

Committee Minutes

Policy and Strategy Committee

Edinburgh, 7 August 2012

Present:- Councillors Ricky Henderson (in the Chair), Balfour, Brock, Buchanan, Burgess, Chapman, Child, Nick Cook, Edie, Godzik, Hinds, Lewis, Mowat, Munro and Rankin.

1 Appointment of Convener

In the absence of the Convener and Vice-Convener, Councillor Ricky Henderson was appointed to chair the meeting.

2 Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Policy and Strategy Committee of 12 June 2012 as a correct record.

3 Motion by Councillor Ricky Henderson - UK Government's Welfare Reform Programme

The following motion by Councillor Ricky Henderson was submitted in terms of Standing Order 28:

"That Policy and Strategy Committee:

- (a) notes previous reports to Health, Social Care and Housing Committee on "welfare reform proposals" relating to changes in Housing Benefit (7 December 2010) and on the "Independent Living Fund and Welfare Benefits Changes: Impact on People Receiving Care and Support Packages" (24 May 2011).
- (b) calls for an update report on the impact of the UK Government's welfare reform programme in respect of Edinburgh residents in receipt of welfare benefits and also in relation to services provided or funded by the Council.

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This report to include the financial implications for the Council and also the impact on strategy and operations, including Edinburgh's advice services. The report to be produced within two cycles."

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Ricky Henderson.

4 Corporate Programme Office

Details were provided on the proposed role of the Council's Corporate Programme Office and remit to support delivery of the capital coalition pledges, the council's priority outcomes and a programme of transformation within the organisation.

Decision

- 1) To agree the governance arrangements as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 2) To note that a further report on the Council's proposed strategic approach to transformation would be submitted to Full Council for consideration in September 2012.
- 3) To agree that the cost of the CPO would be met from recharges to the approved programmes and projects across the Council.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee of 28 February 2012 (item 7); report no PS/6/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

5 Alternative Business Models – Update on Internal Improvement Plans

An update was provided on the Council's internal improvement plans for Environmental Services, Integrated Facilities Management Services and Corporate and Transactional Services.

Decision

To note the progress made on each of the improvement programmes.

(Reference – report no PS/7/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

6 **Anti-Bribery Policy, Procedure and Revised Employee Code of Conduct**

Details were provided on the proposed adoption of an Anti-Bribery Policy and Anti-Bribery Procedure in order to strengthen existing anti-corruption measures to meet the requirements of the Bribery Act 2012.

Proposed amendments to the existing Employee Code of Conduct to reflect the requirements of the Act and to clarify what would constitute a conflict of interest were outlined.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 2) To approve the draft Anti-Bribery Policy, Anti-Bribery Procedure and amended Employee Code of Conduct for implementation as local collective agreements covering all Council employees, effective from 7 August 2012.

(Reference – report no PS/8/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

7 **A Strategy for Jobs: The Council's Economic Strategy 2012-2017**

The Economic Development Committee had endorsed the submission of the Economic Strategy to this Committee for approval. Details were provided on the Council's Economic Strategy for the years 2012-17

Motion

To approve the City of Edinburgh Council's Economic Strategy for 2012-17

- moved by Councillor Ricky Henderson, seconded by Councillor Buchanan.

Amendment

- 1) To note that the City of Edinburgh Council had determined that the Economic Strategy was not required to undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment on the basis that it was not likely to have significant environmental effects;
- 2) However, to notes, for example page 13 of the Economic Strategy, Priority Outcomes for 2012: "**Edinburgh Airport will offer a widened range of**

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direct air routes to selected international business hubs, bringing investors, and leisure and business visitors to the city”;

Therefore concludes that the Economic Strategy will have significant environmental effects and requests that a Strategy Environmental Assessment is carried out before approval.

- 3) To agree the focus on jobs and employment and the acknowledgement of the important role played by social enterprises, but believes that the Strategy requires a greater emphasis on these and other employment initiatives such as cooperatives and local energy companies that boost community resilience, social capital, and aid the retention of quality graduates in the city;
- 4) Therefore to agree to include the following as priorities for supporting business and helping unemployed people into work or learning:
 - retaining quality graduates at a time of very high graduate unemployment
 - strategy to support cooperative ventures
 - Green Deal schemes (e.g. community energy companies, insulation done through collective buying, etc.)

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Chapman.

Voting

The voting was as follows;

For the motion - 13 votes
For the amendment - 2 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Ricky Henderson.

(References – Economic Development Committee of 26 June 2012 (item 5); report no PS/9/12-13/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted.)

8 Property Conservation – Service Recovery Work

Details of the current position within the Property Conservation service were provided together with an update on how the outstanding issues were being addressed.

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Decision

- 1) To note the progress made in the recovery of the Property Conservation Service.
- 2) To endorse the steps being taken to address the outstanding issues.
- 3) To note the intention to set up a Sub-Committee of the Finance and Resources Committee and that it would be asked to examine the timescales for the resolution of the outstanding issues.
- 4) That a progress report be submitted to this Committee (or its successor) in December 2012.

(Reference – report no PS/10/12-13/SfC by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

9 Property Conservation Service Re-design

Details were provided on a range of service model options for consideration to support a full service re-design and replacement of the current Property Conservation service. An overview of the planned approach towards closing the existing service and launching a replacement was provided.

Decision

- 1) To agree to consider a new proposed service model, service improvement framework commitment and costs as a basis for consultation.
- 2) To approve the recommended approach to the period of transitional service arrangements.
- 3) In line with the Administration's commitment to consult with a wide group of stakeholders including: homeowners, wider Council services, housing and building trade organisations and partner services the Committee was concerned that the period of consultation highlighted in the report at 3.19 was too short and should be extended by one month to the end of October 2012.

Further to this extension there should be wide ranging publicity promoting the consultation process including paid and social media advertising.

Individuals, groups and companies who had already contacted the Council to promote their support for the redesign should be contacted and their views collated as part of the process.

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- 4) To note that the Property Conservation Sub-Group to be established by the Finance and Resources Committee would be addressing service re-design.
- 5) To agree to a report in the autumn on the outcomes from the consultation process.

(Reference – report no PS/11/12-13/SfC by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

10 Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report: 2011/2012

Decision

To note the Chief Social Work Officer's annual report for 2011/2012.

(Reference – report no PS/12/12-13/CSWO by the Chief Social Work Officer, submitted.)

11 Public Protection in Edinburgh – Annual Reports

Annual reports were presented for each of the committees that together oversaw the main multi-agency public protection activity in the city. These were:

- The Edinburgh Child Protection Committee
- The Edinburgh Adult Protection Committee
- The Edinburgh Offender Management Committee
- The Edinburgh Drug and Alcohol Partnership

Decision

- 1) To note the annual reports from each of the 'public protection' Committees.
- 2) To note the importance of ensuring an integrated approach across the Council and between the Council and its key partners NHS Lothian and Borders Police to allow for effective, shared prioritisation and resource allocation.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 8 June 2012 (item 10); report no PS/13/12-13/CSWO by the Chief Social Work Officer, submitted.)

12 Progress Report on the Commissioning Strategy for Care and Support Services 2011-2016

Details were provided on the progress made in implementing the Commissioning Strategy for Care and Support Services together with current and future developments which might impact upon the delivery of the Strategy.

Decision

- 1) To approve the adoption of the streamlined action plan for the purposes of monitoring future progress in implementing the Commissioning Strategy for Care and Support Services.
- 2) To note the progress made to date on the implementation of the Commissioning Strategy for Care and Support Services.
- 3) To note the future developments likely to impact upon the Commissioning Strategy for Care and Support Services.
- 4) To note that further reports would be submitted to the Committee as the implications of personalisation and self-directed support, the drive towards joint strategic commissioning and the integration of health and social care became clearer.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 9 August 2011 (item 11); report no PS/14/12-13/H&SC by the Director of Health and Social Care, submitted.)

13 A City for All Ages Progress Report

The Committee had agreed the future approach for A City for All Ages and asked for a progress report to be submitted.

Progress on the integration of actions of A City for All Ages into existing strategies and service plans within the Council, partnerships and partners in the city was provided and approval sought for the sign-up to the World Health Organisation's formal pledge that Edinburgh would sustain the Age-Friendly principles.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress and achievements of the continued integration of A City for All Ages as part of regular planning.
- 2) To agree that the Council would sustain the World Health Organisation's Age-Friendly Cities principles by signing the Dublin Declaration.

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- 3) To agree to forward the report to the Community Health Partnership and Neighbourhood Partnerships for information.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 17 May 2011 (item 10); report no PS/15/12-13/H&SC by the Director of Health and Social Care, submitted.)