

Motions and Amendments

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Tuesday, 30th June, 2020

Virtual Meeting - via Microsoft Teams

Motions and Amendments

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Addendum by the Conservative Group

City of Edinburgh Council

30 June 2020

Item 8.1 – Unaudited Annual Accounts 2019/20

Adds to recommendations;

Council;

1.1.5. Notes with concern that for the first time in 13 years the Council Revenue Budget was overspent and reserves will have to be expended to bring financial balance.

1.1.6. Further notes that Council reserves have been reduced by £25 million during the year, and that if finances continue on the current trajectory there will be no reserves in four years' time.

1.1.7. Notes that an expected dividend of £6 million from Lothian Buses did not materialise, raising questions as regards the Tram Extension funding model.

1.1.8. Notes the significant costs involved in the increase in staffing numbers when the administration failed to deliver its approved budget savings and calls for a report to explain this situation and propose remedies for the current year.

Moved by Councillor Graham Hutchison

Seconded by Councillor Iain Whyte

Addendum by the Green Group

City of Edinburgh Council

30 June 2020

Item 8.1 – Unaudited Annual Accounts 2019/20

Add to recommendations

1.1.5 That the unaudited accounts show a total unbudgeted impact on reserves of over £13m.

1.1.6 That further deficits are recorded for both Edinburgh Leisure and Edinburgh Integration Joint Board.

1.1.7 That the report referred to in 1.1.3 above should further consider additional risks from recurring deficits in 2020-21 and beyond, over and above those already identified as residual pressures.

1.1.8 That the council leader should therefore write to Scottish Ministers on the urgency of a) providing the council with a revenue settlement which meets its needs; b) furnishing the council with the fiscal autonomy which other European municipal authorities take for granted, including greater powers over non-domestic rates; powers to set council tax levels and band differentials without clawback; progress on council tax replacement; and new revenue-raising powers.

Moved by: Councillor Gavin Corbett

Seconded by:

Addendum – Conservative Group

City of Edinburgh Council

30 June 2020

Item 8.2 – Revenue Budget 2020/21 Update

Adds to recommendations;

Council;

1. Notes the significant funding gap detailed in the report and regrets that reserves are being diminished at a rapid rate.
2. Requests a report giving clarification as to whether furloughed staff were active from 19th of March until the 12th June and why furlough or redeployment was not considered sooner.
3. Regrets that the Council has made no political case to the Scottish Government for fair funding for Edinburgh to cover the Council's specific needs as a result of the pandemic.

Moved by Councillor Graham Hutchison

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Johnston

Addendum by the Coalition

City of Edinburgh Council

30 June 2020

Item 8.4 – Office of Lord Provost: Year Three Report 2019/20

Commends the work of the Lord Provost, Depute Lord Provost and Bailies for the continued commitment and support.

Calls for a report in two cycles on new methods and new technology enabling the continued support of civic life in the capital city while Covid-19 regulations apply.

To include how virtual ceremonies can be delivered & how the Depute Lord Provost and Bailies can assist with these new approaches.

Moved by: Depute Lord Provost

Seconded by: Lord Provost

Addendum by the Conservative Group

City of Edinburgh Council

30 June 2020

Item 8.4 – Office of Lord Provost: Year Three Report 2019/20

Council, adds the following to the recommendations:

- a) 1.6 thanks the staff and City Officers in the Office of Lord Provost for their dedication during the year as demonstrated by the activity and outcomes detailed in the report;
- b) adds to the end of 1.4, “recognising as we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic the importance of civic leadership and community at this time, alongside economic recovery, and therefore calls for a further detailed report in two cycles on proposed methods of civic engagement by the Lord Provost, Depute Lord Provost and Bailies, to ensure as complete a civic presence as possible. The report to include the potential and appropriateness of undertaking events by virtual methods; other new ways of engaging; reference to government and other guidelines; and any budget impacts for the Office of Lord Provost.”

Moved by Councillor Jason Rust

Seconded by Councillor

Amendment by the Conservative Group

City of Edinburgh Council

30 June 2020

Item 9.5 – Motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron – Safe Re-opening of Businesses in Edinburgh

Council:

Replaces the first and second paragraphs with the following:

- 1) Notes the public engagement with the Spaces for People initiative which supports sustainable travel and physical distancing measures across Edinburgh's communities, and to support local businesses, has generated significant interest across the city with over 3,000 suggestions submitted.
- 2) Recognises the key themes emerging include the narrowness of pavements, limited space to queue and the speed to traffic.
- 3) Notes that our city is diverse and retail and hospitality businesses operating in different locations from the city centre to village high streets face shared and differing challenges and the key to understanding and meeting these is through consultation with business owners and residents.
- 4) Notes that the level of involvement and consultation with local business has so far been limited and this is evident from the low- level of awareness of the pending town-centre plans in the business communities across the city as well as the threat of legal challenges to some proposed road closure schemes.
- 5) Acknowledges that supporting our local high streets and city centre is key to ensuring a sustainable economic recovery for Edinburgh and that many measures in addition to Spaces for People will be critical to this including but not limited to:

- a) Encouraging residents to “Buy Local”
- b) Relaxing rules on pavement eating and drinking and the use of other outdoor areas for this purpose
- c) Consulting with businesses and their trade organisation to understand their concerns and therefore understand what the council can do to better support them

And adds after “practicable” (in Para 3) “to include details of:

- a) Where businesses can find details of guidance,
- b) How it is being decided which areas are suitable for the increased use of outdoor space and how this is being facilitated;
- c) What guidelines are being used to mediate between Council departments where there are competing priorities such as income generation from parking versus enabling the provision of space for businesses to open and support economic activity, recognising that different areas may require different solutions;
- d) How the decision-making process can be improved to ensure transparency.

Moved by Councillor Susan Webber

Seconded by Councillor Joanna Mowat

Addendum by the Scottish Liberal Democrat Group

City of Edinburgh Council

30 June 2020

Item 9.5 – Safe Reopening of Businesses in Edinburgh

Add at end

“Council regrets the vague proposals which were published on 19 June for town centres, which lacked any substantive detail and resulted in a meaningless five day consultation, further delaying actions to support residents and businesses.

“Council believes it is in the interests of business for there to be clarity and certainty around the arrangements for town centres and calls for the revised proposals, due to be published in the week commencing 6 July, to be specific and detailed enough so as to list exact changes and locations, which will in turn allow business to provide meaningful feedback.

“Council notes the terms of the motion passed by the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 11 June which included a commitment to consult directly with small business on what additional actions the Council could take to help and support their recovery, and looks forward to seeing a specific set of proposals through the planned report by the end of July.”

Moved by Councillor Kevin Lang

Seconded by Councillor Neil Ross

Amendment by the Conservative Group

City of Edinburgh Council

30 June 2020

Item 9.6 – Motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron – Impact of Covid-19 on Equalities in Edinburgh

Council

Replaces

“Council calls for a report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee within 3 cycles on actions taken”

with

“Council calls on the Chief Executive to continue reporting to Policy and Sustainability Committee, in a similar format as the report 6.1 to the same committee on 25 June 2020, to highlight actions taken”

Moved by Councillor Phil Duggart

Seconded by Councillor Jim Campbell

Amendment by the Coalition

City of Edinburgh Council

30 June 2020

Item 9.7 – Motion By Councillor Corbett – Green Recovery

Agrees points 1-4 and replaces point 5 with:

Further notes the City Regional Deal partners are currently working with both Governments and partners to examine projects in the context of COVID-19 recovery plans for the city region and elements of this work are already being delivered, such as the work on a separate health and social care skills gateway as part of the skills programme. Agree Edinburgh Council as a partner will continue to ensure this work is in line with our own recovery and adaptation plans and drive towards net zero carbon by 2030.

Moved by: Councillor Adam McVey

Seconded by: Councillor Cammy Day

Amendment by the Coalition

City of Edinburgh Council

30 June 2020

Item 9.8 – Motion By Councillor Rust – Engagement with Employees

Replaces all:

1. Notes that more than 80% of Scottish teachers and lecturers are members of EIS, the main teaching union;
2. Notes that both members and non-members of trades unions benefit from the terms and conditions negotiated by trades unions;
3. Notes that there are considerable benefits to employers of conducting negotiations with trades union representatives;
4. Thanks the trades unions for engaging constructively with Edinburgh Council to ensure staff and children's safety is properly considered in any plan to reopen schools;
5. Considers that the proposal to launch a consultation during the recovery phase of a pandemic would not be a good use of resources at this time;
6. Asks Council to continue to work constructively with trades unions and to encourage employees to consider joining a trades union;
7. Provide a Members briefing detailing the range of tools and opportunities for Employee engagement.

Moved by: Councillor Day

Seconded by: Councillor Rankin

Amendment by the Green Group

City of Edinburgh Council

30 June 2020

Item 9.8 – Engagement with Employees

Delete points 4 and 5.

Replace with

- 4) Notes the importance of Union membership in giving employees a unified voice in negotiations, legal support and other means of representation.
- 5) Therefore resolves that every council department and every school should encourage its employees to join a union and that an annual report detailing union membership statistics among council employees be brought to Policy and Sustainability committee in order for councillors to ensure that union membership is being encouraged and is thriving in the council.

Moved by: Councillor Alex Staniforth

Seconded by:

Green Group Addendum

City of Edinburgh Council

30 June 2020

Item 9.11 – Motion by Councillor Burgess – New School Session 2021-22

Add at end of existing motion;

6. Further agrees to;

- i) Consult relevant stakeholders specifically about health & safety, including mental health of staff and pupils ahead of the intended full-time return to school;
- ii) Put in place planning to be able to quickly recruit teaching staff to fill future gaps in provision that may arise following a full-time return to school;
- iii) Consider putting in place additional teaching support for those children and young people who have been particularly disadvantaged by the closure of their schools during lockdown;

7. Requests that an update on agreed actions is included in the report on School Return coming to the Policy & Sustainability committee on 9 July.

Moved by Councillor Steve Burgess

Seconded by Councillor Mary Campbell

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