

Health, Social Care and Housing Committee

10:00 am Tuesday 11 November 2014

Present

Councillors Ricky Henderson (Convener), Day (Vice-Convener), Aitken, Booth (substituting for Councillor Chapman), Bridgman, Burgess, Doran, Gardner, Griffiths, Heslop, Howat, Lunn, Shields and Work.

1. Deputation

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Des Loughney, Lorna Frost and Matt Wheatley from the Edinburgh Anti Cuts Alliance regarding the delivery of social care in Edinburgh.

The deputation explained the composition and role of the Alliance. They had established a working group to look at social issues and various concerns had emerged. It was hoped that these would be considered by the elected members, before the Council budget was set. The following points were made by the deputation:

- There was an increase in demand for social care and a need for more resources to improve quality, including more resources to deal with dementia.
- Any savings which were made in the provision of care, came at the expense of continuity of service for users. Lack of resources affected the amount of time allocated and was often inadequate leaving users isolated.
- Disabled people should be involved in planning of care provision. Independent living for disabled people meant that they had a right to an ordinary life. The provision of options, such as self directed support, helped with this but this was being cut.

The deputation urged Members to take these issues into consideration when the Council budget was being set.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation.

Decision

- 1) To note the issues raised by the deputation.
- 2) To note that a meeting had been arranged between the Convener and UNITE on 26 November 2014 to discuss a range of social issues relating to the budget and to agree that the minute of that meeting would be circulated to members for information.

2. Minutes

Decision

- 2.1 To approve the minute of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee of 9 September 2014 as a correct record.
- 2.2 To approve the minute of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee of 9 September 2014 as a correct record.

3. Health, Social Care and Housing Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Health, Social Care and Housing Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for January 2015 to June 2015 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for January 2015 to June 2015.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan, submitted.)

4. Rolling Actions Log

As part of a review of the Council's political management arrangements, the Council had approved a number of revisions to committee business processes including that Executive Committees introduce a rolling actions log to track committee business.

The Health, Social Care and Housing Committee Rolling Actions Log updated to 11 November 2014 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To close items 1, 2, 6, 8 and 14.
- 2) Otherwise to note that future actions agreed by the Committee calling for further reports or information would be added to the Rolling Actions Log.

(References – Act of Council No. 12 of 24 October 2013; Rolling Actions Log 11 November 2014, submitted.)

5. Self-Directed Support in Edinburgh – The First Six Months

The Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act came into effect on 1 April 2014. The overall aim of the strategy and legislation was to enable people to live as independently as possible, exercising as much choice and control as they wished over the way in which their care and support needs were met.

In June 2014, Audit Scotland reported on the progress made by both the Scottish Government and local authorities in implementing self-directed support.

An overview was provided of the first six months operation of self-directed support in Edinburgh. Updates were provided on the Council's response to each of the key recommendations contained in the Audit Scotland report together with information on the challenges still to be addressed.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress in implementing self-directed support.
- 2) To ask the Chief Social Work Officer to provide a further update report to Committee in six months time; the report to include information on consultation with providers in regard to Option 2, strategic commissioning plan, what self directed payments were being used for and partnership working.

(References – Health, Social Care and Housing Committee 28 January 2014 (item 8); report by the Chief Social Work Officer, submitted.)

6. Inclusive Edinburgh Update Report

An update was provided on work carried out as part of the 'Inclusive Edinburgh' review since its launch in January 2014. 'Inclusive Edinburgh' was set up to tackle some of the problems faced by people with complex needs.

Decision

- 1) To note that consultation with a wide range of stakeholders had taken place to shape the vision and work streams for Inclusive Edinburgh.
- 2) To note that work streams were now established.
- 3) To note that a full report recommending a new way of responding to people with complex needs would be presented to members on completion of the review, expected to be Summer 2015.

(References – Health, Social Care and Housing Committee 28 January 2014 (item 16); report by the Chief Social Work Officer submitted.)

7. Direct Payment Policy for Social Care Staff

Approval was sought for a policy statement in respect of Direct Payments. The policy aimed to offer individuals increased flexibility, choice and control over how their support needs were met and set out procedures to be followed by staff to comply with their duty to offer and process direct payments for service users.

Decision

To approve the policy statement in respect of Direct Payments as set out in appendix 1 of the report by the Director of Health and Social Care.

(Reference – report by the Director of Health and Social Care, submitted.)

8. Update on Accommodation Strategy for Older People (Care Homes) and Proposal for a New Care Home

An update was provided on progress made on the accommodation strategy for older people.

Information was given on plans for the replacement of the Council's older care homes with three new care homes and on a Business Case to replace one of the older homes with a new care home at Dumbryden. Supplementary information was provided on loan charge costs for the four new care homes.

Decision

- 1) To note progress against the agreed Accommodation Strategy for older people.
- 2) To recognise the need to replace the seven remaining older care homes with three new homes.
- 3) To note the progress of a Business Case for a new care home for older people in Edinburgh and to recognise this as a priority.
- 4) To note the budget shortfall for the new care home and consider this in future budget considerations.
- 5) To recognise the need to identify sites and funding for the remaining two new care homes in the future.
- 6) To note the supplementary information on loan charge costs for the four new care homes.

(References – Former Health, Wellbeing and Housing Committee 10 September 2013 (item 15); report and supplementary note by the Director of Health and Social Care, submitted).

9. Health and Social Care Revenue Budget Monitoring 2014/15 – Month Five Position

The 2014/15 net budget of £204.2m included budgeted savings of £6.143m and further procurement savings of £1.358m.

At period five, Health and Social Care was projecting a net overspend of £2.0m, compared to the balanced position reported at period two. Management action was being taken in order to produce a balanced budget by the end of the financial year, including vacancy control and a review of care home staff rotas.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – report by the Director of Health and Social Care, submitted.)

10. Edinburgh Adult Support and Protection Committee Biennial Report – 2012/2014

The Biennial Report of the Edinburgh Adult Support and Protection Committee was presented. The report described key priorities, activity and future challenges and provided information on how the Committee had responded to the Scottish Government's national priorities.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – report by Chief Social Work Officer, submitted.)

11. Strategic Business Case and Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2015-19

Approval was sought to submit the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2015-19 (SHIP) to the Scottish Government. The SHIP set out how investment in affordable housing would be prioritised and delivered. The 2015-19 SHIP aimed to deliver 4,000 affordable homes, generating £337 million of additional investment in the local and national economy and supporting almost 7,000 jobs under the current SHIP, £142m had been invested in affordable homes. The Council's Affordable Housing Policy (AHP), a key component of the SHIP, had helped to deliver homes on 15 sites across the city.

Motion

To approve the submission of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2015-19 to the Scottish Government.

- moved by Councillor Henderson, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

To approve the submission of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2015-19 to the Scottish Government subject to the following adjustment:

- 1) To note the statement in section 37 of the report by the Acting Head of Services for Communities "The SHIP supported the Council's objective of supporting development on brownfield land and the sites identified in the Local Development Plan".
- 2) Therefore to delete from the SHIP the development of 12 sites described in section 5.4 of the report as "speculative developments on greenfield sites not included in the Local Development Plan".

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Booth

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion - 11 votes
For the amendment 3 votes

Decision

To approve the submission of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2015-19 to the Scottish Government.

(References – Former Health, Wellbeing and Housing Committee 18 June 2013 (item 7); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

12. Council Housing Business Plan – Investment Strategy and Rent Options 2015-2020

Approval was sought for the investment priorities for Council homes. Details were put forward of a five year rent strategy that delivered these priorities, represented value for money and increased the potential to deliver more new affordable housing in the long term.

Three options were presented for the next rent strategy, each of which aimed to ensure that these investment priorities were delivered, sought to increase the scope for investment in new homes and allowed for sufficient contingency against the risks presented by welfare reform.

Motion

- 1) To note that the current rent strategy was delivering new Council homes, ensuring that the Council's homes met the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS), and high levels of tenant satisfaction.
 - 2) To note that extensive consultation had been carried out to inform a new rent strategy.
 - 3) To agree the investment priorities for the next five years of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan.
 - 4) To agree to defer the decision on rent levels to the budget meeting of the City of Edinburgh Council on 12 February 2015.
- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Henderson

Amendment

- 1) To note that the current rent strategy was delivering new Council homes, ensuring that the Council's homes met the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS), and high levels of tenant satisfaction.
- 2) To note that extensive consultation had been carried out to inform a new rent strategy.
- 3) To agree the investment priorities for the next five years of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan.

- 4) To note the three options set out in the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities and agree a five year rent strategy to fund investment priorities.
 - 5) To note that Council tenants' rents in Edinburgh had been rising at about 6% every year (inflation plus 2.7%).
 - 6) To recognise as the report stated that "Edinburgh now had the highest average rent of Scottish local authorities at £88.15 compared to a Scottish average of £63.32".
 - 7) To note that the investment priorities for the next five years of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan could be achieved any of the three options for the next rent strategy including an inflation-only rent increase.
 - 8) To further note that rents were set as part of the annual Council budget and therefore could be changed in any subsequent year if an unforeseen fall in revenue were to threaten delivery of the HRA Business Plan.
 - 9) To therefore agree an inflation-only rent increase for Council tenants from 2015.
- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Booth

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	12 votes
For the amendment		2 votes

Decision

- 1) To note that the current rent strategy was delivering new Council homes, ensuring that the Council's homes met the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS), and high levels of tenant satisfaction.
- 2) To note that extensive consultation had been carried out to inform a new rent strategy.
- 3) To agree the investment priorities for the next five years of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan.
- 4) To agree to defer the decision on rent levels to the budget meeting of the City of Edinburgh Council on 12 February 2015.

(Reference – report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

13. Scottish Social Housing Charter – Benchmarking Report 2013/14

The Scottish Housing Regulator had published the first Landlord Report in August 2014. Details were provided on how the Council's housing service performed in relation to the Scottish Social Housing Charter and how this compared to performance of other landlords. The Council's housing service had comparatively good performance with high levels of satisfaction and standards of service.

Decision

- 1) To note that the Scottish Housing Regulator had published its first landlord report, showing comparative performance of Scottish social landlords in relation to meeting the Scottish Social Housing Charter.
- 2) To note that the Council's housing service was in the top three local authorities in relation to tenant satisfaction with the service, their home and neighbourhood.
- 3) To note that the Tenant Participation Strategy was currently being reviewed and that, as part of this, a Tenants' Panel had been established to increase opportunities for tenants to be involved in scrutinising performance and shaping the Housing Service.

(Reference – report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

14. 21st Century Homes – Future Programme Update

Progress was reported on the current 21st Century Homes Programme.

The business case for developing an additional 400 affordable homes through the 21st Century Homes Programme was submitted together with information on the financial capacity to deliver these homes funded through the Housing Revenue Account.

A number of potential sites owned by the Council had been identified for Council house building and housing capacity studies were being carried out. The outcome of this work would inform a fully funded development programme for a further phase of Council house building through 21st Century Homes.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress of the current 21st Century Homes programme.
- 2) To agree the business case for developing an additional 400 affordable homes through the 21st Century Homes programme.
- 3) To request a further report within three committee cycles on the proposed development programme and funding package for delivering 400 new Council homes.

(References – Health, Social Care and Housing Committee 17 June 2014 (item 9); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

15. Homeless Prevention – Crisis and Complex Work Stream Update

The Health, Social Care and Housing Committee, amongst other matters, had previously considered a range of options for the procurement and commissioning of homeless prevention services within the Advice and Support work stream.

An update was provided on the progress made to reshape services for people in crisis and with complex needs under the Inclusive Edinburgh approach.

The reshaping of the Crisis and Complex work stream would support the development of services that would deliver inclusive support based on national research on service provision for people with complex and multiple needs.

Motion

- 1) To agree the direction of reshaping crisis and complex services, as outlined in the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, to provide better crisis outreach and visiting housing support under the Inclusive Edinburgh approach.
 - 2) To note the previously agreed permanent budget reduction of approximately £300,000 required within the Crisis and Complex work stream and future proposals within the 2015/18 revenue and capital budget framework.
 - 3) To note the procurement options of tendering or collaborative consultation and associated risks highlighted at paragraphs 3.11 and 3.13 of the report.
 - 4) To agree that the favoured option was to engage in a collaborative pilot with existing providers and refer the report to Finance and Resources Committee for deliberation on the commissioning approach.
 - 5) To note that there would be a further report to Finance and Resources Committee seeking approval to award contracts, following the preferred procurement route, in spring 2015.
 - 6) To note that the Finance and Resources Committee on 27 November 2014 would be asked to approve the extension of contracts for current providers in the Crisis and Complex work stream to allow time for services to be reshaped.
- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Henderson

Amendment

- 1) To agree the recommendation including at paragraph 1.3 of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities the procurement option of collaborative consultation that, as stated in the report, would allow for services to be reshaped in a more controlled way, allowing the Council and service providers to test the approach outlined in the report as opposed to immediate tendering of services that would create a risk of disruption to service users and make it more difficult to amend the outcome or specification of the proposed services as they developed.
- 2) To further note the existing requirement of Crisis and Complex homeless services to find budgetary reductions of £300,000 as part of a cut of £2.3m in services to people who were homeless, however that the report also stated at:
 - (a) Paragraph 5.2: "In addition, Finance and Resources Committee on 30 September 2014 agreed a suite of proposals which required detailed planning development and consultation as part of the 2015-2018 revenue and capital budget framework."

- (b) Paragraph 5.3: “The proposal to reduce third party grants (including police, housing support and community grants) if agreed, may directly impact on this work stream and necessitate a further budgetary reduction.”
- 3) To express concern that the proposal referred to in paragraph 5.2 of the report was to reduce funding to Third Sector partner organisations including homelessness services by a further £1.5m
 - 4) To therefore call for an urgent further report to the January meeting of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee on the implications for Crisis and Complex homeless services should any such further budgetary reductions be pursued.
- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Booth

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	12 votes
For the amendment		2 votes

Decision

- 1) To agree the direction of reshaping crisis and complex services, as outlined in the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, to provide better crisis outreach and visiting housing support under the Inclusive Edinburgh approach.
- 2) To note the previously agreed permanent budget reduction of approximately £300,000 required within the Crisis and Complex work stream and future proposals within the 2015/18 revenue and capital budget framework.
- 3) To note the procurement options of tendering or collaborative consultation and associated risks highlighted at paragraphs 3.11 and 3.13 of the report.
- 4) To agree that the favoured option was to engage in a collaborative pilot with existing providers and refer the report to Finance and Resources Committee for deliberation on the commissioning approach.
- 5) To note that there would be a further report to Finance and Resources Committee seeking approval to award contracts, following the preferred procurement route, in spring 2015.
- 6) To note that the Finance and Resources Committee on 27 November 2014 would be asked to approve the extension of contracts for current providers in the Crisis and Complex work stream to allow time for services to be reshaped.

(Reference – Health, Social Care and Housing Committee 13 November 2013 (item 7); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

16. Homeless Prevention – Young People’s Services and Foyer Approach Update

An update was provided on progress made to develop a foyer approach in Edinburgh for young people who were homeless, at risk of homelessness or had been looked after.

The reshaping of these services and introducing a foyer approach would support young people to find and retain a home, gain employability skills and employment and gain independent living skills.

Motion

- 1) To note the work carried out to date to achieve a foyer approach for the delivery of services to young people within Edinburgh.
 - 2) To agree the direction for reshaping young people’s services as outlined in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.7 of the report and to agree to further work being carried out to develop a foyer approach.
 - 3) To note the procurement options of tendering or collaborative consultation and associated risks highlighted at paragraphs 3.15 to 3.17 of the report.
 - 4) To agree that the favoured option was to engage in a collaborative pilot with existing providers and to refer the report to the Finance and Resources Committee for consideration in respect of the commissioning approach.
 - 5) To note the previously agreed budget reductions and savings of around £200,000 per annum that were required to be achieved within the young people’s work stream and future proposals within the 2015/18 revenue and capital budget framework.
 - 6) To note that the Finance and Resources Committee on 27 November 2014 would be asked to approve the extension of contracts for current providers in the Young People’s work stream to allow time for services to be reshaped.
 - 7) To note there would be a further report to the Finance and Resources Committee seeking approval to award contracts following the preferred procurement route in Spring 2015.
- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Henderson

Amendment

- 1) To agree the recommendation including at paragraph 1.3 of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities the procurement option of collaborative consultation that, as stated in the report, would allow for services to be reshaped in a more controlled way, allowing the Council and service providers to test the approach outlined in the report as opposed to immediate tendering of services that would create a risk of disruption to service users and make it more difficult to amend the outcome or specification of the proposed services as they developed.

- 2) To further note the existing requirement of Crisis and Complex homeless services to find budgetary reductions of £300,000 as part of a cut of £2.3m in services to people who were homeless, however that the report also states at:
 - (a) Paragraph 5.2: “In addition, Finance and Resources Committee on 30 September 2014 agreed a suite of proposals which required detailed planning development and consultation as part of the 2015-2018 revenue and capital budget framework.”
 - (b) Paragraph 5.3: “The proposal to reduce third party grants (including police, housing support and community grants) if agreed, may directly impact on this work stream and necessitate a further budgetary reduction.”
 - 3) To express concern that the proposal referred to in paragraph 5.3 of the report was to reduce funding to Third Sector partner organisations including homelessness services by a further £1.5m
 - 4) To therefore call for an urgent further report to the January 2015 meeting of the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee on the implications for Young People’s homeless services should any such further budgetary reductions be pursued.
- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Booth

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion - 12 votes
 For the amendment - 2 votes.

Decision

- 1) To note the work carried out to date to achieve a foyer approach for the delivery of services to young people within Edinburgh.
- 2) To agree the direction for reshaping young people’s services as outlined in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.7 of the report and to agree to further work being carried out to develop a foyer approach.
- 3) To note the procurement options of tendering or collaborative consultation and associated risks highlighted at paragraphs 3.15 to 3.17 of the report.
- 4) To agree that the favoured option was to engage in a collaborative pilot with existing providers and to refer the report to the Finance and Resources Committee for consideration in respect of the commissioning approach.
- 5) To note the previously agreed budget reductions and savings of around £200,000 per annum that were required to be achieved within the young people’s work stream and future proposals within the 2015/18 revenue and capital budget framework.

- 6) To note that the Finance and Resources Committee on 27 November 2014 would be asked to approve the extension of contracts for current providers in the Young People's work stream to allow time for services to be reshaped.
- 7) To note there would be a further report to the Finance and Resources Committee seeking approval to award contracts following the preferred procurement route in Spring 2015.

(References – Health, Social Care and Housing Committee 12 November 2013 (item 7); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

17. Speak Up for Safety on Public Transport

Details were provided of the outcomes of a discussion day event hosted by the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership Hate Crime Strategic Development Group (HCSD). The event aimed to inform discussion around the development of a Transport Charter focussing on ways to improve the customer public transport experience, in particular for those groups who may be at risk of being victims of hate crime, or hate incident, whilst using public transport and related services at transport hubs.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To commend the work of officers and partners in facilitating and contributing to the success of the event.
- 3) To receive a further report with details of the finalised Transport Charter.

(Reference – report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

18. Scottish Government Consultations on the Private Rented Sector

The Scottish Government had invited the Council to comment on two consultations on the Private Rented Sector on the introduction of Enhanced Enforcement Areas and the introduction of new tenancy arrangements. The response deadlines were 12 and 28 December 2014 respectively.

A summary was provided of the key issues covered in the consultations and the broad policy response proposed for each.

Decision

- 1) To note and welcome the Scottish Government consultation on the private rented sector.
- 2) To note the initial response to the main issues in the report and that the Acting Director of Services for Communities would consult with members prior to submission of the response.

- 3) In order to meet the submission deadlines, to agree that, the Acting Director of Services for Communities, in consultation with the Convener and Vice-Convener, submit detailed responses to the consultations.

(Reference – report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

19. “Healthy Ageing” European Project Update

An update was provided on some of the key areas of transfer and details of a very successful study visit which recently took place in Edinburgh as part of the Healthy Ageing European Project.

The project aimed to transfer learning between partner cities about their approaches to tackling shared issues of demographic ageing and meeting the needs of older people through effective strategies and health policies.

Decision

To note the update.

(References – Health, Social Care and Housing Committee 28 January 2014 (item 7); report by the Director of Health and Social Care, submitted.)

20. Services for Communities Financial Monitoring: Period Five 2014/15

Details were provided of the month five financial monitoring position for Services for Communities revenue and capital budgets. A balanced position was forecast for the Housing Revenue Account and Capital Budgets, however the General Fund Revenue Budget was managing significant pressures.

Decision

To note Services for Communities financial position and actions underway to manage pressures.

(Reference – report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

21. Development of Neighbourhood Partnership Local Community Plans – Community Engagement – Referral from the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee on 23 September 2014 had referred a report providing details on engagement activity involving the communities of Edinburgh to inform the development of new local community plans for 2014-2017 to this Committee for information.

Decision

To note the information.

(Reference – Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee 23 September 2014 (item 6); referral from the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee, submitted.)