

Minutes

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday 22 August 2024

Present

Councillors Day (Convener), Aston, Bandel, Biagi, Beal, Bennett (substituting for Councillor Davidson for item 16 only), Booth, Campbell, Davidson, Dijkstra-Downie, Kumar, Lang, Macinnes, Meagher, Mowat, Nicolson (substituting for Councillor Macinnes for item 10 onwards), Rae (substituting for Councillor Booth for item 16 onwards), Staniforth, Watt and Whyte.

1. Deputations

a) Creative Community Hubs Network in Edinburgh (in relation to Item 7.9 on the agenda – A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh – Draft Scheme)

The deputation welcomed a proposed Visitor Levy for Edinburgh and a percentage of proceeds dedicated to the objective of sustaining, supporting and developing Edinburgh's culture, heritage and festivals provision to ensure it remained world-leading and competitively attractive to visitors as well as residents. They indicated that some community-based organisations were located in and provided a service for areas of multiple deprivation within the city centre, alongside the recognised drawbacks of funders choosing to focus on supporting new work as opposed to existing work that was proven to be already making a positive impact on communities.

The deputation urged the Committee to take on board their reflections from the Network, and that the resulting community fund be subsequently developed in collaboration with community-based organisations, in order to be most effective and impactful in communities who were resident in Edinburgh all year round.

(see item 6 below)

b) Edinburgh World Heritage (in relation to Item 7.9 on the agenda – A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh – Draft Scheme)

The deputation commended the Council's proposal to introduce a visitor levy as this was well established in the European context and a system with potentially enormous long-term benefits for Edinburgh, both as a visitor destination in the long run and as an attractive place to live and do business. They endorsed the proposals at this stage and looked forward to continuing to work with the Council on this matter, as well as stakeholders and communities to establish a system which worked for everyone long term as they felt that it was important that all voices were heard on this matter.

(see item 6 below)

(c) Living Rent Edinburgh (in relation to Item 7.9 on the agenda – A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh – Draft Scheme)

The deputation expressed support for the visitor levy and especially the proposal to use revenue from the levy for affordable housing, and would encouraged this to be increased. They felt that the proposed visitor levy provided an inspiring and critical opportunity to address the housing emergency in Edinburgh.

The deputation stressed that they were excited for the opportunity the policy presented to fund social and council housing in Edinburgh and the meaningful improvements that this would make to residents lives as well as increasing the availability of tourist accommodation and making Edinburgh a more attractive city to visit.

(see item 6 below)

(d) Taipei Representative Office in the U.K. Edinburgh Office (in relation to Item 7.13 on the agenda – Relationship with the City of Kaohsiung)

The deputation indicated that they shared a commitment to culture, commerce and educational change and were in support of freedom and democracy. They indicated that Edinburgh was a global hub for arts and that Taiwan had been a part of this for the past 11 years.

The deputation felt that this relationship could serve as a powerful example of how cities could collaborate to address global challenges, promote cultural understanding and drive innovation. They hoped that together they could create a future that honoured the past, enriched the present and inspired a generation to come.

(see item 19 below)

2. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Policy and Sustainability Committee of 22 May 2024 as a correct record.

3. Policy and Sustainability Committee Work Programme

The Policy and Sustainability Committee Work Programme for 22 August 2024 was presented.

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme 22 August 2024, submitted.)

4. 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 2(5)** - In-House Service Provision (Hard Facilities Management) - Response to motion by Councillor Day
- **Action 5** - Crisis in NHS Dentistry – Motion by Councillor Davidson
- **Action 8** – City of Edinburgh Council – Celebrating Pride Month – Motion by Councillor Heap
- **Action 9** – Business Bulletin
- **Action 10** - A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh: Progress Update and Draft Proposal
- **Action 12(2)** - Interim Chief Officer Update – Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership
- **Action 13** – Edinburgh and Taiwan Visit Report and Activity
- **Action 14(3)** - The City of Edinburgh Council Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28 – Revised Draft
- **Action 20** - Forth Green Freeport – Outline Business Case
- **Action 29(3)** – Future Relationship with EIJB
- **Action 33** - Advice Shop Service Delivery Update
- **Action 36** - City of Edinburgh Council: Forth Green Freeport - Non-Domestic Rates Relief Funds – Motion by Councillor Nols-McVey
- **Action 42** - International travel to Helsinki by CirCHive project
- **Action 46** - A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh: Update on progress and stakeholder engagement
- **Action 47** - Celebrating Pride month - response to motion
- **Action 48(2)** - Women's Safety in Public Places – Actions Update
- **Action 50** - EIJB Budget – Motion by Councillor Davidson
- **Action 51** - Review of Edinburgh Award – Motion by Councillor Staniforth

- **Action 55(3)** - Business Bulletin
 - **Action 56(2)** - The City of Edinburgh Council British Sign Language Plan for 2024-2030
 - **Action 57** - Regenerative Future Fund
 - **Action 65(3)** - Building Risk at Anchorfield
- 2) To request that officers consider how to reduce the number of actions on the Rolling Actions Log to make it achievable.
 - 3) To add the action agreed at the May committee on Air Quality in Schools, requesting a report at the 22 October 2024 meeting, to the Rolling Actions Log
 - 4) To note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log 22 August 2024, submitted.)

5. Business Bulletin

The Policy and Sustainability Committee Business Bulletin was presented.

Decision

- 1) To request feedback from the Lord Provost in relation to the update on the meeting with the Mayor of Shenzhen, and what was meant by “cultural differences”.
- 2) To otherwise note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin 22 August 2024, submitted.)

6. A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh – Draft Scheme

Details were provided on a draft Visitor Levy scheme for Edinburgh for public consultation subject to start on the day of commencement of the Act, (expected to be early September 2024 but yet to be confirmed by Scottish Ministers).

Motion

- 1) To note the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill was passed on the 28 May 2024 by the Scottish Parliament and became an Act on 5 July 2024 giving the City of Edinburgh Council and other Local Authorities the legal power to introduce a Visitor Levy (a “VL”).
- 2) To note the extensive stakeholder engagement that had taken place over many years, which had informed the recommended scheme.

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- 3) To agree the draft VL for Edinburgh scheme, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive with amendments to reflect the following changes to the funds reserved for investment streams:
 - City Operations and Infrastructure is amended from 50% to 55%
 - Culture, Heritage and Events remains at 35%
 - Destination and Visitor Management is amended from 15% to 10%
- 4) To agree to consult with members of the public, as required by the Act, on the draft VL for Edinburgh scheme.
- 5) To agree the recommended themes for investment of the net proceeds of the scheme and the allocated percentages to each theme as set out in paragraphs 4.26 and 4.27 of the report.
- 6) To note the maximum percentage of administrative costs accommodation providers should be permitted to retain is 1.5% of the levy they collect when they submit their return. To therefore agree a breakdown of what the 1.5% will be used for is included in the consultation response.
- 7) To support the levy is set at 5%, payable on stays in liable accommodation within the City of Edinburgh Council area, up to a maximum of seven consecutive nights, operational 365 days a year.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Meagher

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill was passed on the 28 May 2024 by the Scottish Parliament and became an Act on 5 July 2024 giving the City of Edinburgh Council and other Local Authorities the legal power to introduce a Visitor Levy (a "VL").
- 2) To note the extensive stakeholder engagement that had taken place over many years, which had informed the recommended scheme.
- 3) To agree the draft VL for Edinburgh scheme, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive.
- 4) To agree to consult with members of the public, as required by the Act, on the draft VL for Edinburgh scheme.
- 5) To increase the allocation for housing and tourism mitigation from £5 million to £20million, split between revenue and capital spend as appropriate within conditions set. This adjustment aims to enhance our efforts in promoting sustainability by more effectively reducing the impact on the local housing market.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Campbell

Amendment 2

- 1) To note the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill was passed on the 28 May 2024 by the Scottish Parliament and became an Act on 5 July 2024 giving the City of Edinburgh Council and other Local Authorities the legal power to introduce a Visitor Levy (a “VL”).
- 2) To note the extensive stakeholder engagement that had taken place over many years, which had informed the recommended scheme.
- 3) To agree the draft VL for Edinburgh scheme, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive, subject to adjusting allocated percentages as set out in 5) below, and the addition of the following text in section 8 on use of funds;

“Funds will be used in a way that recognises how Edinburgh’s tourism offering, and the impacts of that tourism, exist across different parts of the city, not just the core city centre.”
- 4) To agree to consult with members of the public, as required by the Act, on the draft VL for Edinburgh scheme.
- 5) To agree the recommended themes for investment of the net proceeds of the scheme and the allocated percentages to each theme as set out in paragraphs 4.26 and 4.27 of the report with the exception of adjusting the percentage allocation for ‘City Operations and Infrastructure’ to 55%, and ‘Destination and Visitor Management’ to 10%.
- 6) To note the VL Spending Programmes listed in Appendix 6 to the report were indicative with final decisions to be based on the council’s priorities and agreed projects.

- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Dijkstra-Downie

Amendment 3

- 1) To note the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill was passed on the 28 May 2024 by the Scottish Parliament and became an Act on 5 July 2024 giving the City of Edinburgh Council and other Local Authorities the legal power to introduce a Visitor Levy (a “VL”).
- 2) To note the extensive stakeholder engagement that had taken place over many years, which had informed the recommended scheme.
- 3) Agrees the draft VL for Edinburgh scheme with the following changes:
 - a) Replaces a recommended 5% levy with a recommended 8% levy in line with other European cities.

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- b) The VL Forum should also consist of two representatives from trade unions and one representative from Living Rent in order to represent the interests of the tourist industry's workforce and the city's residents.
 - c) Adjusts the allocations listed in 4.27 to 55% for City Operations and Infrastructure, 10% for Destination and Visitor Management with the allocation for Culture, Heritage and Events remaining at 35%.
 - d) Sets the fixed annual amount to be allocated to Participatory Budgeting at 4% of total available funds..
- 4) To agree to consult with members of the public, as required by the Act, on the draft VL for Edinburgh scheme.
 - 5) Agrees that the development of projects under the TVL themes for investment should also demonstrate their adherence to existing Council strategies and targets to support climate mitigation, adaptation and nature recovery, and that this will be a further criteria for proposed spending.
 - 6) Welcomes the inclusion of spending on housing, as set out in 4.26 of the report.
 - 7) Recommends that a report on the breakdown of this spend will come to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee in 2 cycles to explore specific details of how the money could be spent to support social housing.
 - 8) Further requests that this report will set out the relationship between this funding and the Strategic Housing Investment Plan, and annual HRA budget setting process.

- moved by Councillor Staniforth, seconded by Councillor Bandel

Amendment 4

- 1) To note the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill was passed on the 28 May 2024 by the Scottish Parliament and became an Act on 5 July 2024 giving the City of Edinburgh Council and other Local Authorities the legal power to introduce a Visitor Levy (a "VL").
- 2) To note the extensive stakeholder engagement that had taken place over many years, which had informed the recommended scheme.
- 3) To agree the draft VL for Edinburgh scheme, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive.
- 4) To agree to consult with members of the public, as required by the Act, on the draft VL for Edinburgh scheme.
- 5) Removes the capital allocation for Housing (para 4.26.1 of the report)
- 6) Agrees to retain 4.26.2 of the report - Participatory budgeting and agrees:

the recommended themes for investment of the net proceeds of the scheme and allocates the following percentage bands to each theme:

City Operations and Infrastructure 40 – 50%;

Culture, Heritage and Events 35 – 45%; and

Destination and Visitor Management (15%).

7) Makes the following amendments to the Scheme:

Paragraph 6.7: Given that administering the fund will be more onerous on small businesses as opposed to larger chains, that a band from 1.5% - 2.5% of the levy can be retained with 1.5% for larger businesses and 2.5% for businesses that are not part of a chain;

Governance:

The tax is being levied on one part of the tourism industry in order to both support the industry and mitigate any impacts from the industry, and the Visitor Levy Forum was to provide advice on matters to do with the levy, discuss and respond to modifications and the use of net proceeds of the scheme, as such the representation proposed omits important parts of the sector – small businesses and visitor attractions and the scheme should be amended to include a representative of these sectors..

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Whyte

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the Motion was adjusted, Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion, Amendment 3 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the Motion and Amendment 4 was adjusted and accepted as an amendment to the Motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the Motion was accepted as an addendum to Amendment 1 and Amendment 3 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to Amendment 1.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

Vote 1

For the motion (as adjusted)	–	7 votes
For Amendment 1 (as adjusted)	–	5 votes
For Amendment 3	-	3 votes
For Amendment 4	-	2 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Beal, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra Downie, Lang Meagher and Watt.

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For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Biagi, Campbell, Kumar and Macinnes.

For Amendment 3: Councillors Bandel, Booth and Staniforth.

For Amendment 4: Councillors Mowat and Whyte.)

There being no overall majority, Amendment 4 fell and a second vote was taken between the Motion (as adjusted), Amendment 1 (as adjusted), and Amendment 3.

Vote 2

For the motion (as adjusted)	–	7 votes
For Amendment 1 (as adjusted)	–	5 votes
For Amendment 3	-	3 votes
Abstentions	-	2

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Beal, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra Downie, Lang Meagher and Watt.

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Biagi, Campbell, Kumar and Macinnes.

For Amendment 3: Councillors Bandel, Booth and Staniforth.

Abstentions: Councillors Mowat and Whyte.)

There being no overall majority, Amendment 3 fell and a third vote was taken between the Motion (as adjusted) and Amendment 1 (as adjusted).

Vote 3

For the motion (as adjusted)	–	10 votes
For Amendment 1 (as adjusted)	–	5 votes
Abstentions	-	2

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Bandel, Beal, Booth, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra Downie, Lang Meagher, Staniforth and Watt.

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Biagi, Campbell, Kumar and Macinnes.

Abstentions: Councillors Mowat and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill was passed on the 28 May 2024 by the Scottish Parliament and became an Act on 5 July 2024 giving the City of

Edinburgh Council and other Local Authorities the legal power to introduce a Visitor Levy (a "VL").

- 2) To note the extensive stakeholder engagement that had taken place over many years, which had informed the recommended scheme.
- 3) To agree the draft VL for Edinburgh scheme, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive with amendments to reflect the following changes to the funds reserved for investment streams:
 - City Operations and Infrastructure is amended from 50% to 55%
 - Culture, Heritage and Events remains at 35%
 - Destination and Visitor Management is amended from 15% to 10%

and subject to adjusting allocated percentages and the addition of the following text in section 8 on use of funds;

"Funds will be used in a way that recognises how Edinburgh's tourism offering, and the impacts of that tourism, exist across different parts of the city, not just the core city centre."

- 4) To agree the VL Forum should also consist of one representative from trade unions and one representative from the Affordable Housing Partnership in order to represent the interests of the tourist industry's workforce and the city's
- 5) To agree to consult with members of the public, as required by the Act, on the draft VL for Edinburgh scheme.
- 6) To agree the recommended themes for investment of the net proceeds of the scheme and the allocated percentages to each theme as set out in paragraphs 4.26 and 4.27 of the report with the exception of adjusting the percentage allocation for 'City Operations and Infrastructure' to 55%, and 'Destination and Visitor Management' to 10%.
- 7) To note the maximum percentage of administrative costs accommodation providers should be permitted to retain is 1.5% of the levy they collect when they submitted their return. To therefore agree a breakdown of what the 1.5% would be used for be included in the consultation response.
- 8) To support the levy being set at 5%, payable on stays in liable accommodation within the City of Edinburgh Council area, up to a maximum of seven consecutive nights, operational 365 days a year.
- 9) To ask that the following question be included in the consultation: "Should the rate be higher than 5%?"
- 10) To record the Committee's thanks to the team for this piece of work.

- 11) To note the VL Spending Programmes listed in Appendix 6 to the report were indicative with final decisions to be based on the council's priorities and agreed projects.
- 12) To welcome the inclusion of spending on housing, as set out in 4.26 of the report.
- 13) To recommend that a report on the breakdown of this spend would come to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in 2 cycles to explore specific details of how the money could be spent to support social housing.
- 14) To further request that this report set out the relationship between this funding and the Strategic Housing Investment Plan, and annual HRA budget setting process.
- 15) To make the following amendments to the Scheme:

Paragraph 6.7: Given that administering the fund will be more onerous on small businesses as opposed to larger chains, that a band from 1.5% - 2.5% of the levy can be retained with 1.5% for larger businesses and 2.5% for businesses that are not part of a chain.

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

7. Regenerative Futures Fund

Details were provided on the Regenerative Futures Fund which aimed to create a £15m fund to help community organisations in Edinburgh address the root causes of poverty and inequality. The programme had successfully secured, or was in the process of securing, commitments of close to £5m towards its first phase funding target from independent funding organisations which were conditional on the programme securing a financial contribution from the Council.

Motion

- 1) To note the update by the Executive Director of Corporate Services on development of the Regenerative Futures Fund programme and the information provided on the programmes proposed approach to monitoring and evaluation.
- 2) To note that, alongside other funding partners, appropriate Council representatives would be invited to join and participate in an Oversight and Enabling Board to steer the development of the programme, including its monitoring and evaluation.
- 3) To note that an annual report on progress in delivery of the programme would be provided for committee, and that the first of these reports would provide a review point for Council investment.

- 4) To agree that a further report on Council investment in the programme should be submitted for final ratification by City of Edinburgh Council in September 2024.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the update by the Executive Director of Corporate Services on development of the Regenerative Futures Fund programme and the information provided on the programmes proposed approach to monitoring and evaluation.
- 2) Note that no information has been provided on what eligibility criteria will be applied to organisations wishing to participate in the fund.
- 3) Note that no information has been provided about how it will be ensured those organisations that are funded are geographically spread across the city or how the fund will be targeted towards organisations delivering services to the communities and individuals most impacted by poverty across the city.
- 4) Notes that there is no information about how the Council or the RFF will monitor current funding for Edinburgh and how this might be impacted by the RFF. This includes a lack of information about whether organisations not included in the programme might suffer from displacement of their funding to the RFF pot and that no impact assessment has been carried out in relation to this.
- 5) Agrees in principle subject to funding not being made available until the above information can be provided in the report in September.

- moved by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Kumar

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

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note the update by the Executive Director of Corporate Services on development of the Regenerative Futures Fund (RFF) programme and the information provided on the programmes proposed approach to monitoring and evaluation.
- 2) To note that, alongside other funding partners, appropriate Council representatives would be invited to join and participate in an Oversight and Enabling Board to steer the development of the programme, including its monitoring and evaluation.

- 3) To note that an annual report on progress in delivery of the programme would be provided for committee, and that the first of these reports would provide a review point for Council investment.
- 4) To agree that a further report on Council investment in the programme should be submitted for final ratification by City of Edinburgh Council in September 2024.
- 5) To note that no information had been provided on what eligibility criteria would be applied to organisations wishing to participate in the fund.
- 6) To note that no information had been provided about how it would be ensured those organisations that were funded were geographically spread across the city or how the fund would be targeted towards organisations delivering services to the communities and individuals most impacted by poverty across the city.
- 7) To note that there was no information about how the Council or the RFF would monitor current funding for Edinburgh and how this might be impacted by the RFF. This included a lack of information about whether organisations not included in the programme might suffer from displacement of their funding to the RFF pot and that no impact assessment had been carried out in relation to this.
- 8) To agree this funding until in principle, subject to the above information being provided.

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

8. Supporting the LGBT+ Community

Details were provided on the Council's partnership approach to tackling hate crimes and promoting equality for the LGBT+ community together with an additional update on the Council's commitment to understanding the impact of expected legislative changes (taking into consideration the delayed implementation of the Gender Recognition Reform Bill and the recent publication of the Cass Review) on LGBT+ communities and service delivery.

Motion

- 1) To note the City of Edinburgh Council's progress towards:
 - a) Tackling LGBT+ hate crime in partnership with community safety partners and Police Scotland
 - b) Delivering actions from the Gender Recognition round table, to promote equality for the LGBT+ community.

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- c) Reviewing the potential changes to service delivery in line with the proposed Gender Recognition Reform Bill implementation, and the findings of the Cass Review (a full report due to the committee in October 2024).
- 2) To note that the ongoing development of this work would be taken forward within a new Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Framework 2024-29.
- 3) To note, with our partners, tackling LGBT+ hate crime in the city remains a priority and therefore agree that the Council Leader will write to partners and appropriate organisations reaffirming this commitment.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To note the City of Edinburgh Council's progress towards:
 - a) Tackling LGBT+ hate crime in partnership with community safety partners and Police Scotland
 - b) Delivering actions from the Gender Recognition round table, to promote equality for the LGBT+ community.
 - c) Reviewing the potential changes to service delivery in line with the proposed Gender Recognition Reform Bill implementation, and the findings of the Cass Review (a full report due to the committee in October 2024).
- 2) To note that the ongoing development of this work would be taken forward within a new Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Framework 2024-29.
- 3) Notes with concern the increase in LGBTQ+ hate crimes reported to Police Scotland.
- 4) Welcomes the update to hate crime legislation as part of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 which came into force in Spring 2024.
- 5) Notes that Police Scotland published weekly statistics for the first seven weeks but has since changed their reporting to quarterly updates which are not available yet.
- 6) Further notes the historic underreporting of LGBTQ+ hate crime.
- 7) Recognises that at this stage, it is difficult to be certain whether the increase in LGBTQ+ hate crime reporting reflects changes an increase in the reporting of incidents that had previously gone unreported or an increase in LGBTQ+ hate crime overall.

- 8) Requests that as part of the development of the new Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Framework, officers engage with organisations representing LGBTQ+ people to gain more clarity of the experiences of and attitudes to reporting hate crimes under the new legislation, any potential barriers to reporting individuals may face, and any other actions the Council may take to improve support and reduce hate crimes in Edinburgh.

- moved by Councillor Bandel, 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 Day:

- 1) To note the City of Edinburgh Council's progress towards:
 - a) Tackling LGBT+ hate crime in partnership with community safety partners and Police Scotland
 - b) Delivering actions from the Gender Recognition round table, to promote equality for the LGBT+ community.
 - c) Reviewing the potential changes to service delivery in line with the proposed Gender Recognition Reform Bill implementation, and the findings of the Cass Review (a full report due to the committee in October 2024).
- 2) To note that the ongoing development of this work would be taken forward within a new Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Framework 2024-29.
- 3) To note, with our partners, tackling LGBT+ hate crime in the city remained a priority and therefore agree that the Council Leader would write to partners and appropriate organisations reaffirming this commitment.
- 4) To note with concern the increase in LGBTQ+ hate crimes reported to Police Scotland.
- 5) To welcome the update to hate crime legislation as part of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 which came into force in Spring 2024.
- 6) To note that Police Scotland published weekly statistics for the first seven weeks but had since changed their reporting to quarterly updates which were not available yet.
- 7) To further note the historic underreporting of LGBTQ+ hate crime.

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- 8) To recognise that at this stage, it was difficult to be certain whether the increase in LGBTQ+ hate crime reporting reflected changed an increase in the reporting of incidents that had previously gone unreported or an increase in LGBTQ+ hate crime overall.
- 9) To request that as part of the development of the new Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Framework, officers engage with organisations representing LGBTQ+ people to gain more clarity of the experiences of and attitudes to reporting hate crimes under the new legislation, any potential barriers to reporting individuals may face, and any other actions the Council may take to improve support and reduce hate crimes in Edinburgh.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee of 12 March 2024 (item 9); report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

9. Council Business Plan Progress 2023/24

An update was provided on progress made with delivering the Business Plan's three priorities and ten outcomes together with an overview of the strategic priorities followed by more detailed updates for the actions progressed under the ten outcomes focussing on progress between April 2023 and March 2024.

Motion

- 1) To note the progress on delivering the Business Plan shown in the Business Plan Progress Update report which covered 2023/24.
- 2) To refer the Business Plan Progress Update Report to the City of Edinburgh Council on 26 September 2024.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To note that, at the time the Business Plan was written, there was no dedicated resource within the Council to co-ordinate action to tackle the climate emergency, despite becoming a net zero city being one of the stated priorities of the Council.
- 2) To note that since the Business Plan was written in 2022, the Council has:
 - a) Significantly increased capacity within the corporate body to tackle the climate emergency by hiring a Climate Emergency team.
 - b) Declared a Nature Emergency, recognising the dual nature of the climate and nature crises.
 - c) Significantly increased capacity within the corporate body to tackle the nature emergency by hiring a Nature Emergency team.

- d) Agreed to review both the 2030 Climate Strategy and Council Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) to overlay actions with the Council's anti-poverty strategies, in order to streamline Council activities and tackle the climate and nature emergencies through a climate justice lens.
 - e) Agreed to develop financial strategies to increase delivery of actions covered within the CERP and 2030 Climate Strategy.
 - f) Launched a new Climate Adaptation strategy, Climate Ready Edinburgh, which sets out the need for urgent and significant changes to the Council's "business as usual" approach.
- 3) Therefore to agree that, in advance of the next Business Plan update, actions contained within section 8) of the Business Plan are revised to better represent the wealth of activity taking place in the Council since the Business Plan was first written, and to ensure that the Business Plan document is highlighting the best actions to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.
- 4) To refer the Business Plan Progress Update Report to the City of Edinburgh Council on 26 September 2024.

- moved by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

Voting

For the motion – 9 votes
For the amendment – 8 votes

(For the motion: Councillors Beal, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Lang, Meagher, Mowat, Watt and Whyte.

For the Amendment: Councillors Aston, Bandel, Biagi, Booth, Campbell, Kumar, Macinnes and Staniforth.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Day.

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

10. Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan

Details were provided on the Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan, which had been developed by the Edinburgh Adaptation and Nature Partnership following a 16-week consultation and contained the city's new climate adaptation strategy.

Motion

- 1) To approve and formally adopt the Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh (CRE) Plan 2024-2030 and agree to an annual update on the actions.

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- 2) To note that this plan had been developed in partnership by the Edinburgh Adaptation and Nature partnership and led by Scottish Water.
- 3) To note that a 16-week consultation on the draft plan was undertaken with feedback now incorporated to strengthen the proposed actions.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment 1

- 1) To approve and formally adopt the Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh (CRE) Plan 2024-2030 and agree to an annual update on the actions.
- 2) To note that this plan had been developed in partnership by the Edinburgh Adaptation and Nature partnership and led by Scottish Water.
- 3) To note that a 16-week consultation on the draft plan was undertaken with feedback now incorporated to strengthen the proposed actions.
- 4) Notes that when Committee approved the Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan Consultation in December 2023, it also approved a series of related actions including a report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on risk appetite, and engagements with elected members and officers with responsibility for finance, and health and social care.
- 5) Committee requests an update in one cycle on the timings of completion of these related actions.

- moved by Councillor Dijkstra-Downie, seconded by Councillor Beal

Amendment 2

- 1) To approve and formally adopt the Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh (CRE) Plan 2024-2030 and agree to an annual update on the actions.
- 2) To note that this plan had been developed in partnership by the Edinburgh Adaptation and Nature partnership and led by Scottish Water.
- 3) To note that a 16-week consultation on the draft plan was undertaken with feedback now incorporated to strengthen the proposed actions.
- 4) Agrees to refer the report to all Executive Committees as well as Planning, GRBV and Regulatory committee for consideration, and that each referral will also include a concise description of which areas of the strategy are relevant for each committee's remit to guide discussion, to support Councillors with scrutiny and to allow consideration of whether further committee action is needed.

- moved by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Bandel

Amendment 3

- 1) Notes the content of the plan, and specifically notes from the covering report by the Chief Executive that paragraph 5.1 indicates that milestones and key performance indicators are yet to be developed, and that paragraph 6.2 indicates that an investment and delivery plan and a series of business cases are still to be developed. Considers that without timescales, financial and performance information, the plan is incomplete and agrees that it remain in draft until this work can be publicly scrutinised by Committee.
- 2) To note that this plan had been developed in partnership by the Edinburgh Adaptation and Nature partnership and led by Scottish Water.
- 3) To note that a 16-week consultation on the draft plan was undertaken with feedback now incorporated to strengthen the proposed actions.
- 4) Recognises that current infrastructure needs to be maintained to maximum capacity in the interim while any Climate Ready Plan is progressed and agrees that officers should set out in particular how the current drainage network can be maintained to reduce incidents of flash flooding during heavy rain and how other programmes, likely tree planting plans, can be adapted to ensure that they fit with the long term aims of the Plan, recommended that this be reported to Transport and Environment Committee as part of its regular scrutiny processes for Council services.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Mowat

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addenda to the motion. Amendment 3 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Voting

For the motion (as adjusted)	–	15 votes
For Amendment 3	–	2 votes

(For the motion (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Bandel, Beal, Biagi, Booth, Campbell, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Kumar, Lang, Meagher, Nicolson, Staniforth and Watt.

For Amendment 3: Councillors Mowat and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To approve and formally adopt the Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh (CRE) Plan 2024-2030 and agree to an annual update on the actions.

- 2) To note that this plan had been developed in partnership by the Edinburgh Adaptation and Nature partnership and led by Scottish Water.
- 3) To note that a 16-week consultation on the draft plan was undertaken with feedback now incorporated to strengthen the proposed actions.
- 4) To note that when Committee approved the Draft Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan Consultation in December 2023, it also approved a series of related actions including a report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on risk appetite, and engagements with elected members and officers with responsibility for finance, and health and social care.
- 5) To request an update in one cycle on the timings of completion of these related actions.
- 6) To agree to refer the report to all Executive Committees as well as Planning, GRBV and Regulatory committee for consideration, and that each referral would also include a concise description of which areas of the strategy are relevant for each committee's remit to guide discussion, to support Councillors with scrutiny and to allow consideration of whether further committee action was needed.
- 7) To recognise that current infrastructure needed to be maintained to maximum capacity in the interim while any Climate Ready Plan was progressed and to agree that officers should set out in particular how the current drainage network could be maintained to reduce incidents of flash flooding during heavy rain and how other programmes, likely tree planting plans, could be adapted to ensure that they fitted with the long term aims of the Plan, and to recommend that this be reported to Transport and Environment Committee as part of its regular scrutiny processes for Council services.

(Reference – Policy and Sustainability Committee on 15 December 2023 (item 2); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

11. Barriers to Elected Office

Details were provided on the outcomes from elected member workshops, supported by anonymous elected member surveys together with details of actions taken by the Council to address, or at least mitigate, some of the barriers to elected office which had been highlighted by elected members throughout the process.

Motion

- 1) To note the outcomes from the annual survey of elected members.
- 2) To note the actions and recommendations arising out of the elected member workshops.

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- 3) To agree that the recommendations arising out of the workshops would be actioned as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 4) To note that some recommendations arising out of the workshops were acknowledged to be aspirational and would require funding to be allocated as part of the Council's ongoing budget and, therefore, would not be progressed until such time as an appropriate budget was agreed by the Council for these actions.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the outcomes from the annual survey of elected members.
- 2) To note the actions and recommendations arising out of the elected member workshops.
- 3) To agree that the recommendations arising out of the workshops will be actioned as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services and agrees not to close Recommendation/Action 4 and to request further details on Recommendation/Action 8.
- 4) To note that some recommendations arising out of the workshops were acknowledged to be aspirational and would require funding to be allocated as part of the Council's ongoing budget and, therefore, would not be progressed until such time as an appropriate budget was agreed by the Council for these actions.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Campbell

Amendment 2

- 1) To note the outcomes from the annual survey of elected members.
- 2) To note the actions and recommendations arising out of the elected member workshops.
- 3) To agree that the recommendations arising out of the workshops would be actioned as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 4) To note that some recommendations arising out of the workshops were acknowledged to be aspirational and would require funding to be allocated as part of the Council's ongoing budget and, therefore, would not be progressed until such time as an appropriate budget was agreed by the Council for these actions.

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- 5) Agrees that making Community Councils more accessible to elected members, community councillors and the public plays an important role in enabling a greater diversity of people to engage with local democracy.
- 6) Recognises that a lack of equipment is only one potential barrier to Community Councils running hybrid meetings, and that in some cases, training on how to use the equipment may also be required.
- 7) Request officers to provide political groups with budget estimates for providing Community Councils with hybrid meeting equipment and training on how to use it as part of the 2025/26 budget, on the basis of their engagement with Community Councils.

- moved by Councillor Bandel, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

Amendment 3

- 1) To note the outcomes from the annual survey of elected members and that only 20.6% of elected members took part in 2023 and 37% of elected members in 2024, indicating that the majority of elected members did not feel it necessary to respond.
- 2) To note the actions and recommendations arising out of the elected member workshops.
- 3) To agree that the recommendations arising out of the workshops would be actioned as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 4) Agrees not to progress any recommendations arising from the workshops that require budgetary resource and agrees to repeat the survey of elected members to measure the impact the measures identified in Appendix 3 (which have no budgetary implications).
- 5) Notes that the most significant concern and barrier remains around the length of time that Committees take and agrees that a short life working group to consider measures to streamline business, is convened to consider what business should be presented to Committees in order to reduce Councillor and Officer workload

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Whyte

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 1 was adjusted and accepted as an amendment to the Motion, Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion, and Amendment 3 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the Motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendment 2 was accepted as an amendment to Amendment 1, and Amendment 3 was accepted as an addendum to Amendment 1.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	9 votes
For Amendment 1 (as adjusted) -	-	8 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Beal, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Lang, Meagher Mowat, Watt and Whyte.

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Bandel, Biagi, Booth, Campbell, Kumar, Nicolson and Staniforth.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note the outcomes from the annual survey of elected members.
- 2) To note the actions and recommendations arising out of the elected member workshops.
- 3) To agree not to close and to request further details on Recommendation/Action 8.
- 4) To note that some recommendations arising out of the workshops were acknowledged to be aspirational and would require funding to be allocated as part of the Council's ongoing budget and, therefore, would not be progressed until such time as an appropriate budget was agreed by the Council for these actions.
- 5) To agree that making Community Councils more accessible to elected members, community councillors and the public played an important role in enabling a greater diversity of people to engage with local democracy.
- 6) To recognise that a lack of equipment was only one potential barrier to Community Councils running hybrid meetings, and that in some cases, training on how to use the equipment might also be required.
- 7) To request officers to provide political groups with budget estimates for providing Community Councils with hybrid meeting equipment and training on how to use it as part of the 2025/26 budget, on the basis of their engagement with Community Councils.
- 8) To note that the most significant concern and barrier remained around the length of time that Committees took and agree that a short life working group to consider measures to streamline business, be convened to consider what business should be presented to Committees in order to reduce Councillor and Officer workload.

(References – Act of Council No 22 of 17 March 2022; Policy and Sustainability Committee of 17 January 2023 (item 18); report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

12. Best Value Assurance Action Plan

Details were provided on the progress and target dates for completion of the remaining best value assurance actions.

Motion

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To agree that actions 3, 4, 5, and 7 outlined in the appendix to the report be closed and to note that there was a plan in place to close actions 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9 by June 2025.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) In relation to Action 1:

“As part of its Adaptation and Renewal Programme, the council should prepare sustainable medium and long-term financial plans, and detailed workforce plans, to support its strategic priorities”

Notes that the response does not include long-term financial planning, only referencing the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the workforce plan.

Requests a timeframe for when the council will have a strategy around long-term financial planning and agrees that this should be included in the next business bulletin to Policy and Sustainability and Finance and Resources Committees.

- 2) Does not agree to close Action 4:

“The council should further improve its performance reporting by publishing easily accessible, up-to-date performance information on its website”

Noting that the public performance scorecard is not easily accessible online due to being published as a PDF which is hard to read on any format other than a large monitor, and the accessible version is very hard to make sense of what data is related to what area of performance and that, when read on a phone, some of the text is written over other text.

Agrees this will be addressed as a matter of urgency, and an update on this will be given in the next BVA report.

- moved by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Kumar

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 Day:

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To agree that actions 3, 5, and 7 outlined in the appendix to the report be closed and to note that there was a plan in place to close actions 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9 by June 2025.
- 3) In relation to Action 1 in the Appendix to the report:

“As part of its Adaptation and Renewal Programme, the council should prepare sustainable medium and long-term financial plans, and detailed workforce plans, to support its strategic priorities”

- a) To note that the response did not include long-term financial planning, only referencing the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the workforce plan.
 - b) To request a timeframe for when the council would have a strategy around long-term financial planning and agree that this should be included in the next business bulletin to Policy and Sustainability and Finance and Resources Committees.
- 4) To not agree to close Action 4 in the Appendix to the report:

“The council should further improve its performance reporting by publishing easily accessible, up-to-date performance information on its website”

 - a) To note that the public performance scorecard was not easily accessible online due to being published as a PDF which was hard to read on any format other than a large monitor, and the accessible version was very hard to make sense of what data was related to what area of performance and that, when read on a phone, some of the text was written over other text.
 - b) To agree this would be addressed as a matter of urgency, and an update on this would be given in the next BVA report.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee of 9 January 2024 (item 5); report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

13. Our Strategic Workforce Plan

Details were provided on the new Strategic Workforce Plan which would enable the delivery of the City of Edinburgh Council’s Business Plan (Our Future Council, Our

Future City) which set out an ambitious agenda. The Strategic Workforce Plan was aligned to the People Strategy underpinned by a refreshed Action Plan, detailing the workforce and people resources the organisation needed now, and in the future, and how the Council would bridge the gap.

Motion

To approve the Strategic Workforce Plan, for the next 3-year period, from 2024 -27.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Meagher

Amendment 1

- 1) To approve the Strategic Workforce Plan, for the next 3-year period, from 2024-27.
- 2) In the development of inclusive recruitment practices, to consider strategies that empower recruiting managers to effectively support candidates with diverse needs. This includes accommodating individuals with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, those who use British Sign Language (BSL), and candidates for whom English is an additional language.

Practical measures may involve offering adjustments to access buildings, alternative methods for completing lengthy application forms, providing interview questions in advance, and ensuring other tailored adjustments to create an equitable and accessible recruitment and retention process for all candidates and staff.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Campbell

Amendment 2

- 1) To approve the Strategic Workforce Plan, for the next 3-year period, from 2024-27.
- 2) Notes that Council has repeatedly endorsed the aspiration for greater in-sourcing of services, including in the Business Plan and People Strategy, and welcomes the aspiration to expand models to allow movement from agency to permanent workers where appropriate;
- 3) Understands that certain Council services, for example security at the City Chambers, are currently outsourced to G4S including instances where members have staff have been performing the same role for the city for years but are not entitled to the benefits of Council employment;
- 4) Requests that the local service workforce plans for the appropriate departments explicitly reference any services currently supplied by G4S, the breakdown of staff hired through G4S and length of service, and proposals for full or partial in-housing of the services currently provided by G4S for the Council.

- 5) Additionally requests that subsequent reports on the Strategic Workforce Plan to the appropriate Committee explicitly highlight progress made around in-sourcing and agency spend.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addendums to the Motion.

At this point in the proceedings, the following Amendment 3 was proposed:

Amendment 3

To approve the Strategic Workforce Plan, for the next 3-year period, from 2024 -27.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	15 votes
For Amendment 3	-	2 votes

For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Bandel, Beal, Biagi, Booth, Campbell, Davison, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Kumar, Lang, Meagher, Nicolson, Staniforth and Watt.

For Amendment 3: Councillors Mowat and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To approve the Strategic Workforce Plan, for the next 3-year period, from 2024-27.
- 2) In the development of inclusive recruitment practices, to implement strategies that empowered recruiting managers to effectively support candidates with diverse needs. This included accommodating individuals with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, those who used British Sign Language (BSL), and candidates for whom English was an additional language.

Practical measures might involve offering adjustments to access buildings, alternative methods for completing lengthy application forms, providing interview questions in advance, and ensuring other tailored adjustments to create an equitable and accessible recruitment and retention process for all candidates and staff.

- 2) To note that Council had repeatedly endorsed the aspiration for greater in-sourcing of services, including in the Business Plan and People Strategy, and welcomed the aspiration to expand models to allow movement from agency to permanent workers where appropriate.

- 3) To understand that certain Council services, for example security at the City Chambers, were currently outsourced to G4S including instances where members of staff had been performing the same role for the city for years but were not entitled to the benefits of Council employment.
- 4) To request that the local service workforce plans for the appropriate departments explicitly reference any services currently supplied by G4S, the breakdown of staff hired through G4S and length of service, and proposals for full or partial in-housing of the services currently provided by G4S for the Council.
- 5) To additionally request that subsequent reports on the Strategic Workforce Plan to the appropriate Committee explicitly highlight progress made around in-sourcing and agency spend.

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

14. National Care Service (Scotland) Bill (Stage 2) – Call for Views

A summary was provided of the Council's proposed response to Scottish Parliament's request for views on proposed amendments to be made at stage 2 of the National Care Service Bill. The proposed response focused on areas of concern including the long term funding of the service and the costs of proposals; the potential for children's and justice services to be mandated for inclusion; and implications on local democratic accountability.

Decision

To approve the draft response to the Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's call for views to support the development of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill (Stage 2).

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

15. Adult Support and Protection and Social Work & Social Care Inspections Improvement Plan: Progress Report

Details were provided on the progress made since the publication of the Joint Inspection of Adult Support and Protection and the Inspection of Social Work and Social Care and the implementation of the subsequent improvement plans.

Motion

- 1) To note the progress reported in improving Adult Support Protection, Social Work and Social Care in relation to the Year One objectives set out in the improvement plan.
- 2) To note that this was the third quarter progress report in relation to the 3-year service improvement plan and as such within year 1, dealt with the fundamental

building blocks of improvement that would underpin further service development ahead.

- 3) To note that the report had been presented to the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board Performance and Delivery Committee on 7 August 2024.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Meagher

Amendment

- 1) To note the progress reported in improving Adult Support Protection, Social Work and Social Care in relation to the Year One objectives set out in the improvement plan.
- 2) To note that this was the third quarter progress report in relation to the 3-year service improvement plan and as such within year 1, dealt with the fundamental building blocks of improvement that would underpin further service development ahead.
- 3) To note that the report had been presented to the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board Performance and Delivery Committee on 7 August 2024.
- 4) Notes with concern the number of Red and Amber rated Actions under Priorities 1, 2, 6 and 7 of Appendix 1: Update on Year One Priorities for the Adult Support and Protection (ASP). Considers that this leaves considerable and unacceptable risk for individuals requiring support and protection and, given this is a quarter three report on Year One Priorities, evidences insufficient progress. Therefore agrees, notwithstanding the progress evidenced elsewhere in the Appendix, that the next progress report outline actions that can be taken to accelerate the completion and implementation of the ASP multi-agency guidelines and to properly resource and accelerate the training and learning for the teams involved.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Mowat

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 Day:

- 1) To note the progress reported in improving Adult Support Protection, Social Work and Social Care in relation to the Year One objectives set out in the improvement plan.
- 2) To note that this was the third quarter progress report in relation to the 3-year service improvement plan and as such within year 1, dealt with the fundamental building blocks of improvement that would underpin further service development ahead.

- 3) To note that the report had been presented to the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board Performance and Delivery Committee on 7 August 2024.
- 4) To note with concern the number of Red and Amber rated Actions under Priorities 1, 2, 6 and 7 of Appendix 1 to the report : Update on Year One Priorities for the Adult Support and Protection (ASP). To consider that this left considerable and unacceptable risk for individuals requiring support and protection and, given this was a quarter three report on Year One Priorities, evidenced insufficient progress. Therefore to agree, notwithstanding the progress evidenced elsewhere in the Appendix, that the next progress report outline actions that could be taken to accelerate the completion and implementation of the ASP multi-agency guidelines and to properly resource and accelerate the training and learning for the teams involved.

(Reference – report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, submitted.)

16. Provision of Free Period Products

In response to a motion by Councillor Bennett details were provided on the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 and approval sought to publish the local authority (Edinburgh) Statement on Exercise of Functions which was a requirement of the Act.

Motion

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services and discharge the approved motion from Councillor Bennett.
- 2) To approve the draft Statement on Exercise of Functions (Appendix 1 to the report) for publication, as required by the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Meagher

Amendment

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services and discharge the approved motion from Councillor Bennett
- 2) Notes that capacity rather than cost is the main impediment to extending provision of free period products and agrees with the appointment of a Development Officer to address capacity issues.
- 3) Asks that consideration is given to expanding the remit of the Development Officer further to include partnerships with homeless shelters, homelessness outreach programmes and healthcare services if this is achievable within the existing available budget.

- 4) Agrees to receive a Business Bulletin update on progress within 6 months of the Development Officer's starting date
- 5) To approve the draft Statement on Exercise of Functions (Appendix 1 to the report) for publication, as required by the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021.

- moved by Councillor Bennett, seconded by Councillor Dijkstra-Downie

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 Day:

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services and discharge the approved motion from Councillor Bennett.
- 2) To note that capacity rather than cost was the main impediment to extending provision of free period products and to agree with the appointment of a Development Officer to address capacity issues.
- 3) To ask that consideration be given to expanding the remit of the Development Officer further to include partnerships with homeless shelters, homelessness outreach programmes and healthcare services if this was achievable within the existing available budget.
- 4) To agree to receive a Business Bulletin update on progress within 6 months of the Development Officer's starting date.
- 5) To approve the draft Statement on Exercise of Functions (Appendix 1 to the report) for publication, as required by the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021.

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

17. Forth Green Freeport – Full Business Case

Details were provided on the Full Business Case (FBC) for the Forth Green Freeport (FGF). The Committee was asked to approve the FBC in its current form, and to agree that non-material changes requested by the FGF Board could be agreed by the Chief Executive (if necessary). The finalised document would be presented to the United Kingdom (UK) and Scottish Governments for approval, triggering the release of £24.5m of seed capital.

Motion

- 1) To agree to endorse the Forth Green Freeport Full Business Case (FBC) and all its annexes for submission to the UK and Scottish Governments.
- 2) To agree that the Chief Executive could agree non-material changes be made to the FBC, should the Forth Green Freeport Governance Board recommend so.
- 3) To agree in principle that the cost of the Council's contribution (£344,970) to the Forth Green Freeport Operating Company for 2024/25, 2025/26, and 2026/27 should be met from the Council's overall non-specific budgetary provision, with these monies to be replenished in full once sufficient retained non-domestic rates income was received.
- 4) To refer the report by the Chief Executive to the Council for approval of the use of the Council's non-specific budgetary provision.
- 5) To note that a retained non-domestic rates investment strategy for the Forth Green Freeport was agreed by Finance and Resources Committee on 25 June 2024.
- 6) To note that a non-domestic rates relief policy for the Forth Green Freeport was scheduled to be considered by Finance and Resources Committee before the end of this calendar year.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) Notes the Forth Green Freeport Full Business Case (FBC) and all its annexes have been developed and will be submitted to the UK and Scottish Governments and agrees Edinburgh does not sign any agreement of support.
- 2) Agrees any changes, including any non-material changes, to the FBC, should come back to a respective committee or full council should the Forth Green Freeport Governance Board recommend any changes for Councillors input,
- 3) Agrees that the requested costs of the Council's contribution (£344,970) to the Forth Green Freeport Operating Company for 2024/25, 2025/26, and 2026/27 will be withheld by the Council, with these monies only being paid once sufficient retained non-domestic rates income is received.
- 4) Notes that a retained non-domestic rates investment strategy for the Forth Green Freeport was agreed by Finance and Resources Committee on 25 June 2024.
- 5) Notes that a non-domestic rates relief policy for the Forth Green Freeport is scheduled to be considered by Finance and Resources Committee on 19 September 2024.

- 6) Refers this report with revised committee recommendations to the City of Edinburgh Council.

- moved by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Aston

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion - 9 votes
For the amendment - 8 votes

(For the motion: Councillors Beal, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Lang, Meagher, Mowat, Watt and Whyte.

For the amendment: Councillors Aston, Bandel, Biagi, Campbell, Kumar, Nicolson, Rae and Staniforth.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Day.

(Reference – report by Chief Executive, submitted.)

18. Edinburgh's Position Statement on Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Decision

To agree to continue consideration of the report to the next meeting of the Committee.

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

19. Relationship with City of Kaohsiung

An update was provided on the development of cultural, festival, sustainability, digital innovation, trade, and investment links for the next steps in strengthening Edinburgh and Taiwan relationships together with details of a future programme of activity to take forward these relationships, and work being carried out towards a Memorandum of Understanding with appropriate city partners.

Motion

- 1) To request the Lord Provost writes to the Mayor of the City of Kaohsiung setting out our intention to sustain collaboration and strengthen partnership between Edinburgh and Kaohsiung.
- 2) To agree to work collaboratively with city partners to build a productive relationship and implement substantive exchanges with the City of Kaohsiung.

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- 3) To agree to welcome a delegation from the City of Kaohsiung to meet with representatives from the University of Edinburgh, the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival, the Chamber of Commerce and other appropriate partners to discuss ongoing collaboration. To report back to the Policy and Sustainability Committee in one year on this work, it's achievements to date and future plans.
- 4) To note the letters of appreciation received by the Council in response to this arrangement, the concerns raised by partners, and the potential risks identified in the report by the Chief Executive.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Meagher

Amendment

- 1) To agree that the Lord Provost write to the city of Kaohsiung setting out the Council's desire to sustain collaboration between Edinburgh and Kaoshiung and requesting their input into how a Memorandum of Understanding might be reached in the future.
- 2) To agree that the Council should work collaboratively with city partners to build a productive relationship with the City of Kaohsiung, including the possibility of a future Memorandum of Understanding.
- 3) To note the letters of appreciation received by the Council in response to this arrangement, the concerns raised by partners, and the potential risks identified in the report by the Chief Executive.
- 4) Agrees that a report should return to this committee in one year detailing how collaboration and relationship with Kaohsiung has developed.

- moved by Councillor Staniforth, seconded by Councillor Rae

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

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion (as adjusted	-	14 votes
For the amendment	-	3 votes

(For the motion (as adjusted): Councillors Aston, Beal, Biagi, Campbell, Davidson, Day, Dijkstra-Downie, Kumar, Lang, Meagher, Mowat, Nicolson, Watt and Whyte.

For the amendment: Councillors Bandel, Rae and Staniforth.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

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- 1) To request the Lord Provost writes to the Mayor of the City of Kaohsiung setting out the intention to sustain collaboration and strengthen partnership between Edinburgh and Kaohsiung.
- 2) To agree to work collaboratively with city partners to build a productive relationship and implement substantive exchanges with the City of Kaohsiung.
- 3) To agree to welcome a delegation from the City of Kaohsiung to meet with representatives from the University of Edinburgh, the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival, the Chamber of Commerce and other appropriate partners to discuss ongoing collaboration. To report back to the Policy and Sustainability Committee in one year on this work, it's achievements to date and future plans.
- 4) To note the letters of appreciation received by the Council in response to this arrangement, the concerns raised by partners, and the potential risks identified in the report by the Chief Executive.
- 5) To agree that a report should return to this committee in one year detailing how collaboration and relationship with Kaohsiung had developed.

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

20. Review of the Edinburgh Award

In response to a motion by Councillor Staniforth, details were provided on proposals for reviewing awards granted to living people and amending the remit of the awards panel to consider withdrawing awards should the Council become aware of any award recipient being convicted of a criminal offence or be considered to have brought the award into disrepute.

Decision

- 1) To agree to implement an approach similar to the Honours System of the United Kingdom for withdrawing civic awards as outlined in paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 of the report by the Chief Executive.
- 2) To request a report be prepared for the Council to amend the remit of the awards panel to consider rescinding civic awards.

(Reference – Act of Council No 23 of 21 March 2024; report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

21. Self-Directed Support – Policy

Decision

To note that the report had been withdrawn

22. Contributing to your Care - Social Care Charging Policies

Details were provided on proposals for two updated social care charging policies – ‘contributing to your care’. One policy was for non-residential care and the other for residential care and had been developed in consultation with the social care transactions and the finance teams.

Motion

To agree the two policies attached to the report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership as appendices 1 (non-residential) and 2 (residential). To note that some further amendments to the formatting and look of the documents were planned. This was intended to make the policies easier to read and these alterations would not change the policy intent in any way.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Meagher

Amendment

- 1) To agree the two policies attached to the report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership as appendices 1 (non-residential) and 2 (residential). To note that some further amendments to the formatting and look of the documents were planned. This was intended to make the policies easier to read and these alterations would not change the policy intent in any way.
- 2) Agrees to produce an Easy Read version of the policy to empower users to make informed decisions about their care and potential financial impact.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Nicolson

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 Day:

- 1) To agree the two policies attached to the report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership as appendices 1 (non-residential) and 2 (residential). To note that some further amendments to the formatting and look of the documents were planned. This was intended to make the policies easier to read and these alterations would not change the policy intent in any way.
- 2) To agree to produce an Easy Read version of the policy to empower users to make informed decisions about their care and potential financial impact.

(Reference – report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, submitted.)

23. Review of the Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Policy (MADAP)

Details were provided of the revisions made to the Council's Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Policy (MADAP), which had been revised to reflect the update of Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy for preventing and eradicating Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and to incorporate guidance and principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Additional information on the risks and impacts of domestic abuse on a broader spectrum of the population was also contributed by specialist organisations and services who were members of the Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee (ESEC).

Decision

To approve the revised version of the Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Policy set out in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services.

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

24. Flexible Working Policy

In April 2024, new flexible working legislation was introduced which provided additional rights for all current and potential colleagues requesting formal flexible working. Details were provided on the new Flexible Working Policy to replace the existing Flexible Work Options Policy which was last approved by the Executive of the Council in 2003, with a refresh to toolkits and supporting user guides in July 2014.

Decision

To approve the new Flexible Working Policy for all colleagues.

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

25. Elected Member Attendance at COSLA Conference 2024

Details were provided on an invitation for the Council to nominate delegate(s) to attend the COSLA Annual Conference and Exhibition on Thursday 19 - Friday 20 September 2024 at Crieff Hydro Hotel, Perthshire.

Decision

To agree that each political group appoint one elected member to attend the COSLA Annual Conference and Exhibition on Thursday 19 - Friday 20 September 2024.

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

26. Budget Engagement Phase 2

The Convener ruled in terms of Standing Order 4.4, that the following item, notice of which had been given on the notice of meeting but which report had been issued at a later date, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Council to give early consideration to this matter.

A summary of the results of phase one of the budget engagement programme as approved by committee, with detailed results included as an appendix was provided together with the outline of phase two for approval.

Motion

- 1) To note the results of Budget Engagement Phase 1 in the appendix to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To approve the focus groups outlined for Phase 2.
- 3) To note the intention to consult, where required, on budget options from autumn 2024, with this work reporting to the Finance and Resources Committee.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the results of Budget Engagement Phase 1 in the appendix to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To approve the focus groups outlined for Phase 2.
- 3) To note the intention to consult, where required, on budget options from autumn 2024, with this work reporting to the Finance and Resources Committee.
- 4) Notes with concern that the demographics of consultation respondents to date are significantly unrepresentative of Edinburgh's total population.
- 5) Notes that for some recent transport consultations, officers have also commissioned research which aims to gather views from a representative cross-section of the Edinburgh population, and which is often more successful at gathering views from minorities and those who are less able to respond to consultations.
- 6) Requests officers consider what more can be done to ensure the views of a representative cross-section of Edinburgh's population are considered

- moved by Councillor Bandel, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

Amendment 2

To defer the report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership to the next meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee for consideration.

- moved by Councillor Kumar, seconded by Councillor Aston

Decision

To approve amendment 2 by Councillor Kumar.

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

27. Edinburgh Integration Joint Board Chief Officer Update Report

An update was provided on the work of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EIJB) with details of the progress with key workstreams within the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership (the Partnership) and the EIJB savings and recovery programme.

Decision

To note the report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership.

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

28. Internal Audit Update Report: June 2024 – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Committee in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 excludes the public from the meeting during consideration of this item of business on the grounds that it would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had referred a report the Internal Audit Update Report: June 2024 report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for consideration.

Decision

To note the report by the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.

(Reference – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, 4 June 2024 (item 5); referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, submitted.)