

Motions and Amendments

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 10th December, 2020

Virtual Meeting - via Microsoft Teams

Motions and Amendments

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Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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Motion by the Coalition

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 7.1 – Appointments

Council agrees to replace Councillor Munn with Councillor Ethan Young on the Planning Committee and the Development Management Sub-Committee and relevant Local Review Body.

Council agrees to replace Councillor Fullerton with Councillor Ethan Young on the Culture and Communities Committee.

Moved by: Councillor Catherine Fullerton

Seconded by: Councillor Karen Doran

Addendum by the Coalition

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 8.1 – Review of Political Management Arrangements December 2020

Council agrees point 1.3 of the recommendations with the following additional changes:

Agrees to change the order of business as set out point 9 of the interim standing orders in Appendix 2 to put Council Questions as the last item of business. This is in order to maximise the front loading of decision time for Council while retaining the accountability of the administration though Leaders' questions.

Agrees to add a point 22.15 of the interim standing orders in Appendix 2 to read "Individual agenda items, (excluding the budget and quasi-judicial items) will be subject to a 40-minute time limit, unless specifically agreed by committee at the order of business by a straightforward majority vote if required. This will include time for any questions to officers', proposing and seconding speeches and general debate but not including time to conduct voting. In the event of no express agreement by committee, the Convenor will have the discretion to allow proceedings to continue but should explain why they are doing so."

Agrees to add a sentence at the start of the interim standing orders in Appendix 2 to read: "Members are responsible for acting in accordance with the Members' code of conduct at Council meetings."

Agrees to amend the proportion required under standing order 31.1 of the interim standing orders in Appendix 2 from "not less than one quarter" to "not less than one third".

Delegates to the Chief Executive to explore the introduction of a simpler pro-forma online process of submitting deputations to make it clearer for groups to follow and easier for committees and Council to digest the information of the deputation.

Moved by: Councillor Adam McVey

Seconded by: Councillor Cammy Day

Amendment by the Conservative Group

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 8.1 – Review of Political Management Arrangements December 2020

Council

1. Agrees to recommendations 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 and 1.5.
2. Agrees to recommendation 1.3 subject to the following changes to the Standing Orders set out in Appendix 1, renumbering as required
 - a. removal of clause 25 End of Session Decisions (report item 4.19.5).
 - b. add “and with a clear public audit trail from vote to Member” at the end of 24.1
3. Believes these changes should help to promote brevity. Encourages all Members to consider if further training would help them become more effective at contributing or convening virtual meetings. Promotes an open dialogue between Members and Officers as a way of spurring continuous improvement in that regard.
4. Agrees that a small representative group of Member and relevant Officers meet to review Standing Orders before March 2021, with the clear objective of reaching an enduring consensus, and that a super majority shall be required thereafter to make any permanent changes.

Moved by: Councillor Jim Campbell

Seconded by: Councillor Iain Whyte

Amendment by the Scottish Liberal Democrat Group

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 8.1 – Review of Political Management Arrangements December 2020

To agree the recommendations except to add to recommendation 1.3 'with the exception of new Standing Order 25'

(and renumber accordingly)

Moved by Councillor Kevin Lang

Seconded by Councillor Robert Aldridge

Amendment by the Conservative Group

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 8.3 - Best Value Assurance Audit – referral from Policy and Sustainability Committee

1. Council notes the findings of the Best Value Assurance Audit Report and the Accounts Commission's Findings which highlight a large number of significant failings including:

- The council “does not have adequate public performance reporting arrangements”
- The council “does not have a structured approach to continuous improvement”
- residents' satisfaction rates “with many services have declined”
- Progress reports to elected members on its Change Portfolio – which includes transformation projects – “do not set out details of the savings expected or achieved”
- “it does not have a longer-term financial plan to address its significant revenue budget challenges”
- the Council's Workforce Plan – vital to controlling cost and prioritising staff resource in the right areas – “has become less detailed than the 2016 version”
- “staff are not always positive about their leadership”
- while the report suggests improving KPIs the benchmarking reported at Exhibit 6 still shows a worse position than in 2014/15 and 2015/16
- The Edinburgh Integration Joint Board “not yet developed the detailed plans needed to address significant financial pressures”
- The Business Plan intended to implement the Coalition's 52 Council Commitments “does not provide a clear focus for the council”, many of commitments “are not easily measured and they are not prioritised” and the

Change Strategy to implement the Business Plan “does not include the 52 commitments or set out specific actions to deliver them”.

- “The pace of change in establishing effective community planning governance arrangements has been slow and there is limited evidence to demonstrate the impact of partnership working on outcomes.”
- “Community empowerment is not embedded in the council’s culture.”
- There is a “e lack of involvement of some members in decision-making”

2. Council recognises that these findings often contradict the Council’s self-assessment which is little surprise given that it was undertaken without seeking widespread input and did not include the views of all elected members. Even overall positive statements like “The council has ambitious plans for the future of Edinburgh” are heavily caveated with “but its priorities are not clearly articulated” and expose the Administration’s approach which relies on publishing glossy strategic documentation but routinely omits implementation plans, performance plans and funding details.

3. Council notes that these significant failings are a direct result of political decisions taken by the current coalition Administration to reject repeated calls by the Conservative Group for an improved Council Performance Framework and a new culture of continuous improvement.

4. Council therefore agrees that, notwithstanding the Chief Executive’s intention to address the improvement actions arising from the report in the refreshed Council Business Plan, these issues and the areas of Council service where performance improvement is required need an additional and specific reporting mechanism and progress tracker.

5. Council instructs the Chief Executive to incorporate the improvement actions into the development of a revised Council Performance Framework so that it meets the aspirations in the recommendations of the Report.

6. Council further instructs that a specific Best Value Improvement Plan be created to monitor progress on the totality of the recommendations in the report, including those to the Edinburgh Partnership.

Moved by: Councillor Iain Whyte
Seconded by: Councillor Phil Daggart

Amendment by the Green Group

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 8.3 – Best Value Audit – referral from the Policy and Sustainability Committee

1 Council notes the report.

2 Council also notes the decision of the Policy and Sustainability Committee at its meeting on 1st December 2020 and the scrutiny and consideration of the report by Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on 8th December.

Council further notes that:

- 1 Policy and Sustainability Committee requested ‘further consideration of genuine local community empowerment’
- 2 The Audit findings concluded that Community engagement is not embedded in the council’s culture; the Council and its partners have not yet established effective community planning governance arrangements
- 3 There is concern within communities across Edinburgh and the Council that communities are not supported to engage effectively with community planning or development of Council services.

3 Therefore requests that the ‘further consideration’, includes development with the community, stakeholders and members, of a community engagement and communications plan for Council and proposals for effective support for community planning arrangements.

Moved by: Councillor Melanie Main

Seconded by:

Amendment by the Coalition

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 9.1 – By Councillor Lang - Controlled Parking Zones and Carers

Amends first para to:

Council:

- 1) recognises the immense and valued contribution of carers across Edinburgh and the particular pressures they have faced this year as a result of the spread of COVID-19.

Amends point 2 to include:

- 2) notes the Council's Essential User Parking Permit Scheme allows some healthcare professionals to be exempt from day-to-day charges in controlled parking zones through the purchase of exemption permits for limited use, but is not available to carers registered with the Scottish Social Services Council and unregistered home care workers and personal assistants who provide a large proportion of social and personal care at home Edinburgh, often through the Council's direct payments scheme.

Deletes point 3 and replaces with:

- 3) Recognises the understandable desire expressed in the original motion to acknowledge this valued contribution to the city's well-being by carers through exemption from parking fees, similar to that currently provided to some GP staff, for example.

Retains point 4.

Amends point 5 to include:

Therefore seeks a report to the Transport and Environment Committee within three cycles which will examine the feasibility of implementing support to carers by

(a) widening the Essential User Parking Permit Scheme to cover paid carers registered with the Scottish Social Services Council and unregistered home care workers and personal assistants.

(b) exempting those in receipt of carer's allowance from paying pay and display parking charges within controlled parking zones when carrying out their caring responsibilities.”

Moved by: Councillor Lesley Macinnes

Seconded by: Councillor Karen Doran

Addendum by the Green Group

The City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 9.1 – By Councillor Lang - Controlled Parking Zones and Carers

Adds additional points to paragraph 5:

“(c) ensuring that paid carers and volunteers who are working for companies in partnership with Edinburgh are always reimbursed in full for travel expenses, that assessments for care include travel expenses and that carers grant funding can cover additional travel expenses if needed

(d) exploring how the Council can best support those carers, particularly those receiving benefits including carers allowance, to ensure they are able to make best sustainable travel choices for their health and wellbeing”

Moved by: Councillor Claire Miller

Seconded by:

Amendment by the Coalition

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 9.4 – By Councillor Corbett – Former Royal High School

Accepts paragraphs 1, 2 & 3.

Deletes paragraph 4, 5 and 6 and replace with:

4) Therefore agrees to receive a report to the January meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee that considers the options available to the Council in terms of progressing a viable future use of this important building. As part of the report consideration should be given to a) ensuring future options for the building that would allow for public access b) any short term uses of the building.

Moved by: Councillor Rob Munn

Seconded by: Councillor Joan Griffiths

Addendum by the Coalition

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 9.5 – By Councillor Webber – Great British Bake Off – Peter is our Star Baker

In acknowledgement of this significant achievement and with the approval of the Incorporated Trades of Edinburgh the Lord Provost further agrees to bestow the Honorary title of Burgess of the City of Edinburgh in recognition, not only of his contribution to the Baking trade, but also to the wellbeing and reputation of City.

The title of Burgess is Freedom of the City as related to the Incorporated Trades and Merchants. It is normally proposed by the Burgess Association but in exceptional cases can be awarded by the Council. This would open the door for Peter to also receive Honorary membership of the Incorporation of Baxters (Bakers) of the City of Edinburgh.

Moved by: Councillor Donald Wilson

Seconded by: Lord Provost

Amendment by the Coalition

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 9.6 – By Councillor Mowat – Supporting our City Centre

Deletes all and replaces with:

Notes with concern, the serious impact which COVID19 has had, and continues to have, upon on the footfall, vibrancy, operating and trading conditions for shops, hospitality businesses, cultural attractions within Edinburgh's City Centre, and their respective supply chain businesses.

Notes and appreciates all measures taken by Edinburgh businesses to innovate, adapt and adhere to current and changes to Scottish Government restrictions in place, ensuring their businesses are safe environments for customers and staff.

Notes that during the past 10 years, Essential Edinburgh BID levy payers have generated circa £9 million which has been invested in making improvements to, creating events, campaigns and initiatives to promote Edinburgh's City Centre.

Notes funding of £290,000 has been allocated to support the City Centre specifically through the Towns and Business Improvement Districts Resilience and Recovery Fund, and further notes that to date in excess of £123m has been paid to support over 12000 businesses across the City, helping many City Centre businesses.

Notes that www.edinburgh.org and its associated Social Media Channels, as well as the part Council funded Forever Edinburgh campaign specifically is promoting City Centre traders and as a destination.

Notes the Council Leader and officers meet business leaders weekly, with regular check-ins from cross-industry groups including Essential Edinburgh,

Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Business, Edinburgh Hotelier Association and other key industry reps.

Notes the Council Leader and Chief Executive meet the Scottish Government weekly and have made consistent representations to ensure Edinburgh was allocated the lowest possible level of restrictions while keeping communities safe- and have made direct representations on the make-up of Level 3 while Edinburgh was in this level to try push for changes to better support business operations while keeping communities safe.

Notes actions to support businesses have been taken up by the Council's Business Gateway service which provides 1to1 advisory support, funding guidance, webinars and online tutorials, DigitalBoost upskilling and access to market research data.

Moved by: Councillor Adam McVey
Seconded by: Councillor Cammy Day

Amendment by the Green Group

The City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Amendment for 9.6 By Councillor Mowat - Supporting our City Centre

Re-words point b) of the motion as follows:

“...which means ~~that there is no support~~ for the Essential Edinburgh area which encompasses the major shopping streets in the City centre which are significant employers has relied on Scottish Government Business Improvement Districts COVID-19 Resilience Funds (receiving £190,000 for the period April to October 2020, and £100,000 for the period October 2020 to March 2021)”

Deletes the following points:

“- re-instating any parking bays in the city centre that have been removed for any reason;
- first hour free parking – to recognise that whilst the city remains in Level 3 public transport for non-essential journeys is not encouraged or designate saving the city centre as essential;”

Replaces the points deleted with:

“- Encouraging people to make use of expanded space for walking, wheeling and cycling through Spaces for People changes in the city centre, noting the higher spend from active travel customers”

Moved by: Councillor Claire Miller

Seconded by:

Amendment by the Scottish Liberal Democrat Group

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 9.6 – By Councillor Mowat – Supporting our City Centre

Delete all after the words 'support so does your city centre.'

Moved by Councillor Robert Aldridge

Seconded by Councillor Hal Osler

Amendment by the Coalition

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 9.7 – By Councillor Mowat – Cardboard Recycling

Accepts para 1 and replaces para 2 and 3 with:

Recognises that the additional household waste and packaging materials generated by changing work patterns and the upcoming Christmas period can or are likely to cause pressures on communal bin capacity.

Welcomes efforts by residents to dispose of their waste correctly including flattening of cardboard boxes and similar packaging.

Recognises that the Waste department has anticipated this and made considerable efforts to mitigate these differences across this festive period including:

- Suspending garden waste collections to allow additional resource to be redirected to communal bin collection.
- Applying that additional resource to communal bin collection for the two weeks prior to Christmas and for some of that additional capacity to continue in the weeks post- Christmas Day.
- Applying the balance of redirected resource to Christmas tree street collections.
- Creation of a comprehensive multi-media campaign (social media, radio, outdoor and lamp wraps etc) to be launched on Monday which encourages residents to embrace ways of reducing waste and to 'go green' this Christmas.

Recognises that any other feasible option would include creating additional collection routes which would produce significant budget pressures on the Waste service.

Moved by: Councillor Lesley Macinnes

Seconded by: Councillor Karen Doran

Addendum by the Green Group

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 9.7 – By Councillor Mowat – Cardboard Recycling

Council:

“Notes that recycling is at the lower end of the waste hierarchy and agrees that the discussions should include how best to encourage people to shop local, to support local traders and businesses, which will reduce surplus packaging, and to actively choose lower packaging options; further notes and commends many of the “Share” platforms in neighbourhoods throughout the city and applauds their role in re-using and re-purposing items, diverting them from waste streams.”

Moved by: Councillor Gavin Corbett

Seconded by:

Amendment by the Coalition

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 9.9 – By Councillor Laidlaw – Funding of Flu Vaccine by Head Teachers for Staff

Council agrees to remit this motion to Education Children and Families Committee to allow proper investigation and discussion with officers to agree the way forward.

Moved by: Councillor Ian Perry
Seconded by: Councillor Alison Dickie

Amendment by the Coalition

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 9.10 – By Councillor Booth – Accessibility of New Buildings

“Deletes point 1, 3, 4 and 5 and replaces with:”

1) Notes that for new build council homes current policy is that a minimum of 10% should be fully wheelchair accessible and that all homes are built to the Housing for Varying Need (HFVN) standard making ground floor properties accessible for wheelchair users including doorways that are wide enough to accommodate a wheel chair, level entry access, space for a wheelchair turning manoeuvre in both the kitchen and at least one bathroom and a wheel chair accessible path through property. The 10% that are fully wheelchair accessible include further specialist adaptations and where feasible plans are discussed with relevant professionals including Occupational Therapists during the design process to allow additional specialist adaptations for example lowered work surfaces, wet floor shower room or stair lifts. Further notes that a study has been commissioned into future need and demand for wheelchair accessible housing to feed into the updated Housing Needs & Demand Assessment for the city region and target setting as part of the SHIP process.

3) Recognises that by building to the HVN standard and investing in increased ease of access for all ground floor new build council homes the demand for full adaption at a later date is reduced, leading to a reduction on pressure on the council's adaptations budget;

4) Notes that the commitment to delivering accessible homes was increased from 3000 to 4500 and that the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) report, which will be at the next Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, will contain a detailed update on the council's strategy for maximising delivery of new build accessible housing as part of

the council's new build programme. Agrees that this report should include information on the current and anticipated future demand for accessible housing and a plan for how the council will this.

5) Requests a report to Planning Committee on 3rd February (1 cycle) setting out how accessibility is considered through Building Standards and the planning system and how compliance with the Building Regulations is ensured.

Notes: the matter of accessibility has been the subject of a City Plan Leadership Forum meeting. This issue will be considered as part of a policy approach to the proposed City Plan 2030 and will be set within the context of the legislative powers of the planning system. This matter will be addressed, in some measure, as part of the proposed City Plan and presentation to Planning Committee on 24 February 2021 (2 cycles).

Moved by: Councillor Kate Campbell
Seconded by: Councillor Maureen Child

Amendment by the Conservative Group

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Item 9.11 – By Councillor McVey – Public Sector Freeze

Council:

Deletes all and replaces with:

1. Recognises the "economic emergency" caused by Covid-19 has only just begun, impacting all sectors of the UK economy, including the culture, hospitality and retail sectors in our capital city.
2. Salutes the heroism of frontline employees, and efforts of all employees, volunteers and residents across the city during this unprecedented challenging year, including our own hardworking Council staff.
3. Accepts that pausing headline pay awards next year for some workforces will allow the UK Government to protect public sector jobs and investment in public services to respond to spending pressures from Covid-19 and also avoid further expansion of the gap between public and private sector pay award.
4. Requests the Leader and Depute Leader write to the Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer welcoming:
 - (a) the furlough scheme introduced and extended by the UK Government;
 - (b) the announcement by the UK Government of a 2.2% increase to the national living wage, making it one of the highest in the world;
 - (c) the UK Government's funding to aid the global search for a vaccine, funding more international research than any other country of comparable size; and
 - (d) the nearly £10 billion provided by the UK Government for the Scottish Budget to tackle the pandemic.

Moved by: Councillor Jason Rust

Seconded by: Councillor Max Mitchell

Emergency Motion by the Coalition

City of Edinburgh Council

10 December 2020

Edinburgh's COVID Restriction Level

Council commends residents and businesses (including the hospitality sector) who, through their hard work and adherence to guidance have driven Edinburgh's COVID transmission case numbers to within level 2 rates- along with all other indicators of the framework.

Council notes that the Leader and Chief Executive have met with public health officials and The Deputy First Minister weekly and have consistently made Edinburgh's case for the least restrictive level, within the context of public health's recommendations - putting the protection of residents as the first priority.

Further notes following regular engagement with businesses and trade bodies in the City, the Leader has also made the case for changes to support the specific circumstances of Edinburgh's businesses, wider society and economy.

Council seriously regrets that despite robust representations from Edinburgh Council to the Cabinet and public health advice supporting a case to reduce Edinburgh's level of restrictions to level 2, this has not happened.

Council notes a letter from the Scottish Government, requested by the Council Leader, giving an explanation of the Cabinet's decision will be published on the Council's website and emailed to members when received.

Council agrees to continue to lobby the Scottish Government and at next scheduled meeting insist the government follow scientific evidence and advice that indicates that Edinburgh have been consistently in Tier 2.

Council also agrees, if the recommendation is to keep Edinburgh in level 3, approach the Scottish Government and requests they allocate an appropriate level of funding to help deal with the unique circumstances

facing the Edinburgh economy which will to help protect as many jobs as possible.

Moved by: Councillor Adam McVey

Seconded by: Councillor Cammy Day

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