

Minutes

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00 am, Thursday 10 November 2020

Present

Councillors McVey (Convener), Aldridge, Burgess (substituting for Councillor Main, items 6 and 7), Kate Campbell, Child (substituting for Councillor Wilson), Cook, Doran (substituting for Councillor Day), Gardiner, Gloyer, Hutchison, Macinnes, Main, Mowat (substituting for Councillor McLellan, items 1 - 5), Munn, Perry, Rose (substituting for Councillor McLellan, item 6 onwards), Staniforth, Webber and Whyte.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Policy and Sustainability Committee of 6 October 2020 as a correct record, subject to the following correction: under Item 5(a) the Deputation was from the Jack Kane Centre Management Committee and not Low Traffic Corstorphine.

2. Policy and Sustainability Committee Work Programme

The Policy and Sustainability Committee Work Programme for 10 November 2020 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To advise members on the current position with the report on Short-term Lets and the consultation required for this.
- 2) To otherwise note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme 10 November 2020, submitted.)

3. Policy and Sustainability Committee Rolling Actions Log

Details were provided of the outstanding actions arising from decisions taken by the Committee.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:

Action 3 – Participation Requests

Action 7 – Filming in Edinburgh 2019

Action 15 – South East of Scotland Regional Transport Transition Plan

Action 16 –Reform of Transport Arm's Length External Organisations

Action 19 – Spaces for People – Additional Contract Waiver for Material Orders and Contract Services

Action 22 - Schools Re-opening - Update

Action 23(a) (1) and (2) and 23(b) – Community Centres and Libraries Reopening

Action 25 - Motion by Councillor Staniforth - The City's Relationship with Krakow

Motion by Councillor Day - Equality and LGBT + Rights

Action 26(2) – Adaptation and Renewal Programme Update

Action 29(1) and (2) - Spaces for People Initiative – Response to Motion

Action 33(1) - Adaptation and Renewal Programme Update

Action 38(1) and (2) – Edinburgh's Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay - Contract Terms and Open Book Audit

2) **Action 23(b)** – Community Centres and Libraries re-opening

To note that a response would be sent to the Jack Kane Centre Management Committee answering their outstanding questions and that a copy of that response would be circulated to members.

3) **Action 26(1)** – Adaptation and Renewal Programme Update

To ask for a briefing clarifying the timelines for leaflets being published.

4) **Action 31** – Pavements and People – Motion by Councillor Webber

To ask officers to provide an update on the Business Bulletin item to the Transport and Environment Committee on 12 November. If this was not possible, then to request an update to this Committee in January or a briefing note.

6) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin

The Policy and Sustainability Committee Business Bulletin for November 2020 was submitted.

Decision

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- 1) To agree to provide local ward members with details of the membership of the Neighbourhood Networks when they had been set up
- 2) To otherwise note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin 10 November 2020, submitted.)

5. Adaptation and Renewal Programme Update

An update was provided on the Adaptation and Renewal Programme which covered decisions taken in period 13 September to 30 October 2020, the latest Covid-19 Dashboard and a wider programme updates together with a progress update on the VERA and Flexible Working exercise with a recommendation to extend this to Heads of Service and potentially other Grades if required and appropriate.

Details were also provided on a further cumulative Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) carried out on decisions taken by the Council Incident Management Team (CIMT) in response to the Covid-19 pandemic covering the period 15 May to 15 September 2020 and also the approach to budget engagement both in the immediate and ahead of the budget setting process which will be presented to February Council.

Motion

- 1) To note the Council's latest Covid-19 position following the most recent guidance from Government.
- 2) To note the decisions taken to date under urgency provisions from 13 September to 30 October 2020 outlined at Appendix 1 of the report by the Chief Executive.
- 3) To note the Covid-19 Response Dashboard outlined at Appendix 2 of the report.
- 4) To note the findings of the Cumulative Integrated Impact Assessment of CIMT's decisions between 15 May to 15 September 2020. The findings would be used to inform the Adaptation and Renewal Programme. Further information was at Appendix 3 of the report.
- 5) To note the update on VERA and Flexible Work following Council approval of the use of reserves on 15 October 2020.
- 6) To note the proposal for initial budget engagement to commence on 11 November 2020.
- 7) To note that a report went to the Finances and Resources Committee on 29 October 2020 with further proposals to deliver towards a sustainable budget for 2020/21.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Perry

Amendment

- 1) To note the Council's latest Covid-19 position following the most recent guidance from Government.
- 2) To note the decisions taken to date under urgency provisions from 13 September to 30 October 2020 outlined at Appendix 1 of the report by the Chief Executive.

- 3) To note the Covid-19 Response Dashboard outlined at Appendix 2 of the report.
- 4) To note the findings of the Cumulative Integrated Impact Assessment of CIMT's decisions between 15 May to 15 September 2020. The findings would be used to inform the Adaptation and Renewal Programme. Further information was at Appendix 3 of the report.
- 5) To note the update on VERA and Flexible Work following Council approval of the use of reserves on 15 October 2020.
- 6) To note the proposal for initial budget engagement to commence on 11 November 2020.
- 7) To note that a report went to the Finances and Resources Committee on 29 October 2020 with further proposals to deliver towards a sustainable budget for 2020/21.
- 8) To note that Edinburgh had initially been placed in Tier 3 of the Scottish Government's Strategic Framework for the protection from the spread of Covid-19 and that this had persisted to date despite the data showing Edinburgh's cases per 100k remaining at the bottom of the trigger threshold between Tiers 1 and 2 and that three of the four other indicators suggested Tier 0.
- 9) To note that the Tier 3 restrictions, along with earlier similar restrictions across the Central Belt, had been in place for some weeks now and were having a considerable detrimental effect on businesses in Edinburgh – particularly in the hospitality sector.
- 10) To therefore agree that the Council Leader should seek an early meeting to press for the City's inclusion in Tier 2 at the next available opportunity, should the indicators remain stable or reduce as they have done in recent weeks, and that as a minimum Edinburgh should be placed on the "Watch List" to reduce the Tier rating as indicators allowed.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by councillor Webber

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	10 votes
For the amendment	-	7 votes

(For the motion: Councillors Kate Campbell, Child, Doran, Gardiner, Macinnes, Main, McVey, Munn, Perry and Staniforth.

For the amendment: Councillors Aldridge, Cook, Gloyer, Hutchison, Webber and Whyte.)

Decision

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To approve the motion by Councillor McVey.

(Reference – Policy and Sustainability Committee of 28 May 2020 (item 4); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

6. Short Window Improvement Plan Progress Update

A summary of progress on delivering the sustainability improvement actions set out in the Council's sustainability Short Window Improvement Plan (SWIP), which was agreed by Committee in October 2019, was provided.

Motion

- 1) To note the update on progress towards delivery of the Council's Sustainability Short Window Improvement Plan, and that future updates on specific actions would be reported to the appropriate Council Committee.
- 2) To note the timeline for development of a 2030 sustainability strategy for the city, including a report outlining high-level priorities to be brought to Committee in December 2020.
- 3) To note the development of a Carbon Scenario Tool and phased approach to roll-out.
- 4) To note that a proposed approach to reporting on the Council's 2030 net zero target would be brought to Committee in December 2020, ahead of the first progress report on the 2030 target, due in March 2021.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Perry

Amendment

- 1) To amend paragraph 1) in the motion by Councillor McVey to:

'To note the update on progress towards delivery of the Council's Sustainability Short Window Improvement Plan, and that future updates on specific actions would be reported to **this committee**.'
- 2) To add to the motion by Councillor McVey
 - 5) Notes that in February 2019 Council agreed that an action plan to achieve its own target of net-zero climate changing emissions by 2030 would be brought forward, that this action plan was re-affirmed by Corporate, Policy & Strategy committee in May 2019 and that given the Climate Emergency, regrets that this action plan remains outstanding 21 months later. Therefore calls for the date of the publication of this action plan to be reported to this committee in December.

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To note the update on progress towards delivery of the Council's Sustainability Short Window Improvement Plan, and that future updates on specific actions would be reported to any appropriate Council Committee and this Committee.
- 2) To note the timeline for development of a 2030 sustainability strategy for the city, including a report outlining high-level priorities to be brought to Committee in December 2020.
- 3) To note the development of a Carbon Scenario Tool and phased approach to roll-out.
- 4) To note that a proposed approach to reporting on the Council's 2030 net zero target would be brought to Committee in December 2020, ahead of the first progress report on the 2030 target, due in March 2021.
- 5) To note that in February 2019 Council agreed that an action plan to achieve its own target of net-zero climate changing emissions by 2030 would be brought forward, that this action plan was re-affirmed by the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee in May 2019 and that given the Climate Emergency, regrets that this action plan remained outstanding 21 months later. Therefore calls for the date of the publication of this action plan to be reported to this committee in December 2020.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee on 25 October 2019 (item 3); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

7. Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2019/20

Approval was sought for the Council's statutory report for 2019/20 on compliance with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Climate Change Duties to be submitted to the Scottish Government on 30 November 2020.

Decision

- 1) To approve the City of Edinburgh Council Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2019/20, for submission to the Scottish Government on 30 November 2020.
- 2) To note that as part of the Council's new approach to sustainability agreed on 14 May 2019 an ambitious new target for the city and Council to be net zero by 2030 was set. This new target would be reflected in future reporting on the Council's public bodies duties.
- 3) To further note that the baseline and trajectory for reaching net zero by 2030 would be set out in a report to Committee in December 2020.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

8. International Framework Update

In response to motions by Councillors Day and Staniforth, details were provided on the next steps towards ongoing refresh of the Council's approach to international engagement

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to be undertaken during 2021 including the role of the Council's international strategy in supporting equalities outcomes.

Decision

- 1) To note the response received to a letter from the Lord Provost to the Mayor of Krakow on issues relating to equalities and LGBTQ+ rights.
- 2) To agree for City of Edinburgh Council equalities officers to approach Krakow Council officials with an invitation to engage sharing of best practice in promoting LGBTQ+ equalities in both cities.
- 3) To agree that a refresh of the Council's International framework be undertaken to ensure that international engagement activity met the needs of the city during a period of renewal from recession and be carried out in support of agreed equalities outcomes.

(Reference – Policy and Sustainability Committee of 6 August 2020 (item 18); (report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

9. Gaelic Language Plan 2018-22 – Monitoring Report

An overview was provided of the Council's statutory annual monitoring report which summarised progress with the implementation of its Gaelic Language Plan 2018-22 which was due to be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig by 7 December 2020.

Decision

To approve the second statutory annual progress report on the Council's Gaelic Language Plan 2018-22, as required by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and due to be submitted to the Bòrd by 7 December 2020.

(Reference –report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

10. Filming in Edinburgh – Costs and Income

The Committee had agreed to further information on costs and income of filming, comparing Edinburgh's results with cities that charged for the use of public space for filming, to inform future Council policy in this area.

Details were provided on a comparative study, which found that the costs to filmmakers of Council services and locations were broadly in line with UK market norms for film work and the economic benefit to the city from filming was greatly increased by hosting major international feature films. The study also found that 'Filming Permits' were employed by most local authority film offices outside Scotland to manage filming in public spaces and that consideration of this option for Edinburgh would take into account the need to remain competitive in attracting high value filming to the city.

Decision

- 1) To note the findings of the comparative study into city location filming costs and income (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place) and Edinburgh's continuing competitiveness.

- 2) To note the planned film and TV sector engagement on the feasibility of introducing a 'Film Permit' procedure to further support the effective management of filming in the city.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee 25 February 2020 (item 19); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

11. Community Centre and Libraries Re-opening

(a) Deputation

A written deputation was presented on behalf of the Jack Kane Community Centre.

The deputation indicated that they were looking not to open the Community Centre to the wider public but to deploy a single occupancy **pilot** project which would seek to gently open the centre in a safe and compliant way. They felt that the benefits of this controlled and restricted access would mean that they could deliver services as laid out in the Scottish Government Framework for the renewal of youth work services.

The deputation stressed that their ambitions were still to ensure a secure and welcoming environment for essential youth work to take place.

(b) Report by the Chief Executive

Details were provided on the present adaptation and renewal arrangements in Community Centres and Libraries, including performance data for libraries and approved use of Centres.

Proposals for the next steps: the addition of indoor youth work to the defined criteria; outline plans for library reopening and gradual introduction of services; Council officers and partners to explore a collaborative approach to the gradual adaptation and renewal of community learning and development across the city were outlined.

Motion

- 1) To note the current use of libraries and community centres.
- 2) To note the additional cost of the approach set out in these papers was £200k, subject to resources being made available from Council reserves.
- 3) To note the resource challenges for the Council in maintaining a safe environment for citizens and staff across the estate.
- 4) To approve the addition of youth work (as defined by Youthlink Scotland) and community services that supported the vulnerable to the list of essential services that required access to community centres.

- 5) To approve that community centres would be able to apply to reopen for indoor youth work.
- 6) To agree to delegate to officers to renegotiate changes to leases with community centres as a matter of urgency, where new leases could resolve some issues preventing reopening.
- 7) To agree that discussions with community centre management committees were due to begin this week.
- 8) To agree that prioritisation would be given to libraries in areas of SIMD 1 and 2 for stage 2.
- 9) To refer the approval of the additional cost of £200k being made available from Council reserves to Full Council as a recommendation.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Perry

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the current use of community centres and libraries.
- 2) To note the approach being adopted to reopen libraries and community centres, subject to the available resources being made available from Council's depleting Reserves. The additional cost was £200k.
- 3) To regret the continued exclusion of Ratho Library and the specific set of issues this valued service was facing and request a feasibility study on the use of Mobile Library service as an alternative in one cycle.
- 4) To note the intention at Stage 2 to open libraries in areas of Multiple Deprivation but ask that this was reviewed to consider opening Edinburgh's most used libraries (for example Blackhall and Morningside) in order to gain the greatest service reach given the limited financial resources available for this opening programme.
- 5) To approve the addition of youth work (as defined by Youthlink Scotland) to the list of essential services that may be able to access community centres.
- 6) To approve that, subject to risk management, governance and available resources, community centres would be able to apply to reopen for indoor youth work.

- moved by Councillor Webber, seconded by Councillor Whyte

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), paragraph 3 of the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion (as adjusted) – 12 votes
For the amendment – 5 votes

(For the motion (as adjusted): Councillors Aldridge, Child, Campbell, Doran, Gardiner, Gloyer, Macinnes, Main, McVey, Munn, Perry and Staniforth.

For the amendment: Councillors Cook, Hutchison, Rose, Webber and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To note the current use of libraries and community centres.
- 2) To note the additional cost of the approach set out in these papers was £200k, subject to resources being made available from Council reserves.
- 3) To note the resource challenges for the Council in maintaining a safe environment for citizens and staff across the estate.
- 4) To approve the addition of youth work (as defined by Youthlink Scotland) and community services that supported the vulnerable to the list of essential services that required access to community centres.
- 5) To approve that community centres would be able to apply to reopen for indoor youth work.
- 6) To agree to delegate to officers to renegotiate changes to leases with community centres as a matter of urgency, where new leases could resolve some issues preventing reopening.
- 7) To agree that discussions with community centre management committees were due to begin this week.
- 8) To agree that prioritisation would be given to libraries in areas of SIMD 1 and 2 for stage 2.
- 9) To regret the continued exclusion of Ratho Library and the specific set of issues this valued service was facing and request a feasibility study on the use of Mobile Library service as an alternative in one cycle.
- 10) To refer the approval of the additional cost of £200k being made available from Council reserves to Full Council as a recommendation.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee of 6 August 2020 (item 7); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

12. Update on the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership Older People Joint Inspection Improvement Plan

An update was provided on the work undertaken to deliver against the agreed improvement plan, developed in response to the findings of the Joint Inspection of Older People's services.

Motion

- 1) To note the significant progress to date in delivering agreed improvement actions as specified in the improvement plan, developed in response to the Joint Inspection of Older People's Services as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Officer.
- 2) To agree that an update report be brought back to this Committee in no later than 6 months time and that the Convener liaise with the Chair of the IJB and Chief Officer on exactly when this would be possible

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Perry

Amendment

- 1) To note the limited progress to date given the first Care Inspectorate Report was published three and a half years ago and that notably, many of the actions that had a most direct effect on the lives of individuals and their carers (recommendations 8 onwards) remained rated at Amber or Red. Further noting that this update had been provided almost two years after the publication of the Care inspectorate Progress Review Report.
- 2) To note with particular concern that the slow pace of implementation of the Three Conversations model had meant that there was no assurance over progress on the most critical recommendations 12, 13 and 15 and that much of this work was targeted for completion by December 2019 (i.e. prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic).
- 3) To therefore agree that a further report be presented within two cycles indicating how the improvement progress could be accelerated and that evidence be provided of direct improvement for services users both objectively and subjectively.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Rose

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	12 votes
For the amendment	-	5 votes

(For the motion: Councillors Aldridge, Child, Campbell, Doran, Gardiner, Gloyer, Macinnes, Main, McVey, Munn, Perry and Staniforth.

For the amendment: Councillors Cook, Hutchison, Rose, Webber and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor McVey.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee of 6 August 2019 (item 6); report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, submitted.)

13. Policies – Assurance Statement - Customer

To ensure that the policies remained current and relevant, all Council directorates were required to review policies on an annual basis. An assurance update on key policies within the Customer Team – Corporate Debt Policy, Discretionary Housing Payments Policy, Council Tax policies (second homes and empty properties) and Non-Domestic Rates Policy (Discretionary Relief) was presented to the Committee as fit for purpose.

Decision

To note that the Council policies detailed in the report by the Executive Director of Resources had been reviewed and were considered to reflect current legislative requirements and best practice and therefore remained fit for purpose.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 9 August 2016 (item 5); report by the Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

14. Human Resources Policies – Assurance Statement

Details were provided on the employment or Human Resources (HR) policies, which had been reviewed, consulted on, and approved by relevant committee in the last 12 months together with an outline of the HR policies that were planned for review in the next 12 months.

Decision

To note that the Council policies detailed in the report by the Executive Director of Resources had been reviewed and were considered as being current, relevant and fit for purpose.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 5 December 2017 (item 8); report by the Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

15. Health and Social Care Savings – Motion by Councillor Whyte

The following motion by Councillor Whyte was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Committee:

- 1) Notes the challenging operating environment for Health and Social Care in light of changes required from Covid-19 and the difficult financial conditions;
- 2) Recognises the IJB has set challenging targets for savings in the current financial years;
- 3) Requests an update within one cycle of Council progress in meeting the savings targets for Health and Social Care;
- 4) Requests commentary on each of the savings targets and the impact on service provision.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Whyte.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Webber

Amendment

To delete all of the motion by Councillor Whyte and replace with:

- 1) Notes the challenging operating environment for Health and Social Care in light of changes required from Covid-19 and notes the £29m (£6m directly for COVID) of additional funding given to the EIJB so far (with more unquantified funding to come)

to help manage this pressure, nonetheless acknowledges the difficult financial conditions;

- 2) Recognises the IJB has set challenging targets for savings in the current financial years and notes that the EIJB is responsible for scrutinising the Health and Social Care savings plan;
- 3) Requests an update to Committee within two cycles on the Health and Social Care savings plan as pertinent to Council services within the IJB, with relevant information on specific proposals to help Council understand the impact on service provision.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Perry

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	6 votes
For the amendment	-	10 votes

(For the motion: Councillors Cook, Gloyer, Hutchison, Rose, Webber and Whyte.)

For the amendment: Councillors Kate Campbell, Child, Doran, Gardiner, Macinnes, Main, McVey, Munn, Perry and Staniforth.)

Decision

To approve the amendment by Councillor McVey.