

Minutes

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 18 January 2022

Present

Councillors Mowat (Convener), Arthur, Cameron, Jim Campbell, Mary Campbell, Doggart, Main, Frank Ross, Work, Ethan Young and Louise Young (substituting for Councillor Gloyer)

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of 14 December 2021 as a correct record.

2. Outstanding Actions

Details were provided of the Outstanding Actions arising from decisions taken by the Committee.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:
 - Action 7 (2) – Work Programme
 - Action 9 (1&2) – Business Bulletin
- 2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Outstanding Actions 18 January 2022, submitted.)

3. Work Programme

The Work Programme for January 2022 was presented.

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme 18 January 2022, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin

The Committee Business Bulletin for January 2022 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin 18 January 2022, submitted.)

5. Review of Effectiveness of Scrutiny of Governance, Risk and Best Value (GRBV) – Self-Evaluation and Lessons Learnt

This report provided a summary on the self-evaluation workshop undertaken by Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee (GRBV) members on 12 October 2021 to assess current political management arrangements, committee effectiveness and lessons learnt from the Council term.

Decision

- 1) To note the outputs from self-evaluation workshop undertaken by Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee members on 12 October 2021 to assess current political management arrangements, committee effectiveness and lessons learnt from this Council term.
- 2) To note the outputs from the self-evaluation workshop would be used to inform the design of political management arrangement proposals and support provided to elected members around the local government election 2022 and following council term.
- 3) To request an additional report to the Council in June 2022, presenting the findings of the GRBV Effectiveness Audit, requesting that they were taken into consideration when agreeing the new Political Management Arrangements following the election.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

6. Committee Decision Process and the Policy Register

Details were provided on the processes that surrounded committee reporting and highlighted some improvements. The report also covered the review of the Policy Management Framework, updating the committee on the actions taken in response to the audit.

Decision

- 1) To note the actions outlined to improve the committee decision process.

- 2) To note that any review of the political management arrangements for the Council would take into account the workload of committees and the subsequent impact on the quality of reporting.
- 3) To request that a review or internal audit (to be decided in March when the 2022/23 Internal Audit Annual Plan was considered to ensure capacity) was undertaken to ensure the recommendations at paragraph 4.18 of the report had been implemented and that the processes were working effectively.
- 4) To agree to produce a simple guide to the Council's governance arrangements, decision making and committee process, including integrated impact assessments, implementation of decisions, the policy register and the use of the webcast for reviewing committee discussions. The guide to be included in members' training and made available to members and officers on the Orb, with a link to it to be included in committee action sheets for information.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

7. Treasury Management: Mid-Term Report 2021/22 – referral from the City of Edinburgh Council

On 9 December 2021, the City of Edinburgh Council considered a report which provided an update on Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of 2021/22.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – the City of Edinburgh Council, 16 December 2021 (item 9); referral from the City of Edinburgh Council, submitted.)

8. Annual Assurance Schedule – Place Directorate

This report presented the Place directorate annual assurance schedule for the financial year 2020/21 for scrutiny.

Decision

- 1) To note the Place directorate annual assurance schedule for 2020/21, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, which was submitted for scrutiny.
- 2) To note that the Place directorate annual assurance schedule for 2021/22 would be submitted for scrutiny in 12 months' time.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

9. Annual Assurance Schedule – Education and Children's Services

Tuesday, 18th January, 2022

The report presented the annual assurance schedule covering 2020/21 to the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny.

Decision

To note the Education and Children's Services Directorate (formerly known as Communities and Families Directorate) annual assurance schedule, submitted for scrutiny.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services, submitted.)