quarter.
- 2) To refer the 5 reports noted in Appendix 1 of the report to the Audit & Risk Committee of the Edinburgh Integrated Joint Board.
- 3) To request that high risk findings from audit reports be submitted to the relevant parent committee for scrutiny.

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

8. Internal Audit Follow-Up Arrangements: status report from 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2016.

An overview of the process adopted by Internal Audit for the follow up of audit recommendations status was considered. All open audit recommendations past their initial estimated closure date were also detailed.

Decision

To note the status of follow-up actions.

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

9. Corporate Leadership Team action plan to address matters arising in the Internal Audit Opinion

Committee considered details of the actions intended by the Corporate Leadership Team to help strengthen the Council's governance, risk and internal control environment.

Decision

To note the report and the actions that it outlines.

(References – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 23 June 2016 (item 5); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

10. Corporate Leadership Team Risk Update

The prioritised risk information as of May 2016 was provided, reflected were the highest risks alongside the controls in place to mitigate these.

Decision

- 1) To note the prioritised risk information for the Corporate Leadership Team.
- 2) To request that a message was placed on the Council's external website to warn citizens that councillors and officers would have no access to email from close of business on 24 June to 26 June 2016.
- 3) To circulate a briefing to members of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on cyber security and data privacy.
- 4) To provide members with a timeline for the transfer of Capture into the new ICT infrastructure.

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

11. Property Conservation – Programme Momentum Progress Report and Edinburgh Shared Repairs Service Update

An update was provided on the property conservation programme momentum and Edinburgh Shared Repairs Service.

Decision

- 1) To note the management information dashboard reports in Appendix 1 of the report.
- 2) To note the progress of debt recovery work.
- 3) To note the progress of the settlement process.
- 4) To note the update on the pilot progress and phased implementation of the Edinburgh Shared Repairs Service (ESRS).
- 5) To request a report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in August 2016 on the numbers of live court cases, covering those who have

brought actions against the Council and those brought by the Council, in relation to Statutory Notices.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee, 9 June 2016 (item 27); report by the Acting Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

12. Waste Management - Presentation

Gareth Barwell, Waste and Cleansing Manager provided the Committee with a verbal update on improvements being implemented in respect of waste and recycling collection services as well as the various initiatives developed to ensure a high quality and reliable service.

Decision

- 1) To note the presentation.
- 2) To include information in the Waste Management report going to the August 2016 Transport and Environment Committee detailing what went wrong during peak season and the mitigating actions put in place to resolve these issues and ensure it did not happen again.
- 3) To circulate a briefing to members of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on outstanding actions in relation to recycling in schools.
- 4) To investigate issues regarding garden waste collections from schools.

(References –Transport and Environment Committee, 14 March 2016 (item 25); presentation by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)