

Minutes

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00 am, Thursday 25 June 2020

Present

Councillors McVey (Convener), Day (Vice-Convener), Aldridge, Burgess (substituting for Councillor Main, item 5), Kate Campbell, Cook, Corbett (substituting for Councillor Main, items 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10), Dickie (substituting for Councillor Kate Campbell, item 5), Gardiner, Gloyer, Gordon (substituting for Councillor Gardiner, items 6 to 20), Hutchison, Johnston (substituting for Councillor Webber, items 6 and 7), Laidlaw (substituting for Councillor McLellan, item 5), Macinnes, Main, McLellan, Perry, Rankin, Staniforth, Webber, Whyte, Wilson and Young (substituting for Councillor Gloyer, item 5)

Added Members for Education items:

Religious Representative

Fiona Beveridge

Parent Representative

Alexander Ramage

Also in attendance: Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron (item 8)

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Policy and Sustainability Committee of 11 June 2020 as a correct record, subject to the adjustment in the decisions on items 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 12 and 14 to read "To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey".

2. Policy and Sustainability Committee Work Programme

The Policy and Sustainability Committee Work Programme for 25 June 2020 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree that a report on the City Mobility Plan be added to the Work Programme.
- 2) To note that a report on the reintroduction of the Planning Committee would be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee in July.
- 2) To otherwise note the work programme.

(Reference – Work Programme 11 June 2020, submitted.)

3. Policy and Sustainability Committee Rolling Actions Log

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

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:
 - Action12 (a) and (b)** – Edinburgh Poverty Commission Progress Update
 - Action 22(3)** - Decisions Taken under Delegated Power and Operational Decision Making - Covid-19
 - Action 23** - Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee Arrangements and Remote Council Meetings
 - Action 27** - Motion by Councillor Whyte – Nike Conference - North Bridge Hilton
- 2) To agree that a final report be submitted on **Action 1** – Business Case for the Management Transfer of Secondary School Sports Facilities to Edinburgh Leisure – Progress Report
- 3) To agree that the Rolling Actions Log be reviewed with particular reference to pre COVID-19 related items
- 4) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4. Adaptation and Renewal Programme Update

An update was provided on progress of the adaption and renewal programme which also covered decisions taken in period 15 May 2020 to 15 June 2020 and Integrated Impact Assessments.

Motion

- 1) To note that the report by the Chief Executive brought together both the COVID-19 response and the Adaptation and Renewal Programme updates. This was the second update report from the A&R programme and included the weekly COVID-19 Response Dashboard (Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive).
- 2) To note that the COVID-19 Response Dashboard now included a breakdown of the Edinburgh settings for COVID-19 deaths as requested by the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 28 May (Appendix 1 to the report).
- 3) To note the decisions taken to date under urgency provisions from 15 May 2020 to 15 June 2020 outlined at Appendix 2 to the report, this included the operational governance for the programme (Appendix 3 to the report).
- 4) To note the approach being taken for Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA) in relation to decisions taken to date for the response to COVID-19 (Appendix 4 to the report).

- 5) To note the work being undertaken with the NHS and EIJB to establish shared strategic principles to inform the recovery plans.
- 6) To note that the report followed on from the first meeting of the Adaptation and Renewal All Party Oversight Group (APOG) which held its first meeting on 16 June 2020.
- 7) To note the Scottish Government's timeline for Phase 2 (Appendix 5 to the report)
- 8) To agree that the Convener would write to the Council's partners to ensure that information which was relevant to the Council was made available.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

To insert after 1.6 of the motion by Councillor McVey (and re-number the remaining paragraphs):

- 6) To request the Chief Officer of the Health and Social Care Partnership to provide a report to Committee, within two cycles, containing, but not limited to, the following:
 - a) An explanation for the disproportionately high number of Edinburgh Covid-19 deaths that have occurred in care homes;
 - b) Details of the number of care home Covid-19 deaths where the deceased had previously been in hospital;
 - c) An explanation for the disproportionately high number of Edinburgh Covid-19 deaths in relation to the number of non-Covid-19 deaths;
 - d) Understanding why the number of Edinburgh care homes showing a suspected case of Covid-19 deaths continues to increase;
 - e) The steps taken by the Partnership, or the Public Health Advisory Board, to address the issues brought out by a) and c) in relation to future outbreaks: and
 - f) The issues raised with the Edinburgh IJB and NHS Lothian about minimising the impact of future outbreaks across Edinburgh.

- moved by Councillor Webber, seconded by Councillor Whyte

In accordance with Standing Order 19(12), the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To note that the report by the Chief Executive brought together both the COVID-19 response and the Adaptation and Renewal Programme updates. This was the second update report from the A&R programme and included the weekly

COVID-19 Response Dashboard (Appendix 1 to the report by the Chief Executive).

- 2) To note that the COVID-19 Response Dashboard now included a breakdown of the Edinburgh settings for COVID-19 deaths as requested by the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 28 May (Appendix 1 to the report).
- 3) To note the decisions taken to date under urgency provisions from 15 May 2020 to 15 June 2020 outlined at Appendix 2 to the report, this included the operational governance for the programme (Appendix 3 to the report).
- 4) To note the approach being taken for Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA) in relation to decisions taken to date for the response to COVID-19 (Appendix 4 to the report).
- 5) To note the work being undertaken with the NHS and EIJB to establish shared strategic principles to inform the recovery plans.
- 6) To request that the Chief Officer of the Health and Social Care Partnership provide a report to Committee, at an appropriate time when information was available, containing, but not limited to, the following:
 - a) An explanation for the disproportionately high number of Edinburgh Covid-19 deaths that had occurred in care homes;
 - b) Details of the number of care home Covid-19 deaths where the deceased had previously been in hospital;
 - c) An explanation for the disproportionately high number of Edinburgh Covid-19 deaths in relation to the number of non-Covid-19 deaths;
 - d) Understanding why the number of Edinburgh care homes showing a suspected case of Covid-19 deaths continued to increase;
 - e) The steps taken by the Partnership, or the Public Health Advisory Board, to address the issues brought out by a) and c) in relation to future outbreaks: and
 - f) The issues raised with the Edinburgh IJB and NHS Lothian about minimising the impact of future outbreaks across Edinburgh.
- 7) To note that the report followed on from the first meeting of the Adaptation and Renewal All Party Oversight Group (APOG) which held its first meeting on 16 June 2020.
- 8) To note the Scottish Government's timeline for Phase 2 (Appendix 5 to the report).
- 9) To agree that the Convener would write to the Council's partners to ensure that information which was relevant to the Council was made available.

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

5. Schools Re-opening

a) Deputation – Victoria Primary School Parent Council

A written deputation was presented on behalf of Victoria Primary School Parent Council.

The deputation expressed concern about the offer of schooling for the 2020/21 academic session. The two main areas they brought to the Committee's attention were:

- Pupils particularly in P1 – 3, had found online learning extremely challenging to engage with.
- The vast majority of parents at Victoria worked and were not in the position of having one parent at home who was able to provide childcare.

They asked the Committee to consider other accommodation options in the area, including but not restricted to, local churches, eg. Newhaven Church, and local leisure centres, e.g. David Lloyd in Newhaven and in terms of childcare, they urged the Committee to consider the impact of these restrictions on the children, and adopt a measured approach

The deputation requested that the Committee assume a solution-focused approach that had been so appreciated throughout this pandemic.

b) Trinity Primary School Parent Council

A written deputation was presented on behalf of Trinity Primary School Parent Council

The deputation felt that the proposals for a return to school for Edinburgh as they currently stood did not fulfil the basic criteria of Getting It Right for Every Child. They indicated that it was everyone's best interests for as many children to return to school as was safe within the current guidelines and that every school in Edinburgh should be allowed to accommodate as many children as it could under the current safety guidelines.

The deputation felt that we feel that it was right and fair to expect to start the school year with all children attending for at least half of the school week (and more where possible).

The deputation urged the Committee to work together with Parent Councils to ensure that the home element of blended learning was delivered through a centralised online educational resource which in turn would ensure consistency across the country and allow school staff to concentrate on the children physically in their schools.

c) Trinity Academy Parent Council

A written deputation was presented on behalf of Trinity Academy Parent Council.

The deputation raised the following concerns in regard to the proposals for the re-opening of schools:

- the low percentage of time which pupils might spend in school on return (33%);
- home-based learning being set to change from that experienced so far, as teachers would mostly be teaching small classes face-to-face and therefore would have significantly less time to develop and support home-learning;
- the long-term effect on learning of reduced time in the classroom, particularly for those in exam years;
- the potential for a continued lower level of engagement in education for all ages, with some pupils being seriously disadvantaged by the lack of time in school and a lack of IT resources, suitable study environments and support at home;
- the lack of parity with other state schools in Scotland and around 20% of secondary pupils in the Edinburgh independent schools.

d) Report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families

Details were provided on the Local Authority Delivery Phasing Plan which had been developed as required by the Scottish Government of all local authorities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic together with the route-map that set out the phased lifting of restrictions.

The Plan set out the steps the Council proposed to take to reopen schools from 10 August 2020. The plan would change as the Council responded to new developments and changes in national guidance. It was the ambition of the Council to maximise the time pupils were learning in an in-school environment, consistent with the safety of pupils and staff and the quality of learning and teaching.

Motion

- 1) To note the Delivery Phasing Plan that set out arrangements to reopen schools safely for pupils on 12 August 2020.
- 2) To note that the plan included costings to increase in-school learning to a minimum of 50% at the soonest opportunity.
- 3) To note in light of the Deputy First Minister's statement on 23rd June, this was now a contingency plan, and we would continue to work tirelessly to prepare for the full return of pupils in August 2020.
- 4) To note that the plan was flexible and would be subject to change as the Covid emergency changed and the Council responded to decisions at national level and guidance issued by the Scottish Government.
- 5) To note that the Council was currently conducting a survey of parents on the implications of part-time in-school learning for childcare and a report on this would be brought to the committee in two cycles.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment 1

- 1) To agree Paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 5 of the motion by Councillor McVey.
- 2) To replace Paragraph 2 of the motion with:

To note that if Council is required to implement the contingency of Blended Learning in August, following Scottish Government guidance, that a minimum of 50% of in-school learning will be provided. The additional costs of this provision shall be made clear to the Scottish Government, including the impact on other Council budgets should the Council not be supported by an extra uplift in grant funding.

- 3) To add to the motion:

(6) To recognise that the statement of the Deputy First Minister on 23 June means that implementation of Phase 4 rather than Phase 3 is now the objective for the return to school in August and asks for officers to report within one cycle how this can be implemented in detail with specific issues addressed to include:

- Detail on what additional hygiene measures would need to be implemented to move immediately to Phase 4 rather than Phase 3 and estimated costs
- Detail on responsive closure plans should a school or centre be connected to a virus outbreak
- Detail on what online provision can be made available to children who live with a parent falling into the shielding category
- Proportion of City of Edinburgh teaching and support staff falling into the shielding category or living in shielding households
- Costs of addressing the expected short-fall in staffing through supply teaching and estimation of whether additional recruitment is required and what measures could be undertaken to fulfil this e.g. secondments and support from other qualified individuals, including teachers who have left the profession, those with other UK or international qualifications and those close to completing their teaching qualifications, to assist in supporting learning

(7) To agree that updates on progress towards the return to school in August will be made to every Policy and Sustainability Committee meeting between now and August in writing. That these updates can be shared with Parents and Parent Councils.

- moved by Councillor Laidlaw, seconded by Councillor Webber

Amendment 2

To add to the motion by Councillor McVey;

- 1) To welcome and appreciate the hard work and planning done by council officers and school staff for the return to school in August;

- 2) To note the statement by the Scottish Government Education Secretary on 23 June that the national aim was now for schools to return full-time in August without social distancing should there be continued progress in suppressing the covid19 pandemic;
- 3) To note that the Council's Local Delivery Phasing Plan version 1.0 would now be amended to reflect the Education Secretary's statement and that blended-learning would become a contingency plan;
- 4) However, to recognise that the Education Secretary stressed that full-time return was contingent on continued progress in suppressing transmission of covid19, and that this was not guaranteed;
- 5) To further notes that HMIE would continue to scrutinise the Council's blended-learning model contingency plan for school return when submitted to the Scottish Government;
- 6) To recognise that covid19 contagion within schools after a full-time return may require staff to self-isolate or even for schools to be re-closed;
- 7) To therefore agree that the Council would continue to develop its contingency planning for a consistent and equitable blended-learning model should it become necessary and that every possible measure would continue be explored for maximising teaching time spent in schools - including recruitment of more teaching staff including using teaching assistants, requisition of additional teaching space, outdoor learning and online lessons by teachers to support home learning – such that the contingency plan is ready for implementation should it be necessary;
- 8) To further agree that the Council's contingency plans requiring additional expenditure by the Council are costed and communicated to the Scottish Government as a matter of urgency;
- 9) To further note the concern about transmission of covid19 within schools and therefore:
 - a) agrees that the Council will support schools in taking all necessary measures to support the health and well-being of children, young people and school staff;
 - b) agrees to consult teachers and school staff unions about the return to school;
 - c) agrees to make representation to the Scottish Government to request that testing is made available in schools particularly for teachers and other school staff;
 - d) Agrees that parents and school staff will be kept updated on plans during the summer holiday period;
- 10) To agree that parents and school staff would be kept updated on plans during the summer holiday period;

- 11) To agree that an update on the return to school and the revised Local Delivery Phasing Plan would be provided to the next meeting of this committee

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

Amendment 3

To recognise the extraordinary circumstances in which teachers, pupils and parents had been operating a unique home school structure over the last three months. This had required teachers to work under extremely challenging conditions to create relevant, attainable and accessible learning, which could be delivered by parents who themselves may also be supporting other children or family members, and while sustaining a 'work from home' for their own employment.

To commend the staff across our school estate and the dedication shown by parents to sustain their children's learning. To also recognise the huge challenges being faced by council officers, especially given current social distancing requirements, and the limited excess capacity in many schools, and commend their efforts to find a workable solution.

However, in recognising the significant criticism from parents and from members of the Scottish Parliament, on the council's proposals for 33% in-school attendance, relative to other proposals in other Scottish local authorities this committee agrees to maximise classroom attendance in any contingency plan, such that 50% is a minimum level across the school estate.

To therefore agree to the motion by Councillor McVey with the following additional elements to be explicit in the contingency plan:

- 1) To extend beyond only the school estate and develop proposals to open up appropriate community centres, church halls and other safe spaces to provide extra classroom capacity.
- 2) To instruct the Council Leader to write to the Scottish Government to confirm if new funding will be provided should restrictions remain, which would allow additional qualified teachers to be recruited to provide further capacity across the city and also to fund extra classroom capacity.
- 3) To support and facilitate, when national health and scientific advice allows, families of children from the same class to share childcare and allow more parents to work.
- 4) To explore school partnerships/hubs in locality areas in order to share capacity and stop any geographical 'lottery' on the teaching of our children due to individual school excess capacity.
- 5) To call on the Scottish Government to amend national movement restrictions and associated guidance, when it is considered safe to do so, in order to allow close family members to help with childcare and home learning

- moved by Councillor Young, seconded by Councillor Aldridge

In accordance with Standing Order 19(12), Paragraph 2 and 3(6) (as adjusted) of Amendment 1, the whole of Amendment 2, and Amendment 3 (as adjusted) were accepted as addendums to the motion

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To note the Delivery Phasing Plan that set out arrangements to reopen schools safely for pupils on 12 August 2020.
- 2) To note that if Council was required to implement the contingency of Blended Learning in August, following Scottish Government guidance, that a minimum of 50% of in-school learning would be provided. The additional costs of this provision should be made clear to the Scottish Government, including the impact on other Council budgets should the Council not be supported by an extra uplift in grant funding.
- 3) To note in light of the Deputy First Minister's statement on 23rd June, this was now a contingency plan, and we would continue to work tirelessly to prepare for the full return of pupils in August 2020.
- 4) To note that the plan was flexible and would be subject to change as the Covid emergency changed and the Council responded to decisions at national level and guidance issued by the Scottish Government.
- 5) To note that the Council was currently conducting a survey of parents on the implications of part-time in-school learning for childcare and a report on this would be brought to the committee in two cycles.
- 6) To recognise that the statement of the Deputy First Minister on 23 June meant that implementation of Phase 4 rather than Phase 3 was now the objective for the return to school in August and ask for officers to continue to update parents and report to Committee prior to schools returning in August on how this could be implemented in detail with specific issues addressed to include:
 - Detail on what additional hygiene measures would need to be implemented to move immediately to Phase 4 rather than Phase 3 and estimated costs;
 - Detail on responsive closure plans should a school or centre be connected to a virus outbreak;
 - Detail on what online provision can be made available to children who live with a parent falling into the shielding category;
 - Proportion of City of Edinburgh teaching and support staff falling into the shielding category or living in shielding households;
 - Costs of addressing the expected short-fall in staffing through supply teaching and estimation of whether additional recruitment is required and what measures could be undertaken to fulfil this e.g. secondments and support from other qualified individuals, including teachers who have left the profession, those with other UK or international qualifications and those

close to completing their teaching qualifications, to assist in supporting learning.

- 7) To welcome and appreciate the hard work and planning done by council officers and school staff for the return to school in August;
- 8) To note the statement by the Scottish Government Education Secretary on 23 June that the national aim was now for schools to return full-time in August without social distancing should there be continued progress in suppressing the covid19 pandemic;
- 9) To note that the Council's Local Delivery Phasing Plan version 1.0 would now be amended to reflect the Education Secretary's statement and that blended-learning would become a contingency plan;
- 10) However, to recognise that the Education Secretary stressed that full-time return was contingent on continued progress in suppressing transmission of covid19, and that this was not guaranteed;
- 11) To further note that HMIE would continue to scrutinise the Council's blended-learning model contingency plan for school return when submitted to the Scottish Government;
- 12) To recognise that Covid-19 contagion within schools after a full-time return may require staff to self-isolate or even for schools to be re-closed;
- 13) To therefore agree that the Council would continue to develop its contingency planning for a consistent and equitable blended-learning model should it become necessary and that every possible measure would continue be explored for maximising teaching time spent in schools - including recruitment of more teaching staff including using teaching assistants, requisition of additional teaching space, outdoor learning and online lessons by teachers to support home learning – such that the contingency plan is ready for implementation should it be necessary;
- 14) To further agree that the Council's contingency plans requiring additional expenditure by the Council are costed and communicated to the Scottish Government as a matter of urgency;
- 15) To further note the concern about transmission of covid19 within schools and therefore:
 - a) to agree that the Council would support schools in taking all necessary measures to support the health and well-being of children, young people and school staff;
 - b) to agree to consult teachers and school staff unions about the return to school;
 - c) to agree to make representation to the Scottish Government to request that testing was made available in schools particularly for teachers and other school staff;

- d) to agree that parents and school staff be kept updated on plans during the summer holiday period
- 16) To agree that an update on the return to school and the revised Local Delivery Phasing Plan would be provided to the next meeting of this committee
- 17) To agree the following additional elements to be explicit in the contingency plan:
- a) To extend beyond only the school estate and develop proposals to open up appropriate community centres, church halls and other safe spaces to provide extra classroom capacity.
 - b) To instruct the Council Leader to write to the Scottish Government to confirm if new funding will be provided should restrictions remain, which would allow additional qualified teachers to be recruited to provide further capacity across the city and also to fund extra classroom capacity.
 - c) To support and facilitate, when national health and scientific advice allows, families of children from the same class to share childcare and allow more parents to work.
 - d) To explore school partnerships/hubs in locality areas in order to share capacity and stop any geographical 'lottery' on the teaching of our children due to individual school excess capacity.
 - e) To call on the Scottish Government to amend national movement restrictions and associated guidance, when it is considered safe to do so, in order to allow close family members to help with childcare and home learning.
- 19) To ask the Executive Director for Communities and Families to write to staff, including Facilities Management, to thank them on behalf of the Committee.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted.)

6. Revenue Budget 2020/21 Update

An update was provided on the current assessment of approved savings delivery, management of service pressures and, most materially, the emerging cost and income implications of the coronavirus pandemic on the Council and its ALEOs' activities.

Decision

- 1) To note the updated estimated expenditure and income impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Council and its ALEOs' activities and the potential sources of funding identified to address them.
- 2) To note the extent of progress to date in identifying measures to mitigate both anticipated shortfalls in the delivery of approved savings and residual Directorate pressures.

- 3) To note the significant remaining projected in-year shortfall and associated risks linked to further service disruption or slower-than-assumed recovery, with a resulting urgent requirement for increased control to be exercised over all aspects of Council expenditure.
- 4) To note that the use of reserves other than for the intended purpose was not sustainable and reduced the ability to make available resources to facilitate economic recovery within the city.
- 5) Therefore to agree, as an initial step, to earmark the remaining £4.830m of unallocated funding provided as part of the 2020/21 Scottish Budget's Stage One Parliamentary consideration to address expenditure and income pressures arising from the pandemic.
- 6) To confirm the allocation of the previous in-principle £2m contribution to the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board.
- 7) To agree that any subsequent expenditure requests be considered only in cases where a specific funding source had been identified and expressly brought to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for scrutiny and political decision-making.
- 8) To refer the report to the Council for approval.

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

7. Capital Budget Update – 2019/20 Provisional Outturn and 2020/21 COVID-19 Forecast

Details were provided on the provisional outturn for capital expenditure and income for the 2019-20 financial year at month twelve together with a comparison with the revised capital budget.

Motion

- 1) To note the provisional capital outturn position for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) at month twelve (subject to external audit).
- 2) To note the 2020/21 COVID-19 Forecast Assumptions and that the 2020/21 Revised Capital Budget will be reported to Committee in August 2020.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

- 1) To note the provisional capital outturn position for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) at month twelve (subject to external audit).
- 2) To note the 2020/21 COVID-19 Forecast Assumptions and that the 2020/21 Revised Capital Budget will be reported to Committee in August 2020.
- 3) In light of paragraph 4.22 in the report by the Executive Director of Resources, to request that the next capital budget report detail further opportunities to reallocate capital slippage to strategic land acquisition to support key council aims.

- moved by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In accordance with Standing Order 19(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To note the provisional capital outturn position for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) at month twelve (subject to external audit).
- 2) To note the 2020/21 COVID-19 Forecast Assumptions and that the 2020/21 Revised Capital Budget will be reported to Committee in August 2020.
- 3) In light of paragraph 4.22 in the report by the Executive Director of Resources, to request that the next capital budget report detail further opportunities to reallocate capital slippage to strategic land acquisition to support key council aims.

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

8. Council Support to Small Businesses

In response to a motion by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron, details were provided on the spend by the Council and its ALEOs with small businesses, including social enterprises, and covering the barriers that existed to such organisations supplying goods and services to the Council and its ALEOs, and the policy and procedural changes that would be necessary to overcome those barriers.

Motion

To welcome the report by the Executive Director of Resources.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director of Resources.
- 2) To recognise the immense challenges being faced by small businesses in light of COVID-19 and therefore agree to set a target of spending at least 25% of the Council's total third party spend with small business by the end of 2021/22. To seek a report within three cycles setting out a plan on how this target could be achieved.

- moved by Councillor Aldridge, seconded by Councillor Gloyer

In accordance with Standing Order 19(12), the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To welcome the report by the Executive Director of Resources.

- 2) To note that the Finance and Resources Committee agreed a new Sustainable Procurement Strategy in March.
- 3) To note that one of strategy's 7 key objectives was that the Council make spend more accessible to local small businesses and the third sector.
- 4) To note that small business spend was up 1.5% in the last financial year to 22.7%.
- 5) To agree that a target of 25% be worked to in line with the 7 objectives agreed by the Finance and Resources Committee.

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

9. Scottish Citizens Basic Income Feasibility Project Final Report

Details were provided on the draft final report which outlined the findings and recommendations of the Feasibility Study of a Citizens Basic Income (CBI) pilot in Scotland which had been carried out by the City of Edinburgh Council in conjunction with three other local authorities (Fife, North Ayrshire, Glasgow City), Public Health Scotland, and the Improvement Services

Motion

- 1) To note the findings and recommendations of the Final Feasibility Study Report.
- 2) To agree that Council ask Scottish Government to actively consider the findings of the Final Report and request continued dialogue with UK Government regarding institutional arrangements for a pilot.
- 3) To agree that officers participate in the communication and dissemination of the findings of this Feasibility Study.
- 4) To agree that any further Council involvement in development of a potential pilot would be subject to approval by this Committee.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment 1

To add to the motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To note that the exercise was commissioned more than 2 years ago but that interest in Basic Income had risen significantly during the Coronavirus pandemic.
- 2) To note that, to date, of the partner councils, Fife and Glasgow had endorsed the report as a significant contribution to understanding the impact of Basic Income in Scotland, with North Ayrshire to consider the report on 30 June.
- 3) To recognise that active engagement between local, Scottish and UK Governments was critical to taking the next steps in developing understanding of the proposal and to request that the council leader write to the relevant Scottish and UK ministers to encourage them to take those steps.

- moved by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

Amendment 2

That no action be taken on the matter

- moved by Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor McLellan

In accordance with Standing Order 19(12), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted)	-	12 votes
For Amendment 2	-	5 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors McVey (Convener), Aldridge, Kate Campbell, Corbett, Day, Gloyer, Gordon, Macinnes, Perry, Rankin, Staniforth and Wilson.

For Amendment 2: Councillors Cook, Hutchison, McLellan, Webber and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To note the findings and recommendations of the Final Feasibility Study Report.
- 2) To agree that Council ask Scottish Government to actively consider the findings of the Final Report and request continued dialogue with UK Government regarding institutional arrangements for a pilot.
- 3) To agree that officers participate in the communication and dissemination of the findings of this Feasibility Study.
- 4) To agree that any further Council involvement in development of a potential pilot would be subject to approval by this Committee
- 5) To note that the exercise was commissioned more than 2 years ago but that interest in Basic Income had risen significantly during the Coronavirus pandemic.
- 6) To note that, to date, of the partner councils, Fife and Glasgow had endorsed the report as a significant contribution to understanding the impact of Basic Income in Scotland, with North Ayrshire to consider the report on 30 June.
- 7) To recognise that active engagement between local, Scottish and UK Governments was critical to taking the next steps in developing understanding of the proposal and to request that the council leader write to the relevant Scottish and UK ministers to encourage them to take those steps.

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

10. South East of Scotland Regional Transport Transition Plan

On 22 May 2020, the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity wrote to all Council Leaders and Regional Transport Partnership

Chairs and highlighted the challenge for public transport as a result of the COVID19 pandemic. The letter stated that Transport Scotland would engage directly with the local authorities in the Edinburgh and Glasgow city regions at an operational officer level due to the urgency and scale of the public transport challenge in these areas. On 3 June 2020, the Edinburgh and South East of Scotland Transport Appraisal Board, which includes representatives of Transport Scotland and the South East Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran), met in order to map the way forward. It was agreed to establish the South East of Scotland Transport Transition Operational Group and to invite both Clackmannanshire and Falkirk councils to attend given their role in SEStran. Given the urgency of the transport challenge, the group would meet weekly in order to work together with Transport Scotland and SEStran to develop operational plans in response to the COVID-19 recovery.

Motion

- 1) To note that an operational South East of Scotland Transport Transition Group had been established in response to the letter issued by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity (attached at Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place), and that the Terms of Reference for the Group had been drafted (Appendix 2 to the report).
- 2) To recognise the nature of the South East of Scotland Transport Transition Group, its objectives and the multiple partners in this initiative as well as the need for consistency and speed in reporting and decision-making.
- 3) To recognise the need to incorporate additional reporting of progress, when appropriate, to the Transport and Environment Committee, once re-animated, or to the Policy and Sustainability Committee in the interim.
- 4) To therefore request a business bulletin item, Members' briefing or report to be brought forward as appropriate as progress was made in conjunction with the other partners to update Council as outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the longstanding lack of an existing effective governance structure to create and implement regional transport strategy in the south east of Scotland.
- 2) To note the establishment of the South East of Scotland Transport Transition Group in response to the letter issued by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity (attached at Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 3) To consider that the City Region Deal governance framework was designed to oversee specific capital investment but not to deliver a regional transport strategy in the context of a green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, and express concern at the continued lack of a suitable permanent strategic regional transport board.

- 4) To note the lack of transparency, public accountability and political balance in the Transport Transition Group, and note the absence of climate or green recovery in both the purpose and terms of the Group.
- 5) To agree to call for the following changes to the Terms of Reference for the Group which has been drafted (Appendix 2 of the report):
 - a) Restate the purpose to align with the need for a green recovery, to ensure that transport recovery contributes to meeting our climate targets;
 - b) Restate the terms to include: the contribution that transport must make to climate targets, to broaden the purposes of travel to include education, health, leisure and community requirements as well as for work; strengthen the statement on equalities to acknowledge and address the serious and varied inequalities in access to safe affordable travel across the region;
 - c) Restate the terms of confidentiality to a presumption of publication of all papers, either in advance of the meeting if the item is not confidential, or retrospectively once a decision has been made public, and to allow all papers to be shared with all relevant elected members owing to members continued commitment to confidentiality;
 - d) Restate the membership to specifically achieve a political balance reflective of the region's local authorities; and
 - e) Restate the secretariat to mandate the online publication of meeting dates and agenda in advance of each meeting.

- moved by Councillor Staniforth, seconded by Councillor Corbett

Amendment 2

- 1) To note that an operational South East of Scotland Transport Transition Group had been established in response to the letter issued by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity (attached at Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place), and that the Terms of Reference for the Group had been drafted (Appendix 2 to the report).
- 2) To agree that, among the possible interventions in paragraph 4.5 of the Report, an important measure to reduce increased private car use and to maximise the supply and attractiveness of public transport was the availability and capacity of Park and Ride sites, and instruct the Council Leader to write to Transport Scotland seeking funding to upgrade existing P&R sites (for example, Ingliston) and build new ones (for example, Lothianburn).

- moved by Councillor Gloyer, seconded by Councillor Aldridge

In accordance with Standing Order 19(12), the Amendment 2 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 19(12), the Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to Amendment 1.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the Motion (as adjusted) - 15 votes
For Amendment 1 (as adjusted) - 2 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors McVey (Convener), Aldridge, Kate Campbell, Day, Gloyer, Gordon, Hutchison, Macinnes, McLellan, Perry, Rankin, Webber, Whyte and Wilson.

For Amendment 1 (as adjusted): Councillors Corbett and Staniforth.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To note that an operational South East of Scotland Transport Transition Group had been established in response to the letter issued by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity (attached at Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place), and that the Terms of Reference for the Group had been drafted (Appendix 2 to the report).
- 2) To recognise the nature of the South East of Scotland Transport Transition Group, its objectives and the multiple partners in this initiative as well as the need for consistency and speed in reporting and decision-making.
- 3) To recognise the need to incorporate additional reporting of progress, when appropriate, to the Transport and Environment Committee, once re-animated, or to the Policy and Sustainability Committee in the interim.
- 4) To therefore request a business bulletin item, Members' briefing or report to be brought forward as appropriate as progress was made in conjunction with the other partners to update Council as outlined in the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 5) To agree that, among the possible interventions in paragraph 4.5 of the Report, an important measure to reduce increased private car use and to maximise the supply and attractiveness of public transport was the availability and capacity of Park and Ride sites, and instruct the Council Leader to write to Transport Scotland seeking confirmation of funding to upgrade existing P&R sites and build new ones.

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

11. Disciplinary Policy

Details were provided on the proposed new disciplinary policy which had been developed to ensure there was a fair, effective and consistent method in place to deal with concerns surrounding conduct and to encourage improvement where conduct was believed to have fallen below acceptable standards, either through the implementation of the informal or formal stages of the process.

Decision

To approve the new Disciplinary Policy.

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

12. Health and Social Care Contracting Update

Details were provided on the current Health and Social Care Partnership contractual activity and the extent to which this has been impacted by COVID-19.

Decision

To approve the award of contract extensions to the providers for the value and duration as set out in the appendix to the report by the Chief Officer, subject to any required agreement.

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

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Gordon declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of the Integrated Joint Board.

13. Adult Sensory Impairment Services Contracts – Extension and Awards

Approval was sought for the award of four contracts for Adult Sensory Impairment Services.

Decision

- 1) To approve the award of four contracts for Adult Sensory Impairment Services for a period of three years with the option to extend for two periods of up to 12 months, at the sole discretion of the Council, as follows: -
 - a) Lot 1 "Visual impairment rehabilitation and mobility service, equipment provision and retention of statutory Certificate of Vision Impairment Register" to be awarded to Royal Blind School with a five year value of £1,034,920.
 - b) Lot 2 "Eye Clinic Support Service" to be awarded to Visibility Scotland with a five year value of £251,630.
 - c) Lot 3 "Specialist social work service for deaf people, with British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation/translation duty service" to be awarded to Deaf Action with a five year value of £574,810.
 - d) Lot 4 "Specialist deaf equipment service for deaf people: Deaf BSL users, hard of hearing people, deafened people and deafblind people" to be awarded to Deaf Action with a five year value of £454,905.
- 2) To note that the total value of the four lots over the maximum lifetime of the contract would be £2,316,265.

- 3) That, separately, to approve the temporary extension of the sight loss components of the existing contract (equivalent to Lots 1 and 2 plus specialist social work) by the current provider Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) for six months prior to awarding the contracts for Lots 1 and 2 to the two new sight loss.

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

14. Outcome of the Statutory Consultation Process on the Proposal to Establish an Annexe to Kirkliston Primary School at Kirkliston Leisure Centre

Details were provided on the outcome of the statutory consultation process undertaken on the proposal to establish an annexe of Kirkliston Primary School on the Kirkliston Leisure Centre site. The annexe was required to address accommodation pressure at the school caused by rising P1 intakes linked to housing growth around Kirkliston.

Decision

To approve the proposal to establish an annexe to Kirkliston Primary School at Kirkliston Leisure Centre.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted).

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Staniforth declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of Edinburgh Leisure.

15. Renewal of NHS Service Level Agreements

Approval was sought for the extension of nine months funding arrangements to the value of £107,000 for NHS services supporting Looked After Children and Young People and the extension of nine months funding arrangements to the value of £877,615 for NHS Therapy Inclusion Partnership and NHS Speech and Language Therapy services in mainstream and special schools' provisions.

Decision

To approve the extension of Service Level Agreement contracts for children's services with the NHS, to the value of £984,615, listed at Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, from 1 July 2020.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted).

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Gordon declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Non-Executive Director of NHS Lothian and did not take part in consideration of this item.

16. Temporary Accommodation – Off Contract Waiver Report

Approval was sought for the use of spot contract accommodation to supplement the Council's accommodation contracts which was critical to the Council's delivery of temporary accommodation, to homeless individuals and families, as and when required with providers which would allow the Council to meet its statutory obligations to homeless families whilst responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Committee had agreed to consider the content of the appendix in private due to it containing commercially sensitive information.

Decision

To agree to enter into spot contracts for temporary accommodation comprised of flats, bed and breakfasts and tourist hotels from the providers listed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, on a spot purchase basis for the period to 31 March 2021, to supplement the current contracted provision of accommodation.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director for Communities and Families, submitted).

17 Schools Re-opening - Motion by Councillor Burgess

The following motion by Councillor Day was submitted in terms of Standing Order 14:

“Committee:

Welcomes planning by the Council for the reopening of schools on 12 August;

Understands the significant challenges for the council in reopening schools including the requirement to maintain social distancing, maintaining good hygiene, providing school transport and staff availability;

However, recognises the concern from parents about the current plan, as communicated to them, for children and young people to spend only one-third of a four-day week in school;

Further recognises the likely equalities impact on children whose parents are struggling to provide much home learning;

Notes the statement by Scottish Government Education Secretary, that he will consider council plans for returning to school;

Therefore agrees that:

- 1) Every possible measure will be explored to maximise teaching time spent in schools - for example, recruitment of more teaching staff including using teaching assistants, requisition of additional teaching space, outdoor learning and online lessons by teachers;
- 2) That plans requiring additional expenditure by the Council be costed and communicated to the Scottish Government Education secretary;

- 3) That Council plans should include the ability to quickly respond to further changes in Scottish Government guidance on social distancing in order to be able to maximise time in school;

And that a report will be provided to the meeting of City of Edinburgh Council on 30 June 2020.”

Decision

To note that Councillor Burgess had withdrawn his motion.

18 Back to School - Motion by Councillor Laidlaw

The following motion by Councillor Laidlaw was submitted in terms of Standing Order 14:

“Committee:

- 1) Recognises the significant efforts of teaching staff and Council officers for their work to date in supporting at home learning during the lockdown period, and for the work-to-date in planning for schools to re-open on 11 August 2020, but notes that at-home learning provision has varied significantly from school-to-school and that a number of limitations of technology delivered learning have been identified.
- 2) Notes initial plans are for a ‘blended’ learning model, combining at-home and classroom learning with 33% of pupils to be in-school time at one time and with closure of schools on Fridays; and that this means, in practice pupils, attending schools for not much more than a day a week.
- 3) Recognises the potential negative impact on those without adequate at home learning resources and the likelihood this will have on increasing the poverty related attainment gap as well as the pressure such a model puts on parents who have returned to the workplace and those who are trying to work from home.
- 4) Instructs a report from the Executive Director for Communities and Families in one cycle on how classroom time can be increased for the return to school in August, noting this is a key element of the Council’s response to the Coronavirus epidemic.

The report should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a) Providing detail on how at-home learning will be delivered through technology and physical resources to allow parents and schools a greater understanding of what resources they may require and how CEC can support their delivery e.g. video delivery for at-home pupils, virtual tutorials and tailored support, utilisation of chat functions etc.
- b) Cost and feasibility of utilising under-capacity schools, and repurposing other Council and Edinburgh Partnership buildings to support additional classes and establishing the teaching resource required.

- c) Expanding the time school buildings are available for students to learn; including opening on Fridays and extending the school day, to include not only teaching time but supervised individual study.
- d) Offering secondments to any qualified teachers to support school learning that are currently employed by the Council but are not working as teachers.
- e) Inviting volunteers from qualified individuals, including teachers who have left the profession, those with other UK or international qualifications and those close to completing their teaching qualifications, to assist in supporting learning.
- f) Establishing the increase in classroom time that could be delivered if social distancing was reduced to 1.5m or 1m.
- g) Determining what additional hygiene measures may reduce contagion in the school environment, e.g. provision of sanitizer on entry/exit of classrooms, mandatory handwashing, mandatory wearing of face-masks etc.
- h) Proportion of City of Edinburgh teaching and support staff falling into the shielding category or living in shielding households.”

Decision

To note that Councillor Laidlaw had withdrawn his motion.

19 Blended School Proposals and Maximising Classroom Time - Motion by Councillor Young

The following motion by Councillor Young was submitted in terms of Standing Order 14:

“Committee recognises the extraordinary circumstances in which teachers, pupils and parents have been operating a unique home school structure over the last three months. This has required teachers to work under extremely challenging conditions to create relevant, attainable and accessible learning, which can be delivered by parents who themselves may also be supporting other children or family members, and while sustaining a ‘work from home’ for their own employment.

Committee commends the staff across our school estate and the dedication shown by parents to sustain their children’s learning.

Committee also recognises the huge challenges being faced by council officers, especially given current social distancing requirements, and the limited excess capacity in many schools, and commends their efforts to find a workable solution.

However, committee also recognises the significant criticism from parents and from members of the Scottish Parliament, on the council’s proposals for 33% in-school attendance, relative to other proposals in other Scottish local authorities. Should the 2m social distancing guidelines continue then creative thinking is required to maximise classroom time – both for the sustained benefit to children’s education, and to support working families who are at risk of losing their jobs if they are unable to return to work for significant periods.

Committee therefore agrees:

- 1) To instruct officers to develop proposals to open up appropriate community centres, church halls and other safe spaces to provide extra classroom capacity.
- 2) To instruct the Council Leader to write to the Scottish Government requesting new funding which would allow additional qualified teachers to be recruited to provide further capacity across the city and also to fund extra classroom capacity.
- 3) To support and facilitate, when national health and scientific advice allows, families of children from the same class to share childcare and allow more parents to work.
- 4) To explore school partnerships/hubs in locality areas in order to share capacity and stop any geographical 'lottery' on the teaching of our children due to individual school excess capacity.
- 5) To call on the Scottish Government to amend national movement restrictions and associated guidance, when it is considered safe to do so, in order to allow close family members to help with childcare and home learning."

Decision

To note that Councillor Young had withdrawn her motion.

20 Rural Roads Speed Review (Spaces for People) - Motion by Councillor Webber

The following motion by Councillor Webber was submitted in terms of Standing Order 14:

“Committee:

- 1) Recognises that across the suburban parts of the city the rural road network plays a pivotal role in connecting communities and in the working life of the many farms that we are fortunate to have within our city boundary. As such we should not close these routes to vehicular traffic.
- 2) Recognises that many adjacent arterial routes have speed restrictions with limits ranging from 30mph to 50mph. These roads are often wider with better visibility offering relative increased safety for all road users.
- 3) Recognises that, right now, many rural roads are experiencing higher use from both pedestrians and cyclists.
- 4) Recognises that many Community Councils and local groups have submitted requests to reduce the speeds on specific rural roads to make walking safer through the “Safe Spaces for People” website but that as yet, none of these have progressed beyond submission.
- 5) Requests a report in one cycle outlining progress on the temporary review of speed limits on the identified rural roads as part of the “Safe Spaces for People”

initiative within the city boundary where the current restriction is the national speed limit and seeks to accelerate temporary implementation plans”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Webber

- moved by Councillor Webber, seconded by Councillor Hutchison

Amendment

1) To adjust Paragraph 1) of the motion by Councillor Webber to read;

“Recognises that across the rural parts of the city the rural road network plays a pivotal role in connecting communities and in the working life of the many farms that we are fortunate to have within our city boundary. As such, if restrictions are required it should be noted that farm traffic requires consideration when decisions are taken.”

2) To adjust Paragraph 5) of the motion to read:

“Requests a briefing outlining progress on the temporary review of speed limits on the identified rural roads as part of the “Spaces for People” initiative and seeks to accelerate all speed limit implementation plans.”.

- moved by Councillor Staniforth, seconded by Councillor Main

In accordance with Standing Order 19(12), the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Webber:

- 1) To recognise that across the rural parts of the city the rural road network played a pivotal role in connecting communities and in the working life of the many farms that we were fortunate to have within our city boundary. As such, if restrictions were required, that these wider implications be considered when decisions were taken.
- 2) To recognise that many adjacent arterial routes had speed restrictions with limits ranging from 30mph to 50mph. These roads were often wider with better visibility offering relative increased safety for all road users.
- 3) To recognise that, right now, many rural roads were experiencing higher use from both pedestrians and cyclists.
- 4) To recognise that many Community Councils and local groups had submitted requests to reduce the speeds on specific rural roads to make walking safer through the “Safe Spaces for People” website but that as yet, none of these had progressed beyond submission.
- 5) To request a briefing outlining progress on the temporary review of speed limits on the identified rural roads as part of the “Spaces for People” initiative and seek to accelerate all speed limit implementation plans.

21 Provision of Land Stabilisation Works at Dean Path Slope

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 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

Approval was sought for a direct award of contract via a waiver of the Council's Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) for the provision of land stabilisation works to sloped land along and above the Water of Leith Walkway, near Dean Village.

Decision

Detailed in the Confidential Schedule, signed by the Convener, with reference to this minute.