

Minutes

Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Thursday 21 November 2023

Present

Councillors Watt (Convener), Biagi, Bruce, Doggart, Dalgleish, Kumar (substituting for Councillor Nicolson for items 18-33), Macinnes, Mumford, Nicolson, Ross, Staniforth and Younie.

1. Minutes

Decision

- 1) To approve the minute of the Finance and Resources Committee of 21 September 2023 as a correct record.
- 2) To approve the minute of the Finance and Resources Committee of 23 October 2023 as a correct record.

2. Work Programme

The Finance and Resources Committee Work Programme for November 2023 was presented.

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme of 21 November 2023, submitted.)

3. Rolling Actions Log

The Finance and Resources Committee Rolling Actions Log for September 2023 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:

Action 1 – Workforce Dashboard

Action 5 – Performance Update Report

Action 7 – Council Business Plan 2023-27

Action 16 – Non-Domestic Rates – Empty Property Policy

Action 19 - Public Holiday – 8 May 2023 – Celebrating His Majesty, the King

Action 20 – Revenue Monitoring 2023/24 – Month Three Report

Action 24 - Motion by Councillor Mumford – Workers and Covid

2) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log of 21 November 2023, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin

The Finance and Resources Committee Business Bulletin for November 2023 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin of 21 November 2023, submitted.)

5. Revenue Monitoring 2023/24 - Month Five Report

Details were provided on the projected Council-wide revenue budget position for the year, based on analysis of the first five months' financial data and forecasts of income and expenditure for the remainder of the year.

Following Council's approval of an additional in-year contribution to the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EIJB) of up to £14.2m, coupled with a slight improvement in Directorate and corporate projections, an overall underspend of £1.880m was now being forecast and given the potential for further expenditure pressures to emerge during the remainder of the year, however, it remained officers' recommendation that no additional commitments should be taken on at this time.

Motion

- 1) To note that, as of month five and taking into account Council's approval of an additional in-year contribution to the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board of up to £14.2m, an overall underspend of £1.880m was now being forecast.
- 2) To note, nonetheless, the potential for further expenditure pressures to emerge during the remainder of the year and thus the need for all existing pressures, savings delivery shortfalls and risks to be fully and proactively managed within Directorates and the Health and Social Care Partnership.

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- 3) To note, therefore, the continuing recommendation that no additional expenditure commitments be taken on at this time.
- 4) To note that regular updates would continue to be provided to members of the Committee during the remainder of the year.
- 5) To refer the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services to Council for approval to use the Council's unallocated reserves, should it be required, to meet Edinburgh's share of costs associated with the revised employer's non-teaching pay offer made on 3 November 2023, with repayment then received from the Scottish Government in 2024/25.
- 6) To refer the report to report to Council for ratification of use of the Council's Spend to Save fund to support the EICA bouldering project.
- 7) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny as part of its work programme.

- moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Dalgleish

Amendment

- 1) To note that, as of month five and taking into account Council's approval of an additional in-year contribution to the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board of up to £14.2m, an overall underspend of £1.880m was now being forecast.
- 2) To note, nonetheless, the potential for further expenditure pressures to emerge during the remainder of the year and thus the need for all existing pressures, savings delivery shortfalls and risks to be fully and proactively managed within Directorates and the Health and Social Care Partnership.
- 3) To note, therefore, the continuing recommendation that no additional expenditure commitments be taken on at this time.
- 4) To note that regular updates would continue to be provided to members of the Committee during the remainder of the year.
- 5) To refer the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services to Council for approval to use the Council's unallocated reserves, should it be required, to meet Edinburgh's share of costs associated with the revised employer's non-teaching pay offer made on 3 November 2023, with repayment then received from the Scottish Government in 2024/25.
- 6) To refer the report to report to Council for ratification of use of the Council's Spend to Save fund to support the EICA bouldering project.
- 7) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny as part of its work programme.

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- 7) Welcomes that an underspend is still projected, after allocating an additional in-year contribution to the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board of up to £14.2m.
- 8) Recognises the potential need to meet in-year pressures including the local authority pay deal, but also recognises that the Council's budget should be for elected members to decide and have democratic oversight of.
- 9) Therefore, requests that – should there still be an underspend projected by January - a report is brought to the January F&R committee with costings and other considerations for its allocation on effective measures including:
 - Specific in-year pressures that are being recommended for underspend allocation;
 - Meeting CEC's Local Authority Pay responsibilities;
 - The payment and backdating of the Real Living Wage to Edinburgh Leisure staff;
 - Making a cost-of-living direct payment of £100 or £200 to every child in the city in receipt of free school meals and school clothing grant;
 - Following the service review ensuring that funding is made available for the continuation of the Educational Welfare Officers' function and the retention of staff in their roles;
 - Reintroduction of the Tenant Grant Fund, and
 - Awarding funding Community Climate Fund bids which were unsuccessful previously due to over-subscription of the fund.

- moved by Councillor Mumford, seconded by Councillor Macinnes

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	6 votes
For the amendment	-	5 votes

For the motion: Councillors Bruce, Dalgleish, Duggart, Ross, Watt and Younie.

For the amendment: Councillors Biagi, Macinnes, Mumford, Nicolson and Staniforth.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Watt.

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

6. Corporate Services Directorate: Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 – Month Five

Details were provided on the Corporate Services Directorate is forecast of a favourable variance of £0.604m for services delivered by the Directorate in 2023/24, based on the five-month revenue budget monitoring position together with measures which would continue to be progressed to fully deliver approved savings targets and to offset budget pressures to achieve outturn within the approved revenue budget.

Decision

- 1) To note that the Corporate Services Directorate was forecasting a favourable variance of £0.604m for services delivered by the Directorate in 2023/24.
- 2) To note that measures would continue to be progressed to fully deliver approved savings targets and to offset budget pressures to achieve outturn within the approved revenue budget for 2023/24.
- 3) To note the ongoing risks to the achievement of a balanced revenue budget projection for services delivered by Corporate Services Directorate.

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

7. Capital Monitoring 2023-24 - Month Five Position

Details were provided on the capital expenditure and funding position as at month five and full-year outturn projections for the 2023-24 financial year, providing explanations for key variances.

Decision

- 1) To note the capital monitoring position for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) at month five of the 2023-24 financial year.
- 2) To note the Prudential Indicators in appendix 3 to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 3) To refer the report to the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee as part of its work programme.

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

8. Sustainable Capital Budget Strategy Update 2024-34

Details were provided on the priorities for £1,419.5m of Council capital investment, in alignment with the Council Business Plan, over the medium to long-term. Funding assumptions had been reviewed and there was likely to be increased pressure as a result of reduced capital grant in future years and revenue pressures reducing the ability to borrow.

Motion

- 1) To note the priorities for capital expenditure outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services which were aligned to the Council Business Plan.
- 2) To note the announcement of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was expected in December 2023.
- 3) To note that delivery of funded capital expenditure priorities was dependent on the achievement of a balanced medium-term revenue budget.
- 4) To note that a further report on the Sustainable Capital Budget Strategy 2024-2034 would be presented to the Finance and Resources Committee early in 2024 prior to Council budget setting in February 2024.
- 5) To note that investment in unfunded pressures and priorities set out in the report would require additional external funding and/or reprioritisation of existing budgets and must be supported by robust business cases.
- 6) To refer the report to the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee as part of its work programme.

- moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Dalglish

Amendment

Committee:

- Notes that working to deliver a net zero city by 2030 is one of three key aims in the Council Business Plan;
- Further notes that the forthcoming Climate Ready Edinburgh plan includes references to embedding climate risks across the organisation including through routine infrastructure and asset management works in order to reflect the needs of the changing climate and ensure that the Council can continue to deliver services in the face of these risks;

Committee therefore:

- 1) Agrees that, in line with the priorities outlined in its Business Plan, the council should mainstream spending to address the climate and nature emergencies by meeting some of the costs of delivering a Net Zero City by 2030 from its capital budget, and therefore this should become a Capital Expenditure Priority.
- 2) Agrees that this should be set out in the updated report brought to the Finance & Resources Committee in January.
- 3) With this addition, notes the priorities for capital expenditure outlined in this report which are aligned to the Council Business Plan;”

- 4) To note the announcement of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was expected in December 2023.
- 5) To note that delivery of funded capital expenditure priorities was dependent on the achievement of a balanced medium-term revenue budget.
- 6) To note that a further report on the Sustainable Capital Budget Strategy 2024-2034 would be presented to the Finance and Resources Committee early in 2024 prior to Council budget setting in February 2024.
- 7) To note that investment in unfunded pressures and priorities set out in the report would require additional external funding and/or reprioritisation of existing budgets and must be supported by robust business cases.
- 8) To refer the report to the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee as part of its work programme.

- moved by Councillor Mumford, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	6 votes
For the amendment	-	5 votes

(For the motion: Councillors Bruce, Dalglish, Doggart, Ross, Watt and Younie.

For the amendment: Councillors Biagi, Macinnes, Mumford, Nicolson and Staniforth.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Watt.

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

9. Revenue Budget Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2024/29 – Progress Update

Details were provided on the outcome of the most recent review of the Council's financial planning assumptions, resulting in a potential reduction in the residual savings requirement in 2024/25 to £11.9m.

Motion:

- 1) To note the updates to financial planning assumptions set out in the report, resulting in a potential reduction in the residual savings requirement in 2024/25 to £11.9m whilst also noting the significant remaining gaps in subsequent years.

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- 2) To note the development of a financial plan to deliver the annual budget and integrate key processes into the budget development such as the medium term financial plan and planning performance framework.
- 3) To note the further risks contained within the budget framework, particularly those in respect of the required level of additional provision for inflationary factors, including pay, demand-led services and funding requirements for the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board.
- 4) To note that a further update, incorporating the impact of the provisional 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement and presenting further proposals to address the resulting residual savings requirement, would be brought to the Committee's meeting on 6 February 2024.
- 5) To note the development of budget setting principles and the continuing development of the change programme to address the significant incremental annual MTFP gaps beyond 2024/25.
- 6) To refer the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny as part of its work programme.

- moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Dalgleish

Amendment

- 1) To note the updates to financial planning assumptions set out in the report, resulting in a potential reduction in the residual savings requirement in 2024/25 to £11.9m whilst also noting the significant remaining gaps in subsequent years.
- 2) To note the development of a financial plan to deliver the annual budget and integrate key processes into the budget development such as the medium term financial plan and planning performance framework.
- 3) To note the further risks contained within the budget framework, particularly those in respect of the required level of additional provision for inflationary factors, including pay, demand-led services and funding requirements for the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board.
- 4) To note that a further update, incorporating the impact of the provisional 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement and presenting further proposals to address the resulting residual savings requirement, would be brought to the Committee's meeting on 6 February 2024.
- 5) To note the development of provisional budget setting principles and the continuing development of the change programme to address the significant incremental annual MTFP gaps beyond 2024/25.

- 6) Requests officers hold a cross-party workshop to discuss budget principles to guide budget setting over the life of MTFP, before bringing these back to the January Finance and Resources Committee meeting for approval.
- 7) To refer the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny as part of its work programme.

- moved by Councillor Mumford, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Watt:

- 1) To note the updates to financial planning assumptions set out in the report, resulting in a potential reduction in the residual savings requirement in 2024/25 to £11.9m whilst also noting the significant remaining gaps in subsequent years.
- 2) To note the development of a financial plan to deliver the annual budget and integrate key processes into the budget development such as the medium term financial plan and planning performance framework.
- 3) To note the further risks contained within the budget framework, particularly those in respect of the required level of additional provision for inflationary factors, including pay, demand-led services and funding requirements for the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board.
- 4) To note that a further update, incorporating the impact of the provisional 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement and presenting further proposals to address the resulting residual savings requirement, would be brought to the Committee's meeting on 6 February 2024.
- 5) To note the development of provisional budget setting principles and the continuing development of the change programme to address the significant incremental annual MTFP gaps beyond 2024/25.
- 6) To request officers hold a cross-party workshop to discuss budget principles to guide budget setting over the life of MTFP, before bringing these back to the January Finance and Resources Committee meeting for approval.
- 7) To refer the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny as part of its work programme.

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

10. Treasury Management Mid-Term Report 2023-24

An update was provided on Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of 2023/24.

Decision

- 1) To note the mid-year report on Treasury Management for 2023/24.
- 2) To refer the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services to the City of Edinburgh Council for approval and subsequent remit by the City of Edinburgh Council to the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny.

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

11. Non-Domestic Rates - Empty Property Policy

The Committee had agreed in principle, subject to possible refinement, the proposed changes to the Council's Non-Domestic Rates – Empty Property Policy, which were intended to come into operation from 1 January 2024 and that a final report would be brought to Committee in the autumn, detailing the recommended policy.

Details were provided on the revision to the Non-Domestic Rates Empty Property policy, which would come into effect from 1 April 2024 and removed open ended exemptions and reliefs for most empty properties and instead placed a 12-month limit on any such award which timeline would apply from the last time the property was occupied, regardless of the owner/occupier. The potential net increase in billable liability for these properties was estimated at over £13.8m, with billing and recovery activities to be progressed in the normal way.

Motion

To approve the update to the Non-Domestic Rates – Empty Property Policy, which would come into operation from 1 April 2024.

- moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Dalgleish

Amendment

- 1) Agrees that the empty property policy will be 50% relief for 3 months only except where occupation is prohibited by law.
- 2) Approves that the above will come into operation from 1 April 2024.

- moved by Councillor Staniforth, seconded by Councillor Mumford

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Watt:

- 1) To agree that the empty property policy would be 50% relief for 3 months only except where occupation was prohibited by law.
- 2) To agree that the above will come into operation from 1 April 2024.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee of 20 June 2023 (item11); report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

12. Professional Services Expenditure 2022/23

Details were provided on the expenditure for the provision of professional services during 2022/23.

Decision

To note payments made to Professional Services providers during 2022/23.

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

13 Finance and Procurement Policies – Assurance Statement

The Treasury Management: Annual Report 2022/23 which provided updates on Treasury Management activity in 2022/23, was presented.

Decision

To note and be assured that the Finance and Procurement policies detailed in the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services had been reviewed and were considered to remain current, relevant and fit-for-purpose.

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

14. Fleet Asset Management Plan 2023-2029

Details were provided on the Council's on-going fleet requirements to deliver Council business and the approach to ensuring its fleet was modern, efficient, fit for purpose and compliant with the upcoming Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and the Council's approved Emissions Reductions Plan (CERP) as far as was financially practicable.

An outline was also provided of the financial plan detailing how replacement vehicles would be funded and maintained up until 2029 and proposed £56.8m of capital investment to deliver the programme.

Decision

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- 1) To approve the approach to ensuring the Council's fleet was modern, efficient, fit for purpose, compliant with the upcoming Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and contributed towards the aims of the Council's Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP).
- 2) To approve the outlined financial model for the fleet asset management plan and to refer the report by the Executive Director of Place to Full Council for the approval of £51.6m of prudential borrowing.
- 3) To note that this investment would increase the Council's owned fleet assets and deliver additional in-house employment opportunities in the Council's Fleet Maintenance team.
- 4) Subject to approval of prudential borrowing at Full Council, to agree that delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director of Place and the Service Director of Finance and Procurement to award contracts in line with the approved Fleet Asset Management Plan to ensure that vehicles could be procured in a timeous manner.

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

15. 1906 Portobello Kiln Repairs

Decision

To note that the report had been withdrawn.

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

16 Edinburgh International Conference Centre – Annual Update for the year ending 31 December 2022

An update on the performance of Edinburgh International Conference Centre Limited (EICC) in the year ending 31 December 2022 which had reflected the recovery made from the significant difficulties that COVID- 19 created for the events and conferencing industry, was provided.

Decision

- 1) To note the annual performance update for 2022 provided by Edinburgh International Conference Centre Limited (EICC), as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To note the EICC Statement of Accounts for 2022 as reported to C.E.C. Holdings Limited (CECH) and the audit findings as detailed in Appendices 2 and 4 to the report respectively.
- 3) To note the Edinburgh International Conference Centre Hotels Limited (EICC Hotels) Statement of Accounts for 2022 as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

- 4) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for information.

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

17. Award of Contract for Pre-Development Services for the proposed Granton Heat Network

Details were provided on the procurement exercise which had been completed to identify the most economically advantageous bidder for the delivery of a proposed Granton Heat Network under a concession contract. The concession agreement consisted of a first stage appointment for the successful partner to deliver pre-development services to support the Final Business Case prior to progressing to signing a concession agreement.

Should the pre-development period conclude in a viable Final Business Case (FBC), but the Council choose not to progress to the concession agreement stage, the Council would be liable to pay £885,040 as payment for the pre-development services delivered.

Motion

- 1) To approve the award of a contract to deliver pre-development services for the Granton Heat Network to Vattenfall Heat UK Ltd.
- 2) To note that the fee payable for pre-development services was £885,040. Should the pre-development works lead to a viable concession contract which was entered into with Vattenfall Heat UK Ltd, then this fee would be waived.

- moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Dalgleish

Amendment

- 1) To approve the award of a contract to deliver pre-development services for the Granton Heat Network to Vattenfall Heat UK Ltd.
- 2) To note that the fee payable for pre-development services was £885,040. Should the pre-development works lead to a viable concession contract which was entered into with Vattenfall Heat UK Ltd, then this fee would be waived.
- 3) Agrees to expedite options for deliver models of the ESCO to facilitate this as quickly as possible, including progressing an option for a joint venture.
- 4) Requests a short report to committee in January on how fast progress can be made on considering these issues to ensure that there are no negative implications for the Granton redevelopment project.

- moved by Councillor Macinnes, seconded by Councillor Biagi

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

At this point in the meeting the following Amendment 2 was proposed:

Amendment 2

To approve the motion as originally submitted by Councillor Watt.

- moved by Councillor Doggart, seconded by Councillor Bruce

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	9 votes
For Amendment 2 (the Motion as originally submitted)	-	2 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Biagi, Dalglish, Macinnes, Mumford, Nicolson, Ross, Staniforth, Watt and Younie.

For Amendment 2 (the Motion as originally submitted): Councillors Bruce and Doggart.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Watt

- 1) To approve the award of a contract to deliver pre-development services for the Granton Heat Network to Vattenfall Heat UK Ltd.
- 2) To note that the fee payable for pre-development services was £885,040. Should the pre-development works lead to a viable concession contract which was entered into with Vattenfall Heat UK Ltd, then this fee would be waived.
- 3) To agree to expedite options for deliver models of the ESCO to facilitate this as quickly as possible, including progressing an option for a joint venture.
- 4) To request a short report to committee in January on how fast progress could be made on considering these issues to ensure that there were no negative implications for the Granton redevelopment project.

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

18. Award of Contracts for Homeless Accommodation with Support

Details were provided on the annual funding from the Scottish Crown Estate for activities to benefit coastal communities which under the current methodology this allocation was approximately £80,000 per annum.

Decision

- 1) To note the addition of seven suppliers to Category 2 of Temporary Accommodation Flexible Purchasing System (CT0627).
- 2) To approve the award of contracts to eleven Service Providers to provide Homeless Accommodation with Support with maximum estimated contract value of £63,685,761, over a maximum 10-year period, prior to any inflationary uplifts agreed through the annual budget setting process and any additional funding that might be provided by the Scottish Government from 2024/2025 onwards for social care related pay increases.
- 3) To approve short term contract extensions for continuity of service provision to ten existing service providers of Homeless Accommodation with Support, via waiver of Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) to allow time for transition to these new contracts noted above. These contracts would therefore extend to 31 March 2024 with a related cost of £1,250,323.
- 4) The contracts would commence on 1 April 2024 for an initial period of five years, with the option to extend for a further period of up to thirty-six months plus an additional twenty-four months.
- 5) To note that the initial authority for this contractual spend was delegated within the total spend of £434 million over the full term of the Temporary Accommodation Flexible Purchasing System (CT0627), awarded by Finance and Resources Committee in October 2021.
- 6) To note that on the 2 November 2023 the Council declared a housing emergency.
- 7) That Council officers continue to prioritise the prevention of homelessness, with an action plan being submitted for consideration by the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on the 5 December 2023 containing detailed actions on prevention work aimed at reducing the human and economic risks of homelessness.

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

19 Millerhill Energy from Waste Plant Heat Offtake Unit - referral from the City of Edinburgh Council

The City of Edinburgh Council had referred a report which sought approval for additional prudential borrowing relating to capital works for the construction of a Heat Interchange Unit (HIU) at the Millerhill Energy from Waste (EfW) facility to provide heat to the Midlothian Energy Heat Network the Finance and Resources Committee to make a decision on the increase in prudential borrowing.

Decision

To agree to the increase in prudential borrowing relating to capital works for the construction of a Heat Interchange Unit (HIU) at the Millerhill Energy from Waste (EfW) facility to provide heat to the Midlothian Energy Heat Network.

(References – Act of Council No 8 of 2 November 2023; referral from the City of Edinburgh Council, submitted.)

20. Workers and Covid

In response to a motion by Councillor Mumford, details were provided on the current protections and guidance for workers, service users and residents from Covid-19; future plans or precautions Edinburgh Council had around Covid-19 which went beyond the commitment to follow national guidance, and the implications for the Council of signing and implementing the Covid Pledge ([covidpledge.uk](https://www.covidpledge.uk)).

Decision

To note the response to the motion by Councillor Mumford.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee of 21 September 2023 (item 34); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Kumar made a transparency statement as an employee of Public Health Scotland.

21. Procurement Delivery Plan 2023/2024 November Update

Details were provided of planned procurement activity to allow time for elected members to ask questions about the procurement strategy at an early stage.

Decision

To note the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the update to current procurement exercises in Appendix 1 to the report and expiring contracts detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

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

22. Award of Framework Agreement for the Supply and Distribution of Fresh Fruit, Vegetables, Bakery Products and Eggs

Approval was sought to award a single supplier Framework Agreement to George Anderson and Sons for the Supply and Distribution of Fresh Fruit, Vegetables, Bakery Products and Eggs. The Framework Agreement would commence on 8 December 2023 for a period of four years at a total estimated value of £6.275m.

Motion

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- 1) To approve the award of a single supplier Framework Agreement to George Anderson and Sons for the Supply and Distribution of Fresh Fruit, Vegetables, Bakery Products and Eggs.
- 2) To approve the commencement of the Framework on 8 December 2023 for a period of four years at an estimated total value of £6.275m.

- moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Dalgleish

Amendment

- 1) Notes the recent school food waste survey presented to the Council's Education Committee.
- 2) Asks the contract manager George Anderson and Sons and the Council's school catering team to work together to look at options around product choices to help reduce food waste.
- 3) To approve the award of a single supplier Framework Agreement to George Anderson and Sons for the Supply and Distribution of Fresh Fruit, Vegetables, Bakery Products and Eggs.
- 4) To approve the commencement of the Framework on 8 December 2023 for a period of four years at an estimated total value of £6.275m.

- moved by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Younie

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Watt:

- 1) To note the recent school food waste survey presented to the Council's Education Committee.
- 2) To ask the contract manager George Anderson and Sons and the Council's school catering team to work together to look at options around product choices to help reduce food waste.
- 3) To approve the award of a single supplier Framework Agreement to George Anderson and Sons for the Supply and Distribution of Fresh Fruit, Vegetables, Bakery Products and Eggs.
- 4) To approve the commencement of the Framework on 8 December 2023 for a period of four years at an estimated total value of £6.275m.

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

23. 46 High Street, Edinburgh - Proposed Lease Extension

Approval was sought for a 25-year lease extension to the Firm of Gold Brothers of the retail unit at 46 High Street, Edinburgh on the terms outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place.

Motion

To approve a 25-year lease extension to the Firm of Gold Brothers of the retail unit at 46 High Street, Edinburgh on the terms outlined in the report.

- moved by Councillor Doggart, seconded by Councillor Bruce

Amendment

To continue consideration of the report until the next meeting in January 2024 to enable legal advice to be provided on the issues raised in regard to the renewal of the lease.

- moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Mumford

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	4 votes
For the amendment	-	7 votes

(For the motion: Councillor Bruce, Doggart, Ross and Younie.)

For the amendment: Councillors Biagi, Dalgleish, Kumar, Macinnes, Mumford, Staniforth and Watt.)

Decision

To approve the amendment by Councillor Watt

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

24. Newbattle Abbey College, Dalkeith - Proposed Licence for Forest Kindergarten

Approval was sought to approve a five-year licence agreement to formalise the operation of the Council's Forest Kindergarten services at Newbattle Abbey College on the main terms and conditions outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place.

Decision

to approve a five-year licence agreement to formalise the operation of the Council's Forest Kindergarten services at Newbattle Abbey College on the main terms and conditions outlined in the report.

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

25. Hawthorn Gardens, South Queensferry – Proposed Acquisition of Completed Homes (Second Phase)

Approval was sought for the purchase of 24 new build flatted homes within the Taylor Wimpey Development at Hawthorn Gardens, South Queensferry on the terms and conditions outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place.

It was proposed that the purchase of the new homes would make use of the Scottish Government fund to house Ukrainian Displaced Persons providing family accommodation with additional funding from Commuted Sums collected from private housing developers within the same or adjacent Ward as part of the Affordable Housing Policy (AHP) and through Council borrowing.

Decision

- 1) To approve the purchase of 24 new build flatted homes within the Hawthorn Gardens development in South Queensferry, from Taylor Wimpey, subject to completing due diligence and on the terms and conditions outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To note that the purchase would take place subject to availability of Scottish Government funding for Ukrainian Displaced Persons (UDP).

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

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Younie declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a neighbour of the properties being discussed, left the room and took no part in the consideration of the item.

26. Barnton Quarry Nuclear Bunker – Variation of Servitude

Approval was sought for the grant of a Deed of Variation of Servitude Rights in relation to access to Barnton Quarry Nuclear Bunker at Corstorphine Hill Local Nature Reserve, Clermiston Road, Edinburgh.

Decision

To approve the grant of a Deed of Variation of Servitude Rights in favour of Westmint Limited at Barnton Quarry Nuclear Bunker on the terms outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place.

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

27. Annual Fraud Prevention and Detection Report

The annual report which provided an overview of fraud prevention and detection activities undertaken in 2022/23 was presented.

Decision

To note the Council's work on fraud prevention and detection during 2022/23.

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

28. Summary Report on Property Transactions concluded under Delegated Authority

Details were provided on all lease agreements, etc. concluded in terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

Decision

To note the 55 transactions detailed in the Appendix to the report by the Executive Director of Place that had been concluded in terms of the Council's 'Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

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

29. Homes and Land at Silverlea, Edinburgh – Proposed Disposal and Licence to Occupy

Approval was sought to dispose of 19 homes and associated land at the Silverlea site which was proposed to be developed for affordable housing for the Council, Edinburgh Living, Health and Social care and Blackwood Homes, to Blackwood Homes and licence four homes with carers accommodation to Health and Social Care on completion of the construction.

Decision

- 1) To approve the disposal of 19 new build homes and associated land at Silverlea to Blackwood Homes.
- 2) To approve a 30-year licence to occupy four purpose-built homes and carer accommodation at Silverlea to Health and Social Care on the terms and conditions outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place.

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

30. EICA Bridge, Ratho – Proposed Lease Variation, Sub-Lease and Servitude

Approval was sought for a variation of the existing lease, sub lease and servitude to Lostshores Limited for the Climbing Arena Bridge (EICA) from British Waterways (trading as Scottish Canals) which was required to connect into the mains drain, located to the north of the EICA site, on the terms outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place.

Decision

To approve the variation of an existing lease, subsequent sub lease and grant of servitude of the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena (EICA) Access Bridge to allow the installation of a foul drainage pipe to facilitate the neighbouring Lostshores Development on the terms outlined in the report.

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

31. Juniper Green Tennis Club, Baberton Avenue, Edinburgh - Proposed New Lease

Approval was sought to grant a new 25-year lease of the site at Baberton Avenue to Juniper Green Tennis Club on the terms outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place. Juniper Green Tennis Club had occupied the site at Baberton Avenue for several years and had requested a new formal lease agreement.

Decision

To approve the approve a new 25-year lease to Juniper Green Tennis Club at Baberton Avenue, Edinburgh on the terms outlined in the report.

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

32. Bonaly Scout Centre, Bonaly Road, Edinburgh - Proposed Licence for Forest Kindergarten

Approval was sought for the Council to enter into a 5-year licence agreement with South East Scotland Scouts to formalise the arrangement of operating Council Forest Kindergarten services on their land.

Decision

To approve a 5-year licence agreement to formalise the operation of the Council's Forest Kindergarten services at Bonaly Scout Centre on the main terms and conditions outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place.

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

33. Miscellaneous Debts Write Off Report – 6 Monthly Operational Update

Tuesday, 21st November, 2023

The Committee, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

The report summarised current miscellaneous debt that was outstanding and deemed uncollectable and was therefore recommended for write off.

Decision

To agree to write-off the miscellaneous debt.

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