

Motions and Amendments

Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 20th June, 2023

Dean of Guild Court Room - City Chambers

Motions and Amendments

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Addendum by the Green Group

Finance and Resources Committee

20 June 2023

Item 7.1 – Lessons Learned Exercise by CLT on the 23/24 budget setting process

Adds:

1. Notes that in March Full Council approved a motion requesting that all councillors be consulted on the budget process and that officers report - either as part of an audit or independently - on the budget process undertaken by other council across Scotland in order to inform our own potential budget process reforms.
2. Additionally notes, in March P&S committee approved a motion instructing officers to include feedback on groups' experience around using the climate impact statement template as part of the post budget review.
3. Regrets that neither of these unanimous decisions were included in this post budget review process and instructs officers to fulfil these requests.
4. Adds to the recommendations:
 - A clear timeline setting out key milestones in the budget process, and who is responsible for making sure they are met;
 - Requests that this timeline includes opportunities for all parties to meet following the submission of budget motions

Moved by: Alys Mumford

Seconded by:

Amendment by the SNP Group

Finance and Resources Committee

20 June 2023

7.1 - Lessons Learned Exercise by CLT on the 23/24 budget setting process

In 1.1 replaces “provide” with “offer”.

In 1.1.5 replaces “a week and a day” to “three working days”.

Moved by: Councillor Lesley Macinnes

Seconded by: Councillor Euan Hyslop

Addendum by the Green Group

Finance and Resources Committee

20 June 2023

Item 7.3 – Financial Strategy and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

Adds:

1. Notes that Council Tax forms a substantial proportion of local authority income;
2. Believes that Council Tax as a taxation system is regressive, and serves neither residents nor the Council as well as it could;
3. Notes that during the 2023 budget process, officers were engaged in conversations with multiple groups around supplementary financial arrangements alongside setting Council Tax levels to ensure a more progressive outcome for people in Edinburgh;
4. Instructs officers to produce a report for the 21st September meeting of F&R setting out a process to discuss with political groups, COSLA, the Scottish Government, legal experts and other relevant parties the options available to the Council when setting council tax for 24/25 including but not limited to:
 - providing cost-of-living awards based on council tax banding;
 - enhancing council tax discount schemes;
 - creating additional local council tax payment schemes;

Moved by: Alys Mumford

Seconded by:

Amendment by the SNP Group

Finance and Resources Committee

20 June 2023

7.3 - Financial Strategy and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

Replaces 1.2 with:

the financial strategy and Medium Term Financial-Plan needs to address these budgetary challenges by focusing on service reform and transformation which supports staff conditions and frontline services. While some transformation will take longer than one financial year to deliver in full, these should be approved and monitored to balance the Council's budget in the short, medium and longer term.

Adds a point 1.4:

All savings proposals and any tactical savings affecting local services required to balance the budget in the financial year 24/25 should be submitted to committee for public scrutiny and subject to public consultation in the calendar year 2023.

Moved by: Councillor Lesley Macinnes

Seconded by: Councillor Euan Hyslop

Amendment by the Green Group

Finance and Resources Committee

20 June 2023

Item 7.5 - Review of Contract Standing Orders

Delete 1.1

Add

1.1 Notes that since March 2020 when the 7 key strategic objectives were decided there has been growing concern regarding the protection of Edinburgh's biodiversity and biosphere including the council declaring a Nature Emergency in February of this year.

1.2 Therefore approves the proposed revisals to the existing Contract Standing Orders as summarised in appendix 1 with the following addition:

Under 1.3 General Principles after, "Aim of becoming a net zero city by 2030" add, "and the protection of Edinburgh's biodiversity and biosphere."

And adopt the Contract Standing Orders in Appendix 2 of the report subject to the above change.

Renumber 1.2 and 1.3 accordingly.

Moved by: Alex Staniforth

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Green Group

Finance and Resources Committee

20 June 2023

Item 7.6 - Non-Domestic Rates – Empty Property Policy

Insert after 1.1

1.2 Agrees that additional options of 3 months at 50% and months 3-6 at 10% as well as the option of abolishing empty property relief altogether (except in cases where occupation is prohibited by law) will be considered.

Renumber items 1.2 and 1.3 accordingly.

Moved by: Alex Staniforth

Seconded by:

Amendment by the Administration

Finance and Resources Committee

20 June 2023

Item 7.10 - Bed Based Review – Drumbrae Care Home

Deletes recommendations 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 and replaces with:

Committee agrees that officers will, as matter of urgency, bring forward proposals for alternative uses of the Drumbrae Care Home to support wider challenges faced by CEC. These proposals would be for a meanwhile use over three to five years and would not preclude Drumbrae reverting to being used as a care home in the future.

Moved by: Councillor Mandy Watt

Seconded by: Councillor

Amendment by the SNP Group

Finance and Resources Committee

20 June 2023

7.10 - Bed Base Review – Drumbrae Care Home

Replaces 1.1.2 onwards with:

- 1.1.2 For the purposes of transparency and following a period of uncertainty, requests the Strategic Commissioning Team deliver update reports to each EIJB and P&S during the projected 6 months required for the exercise including offering briefings as requested by the EIJB board and to all councillors.
- 1.1.3 Requests that the Strategic Commissioning Team is led by a councillor and councillors and lay members of EIJB, including or as well as Trade Union representatives, make up the numbers within the group, along with council officers.
- 1.1.4 Acknowledges the inadequacy of the Bed Based Review (BBR) and agrees to make public the financial cost of the initiative to date.
- 1.1.5 Recommends this approach to the City of Edinburgh Council meeting to be held on 22 June 2023.

Moved by: Councillor Vicky Nicolson

Seconded by: Councillor Euan Hyslop

Addendum by the Green Group

Finance and Resources Committee

20 June 2023

Item 7.11 – Resource to support the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board Medium Term Financial Strategy

Adds:

1. Notes that
 - a. This decision was first made in November 2022;
 - b. There have been four meetings of the F&R Committee since this decision was taken, any of which could have included a report on this decision;
 - c. That while group finance spokespeople were emailed in relation to the extension from 2-20th June, this email was sent at 1.30pm on Friday 26th May with requests for feedback on or before Monday 29th May. Further notes that this email was not flagged as urgent, nor did it contain any detail relating to the previous six-month contract or associated costs.
 - d. Contrary to point 4.4 of the report, group leaders were not consulted about this.
2. Considers it unacceptable that this decision is only now being brought to the attention of Committee, particularly given the need for enhanced scrutiny that all Councillors have repeatedly highlighted concerning the sustainability of the financial situation of the IJB.
3. Welcomes the clarification received on the morning of the 19th June, accepting that due process or proper governance in relation to this appointment were not followed.
4. Regrets that this is another example of failures of due process and governance relating to the IJB and considers that the chair of IJB, the F&R Committee and the Chief Executive bear particular responsibility for ensuring process is followed going forward;
5. Welcomes assurances that mechanisms will be strengthened going forward including an arrangement that any requests for urgency provisions are agreed at the Partnership Executive Team. Further requests that these are also shared with

members of the Finance & Resources Committee and the IJB within one month of the request;

6. Additionally asks for a report within 2 cycles with proposed wording to update urgency and delegation process to ensure that any contracts to individuals worth over £100k must be approved by Committee or – following agreement from a majority of group leaders – a clerked meeting of group leaders or spokespeople.

Moved by: Alys Mumford
Seconded by:

Amendment by the SNP Group

Finance and Resources Committee

20 June 2023

7.11 - Resource to support the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board Medium Term Financial Strategy

Replaces 1.2 with:

- 1.2 Notes the EIJB approved the first tranche of these saving by majority and notes further work is required to develop and deliver a sustainable Medium Term Financial Strategy that funds lifeline services meeting residents' needs.

Replaces 1.4 with:

- 1.4 Notes this report fails to set out the rationale for why this decision was taken under urgency, representing a further breach of the scheme of delegation as well as a failure to report the decision to elected members for 6 months.
- 1.5 Reluctantly agrees to a further extension of up to six months for this additional resource, to further develop and deliver the MTFS.
- 1.6 Requests a report the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee within one cycle setting out the timeline of the decision of November 2022 and all Officers and Councillors who were involved or had knowledge of the decision. Further requests the Monitoring officer and the Head of Democracy, Governance and Resilience investigate the process followed from November 2022 until now and identify in the report all breaches in the Scheme of Delegation and breaches of Council Governance and the circumstances of each breach.

Moved by: Councillor Lesley Macinnes

Seconded by: Councillor Vicky Nicolson

Amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group

Finance and Resources Committee

20 June 2023

Item 8.5 - Commercial Property Portfolio

Committee agrees to amend the proposed strategy for the commercial property portfolio as follows:

To amend 4.11.4 to

‘Consider the disposal of assets within the portfolio, with capital receipts either being re invested within the portfolio in line with the stated principles or, where it makes financial sense to do so, being made available to the Council to fund climate adaptations to the operational property estate.’

To amend 4.11.8 to

‘Undertake an exercise to identify areas of land in Council ownership with recommendations for retention, development, or potential disposal to be presented to Committee in the next 12 months.’

Moved by: Councillor Neil Ross

Seconded by: Councillor Lewis Younie

Addendum by the Administration

Finance and Resources Committee

20 June 2023

8.18 - Land at Firrhill Crescent, Edinburgh – Proposed Disposal

- 1.2 Notes that this will result in a reduction of St Mark's Primary School's footprint.
- 1.3 Agrees therefore that 20% of any proceeds should be allocated to the school and be used to enrich the school playground for pupil education and/or wellbeing.

Moved by: Cllr Mandy Watt

Seconded by:

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