Business Bulletin

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 4 May 2021

Teams Meeting

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
Councillor Joanna Mowat	Councillor Eleanor Bird Councillor Jim Campbell Councillor Maureen Child Councillor Phil Doggart Councillor Gillian Gloyer Councillor Alex Staniforth Councillor Denis Dixon Councillor Gordon Munro Councillor Susan Rae Councillor Norman Work	Natalie Le Couteur Committee Officer 0131 529 6160 Martin Scott Assistant Committee Officer 0131 529 4237

Recent news

Diary Management Update

In terms of diary management, it is accepted that Council staff and Elected Members may wish to include private appointments in their work calendar to manage professional and personal commitments. If an outlook calendar is used in this way, individuals should always be aware that the Council (as the network provider) will have access to that information, as set out in the ICT Acceptable Use Policy.

In addition, users should be aware that colleagues may also be able to view the content of an individual's calendar, depending on access permissions.

Users can in theory set their entire calendar to 'Private' to prevent access to calendar content; however, they should be aware that this may reduce the effectiveness of diary management as other colleagues will not be able to see work appointments.

Alternatively, users can choose to make individual appointments "private", so that other colleagues can see that the time is not available, although cannot see the details of the appointment or meeting. This may be the preferable option, bearing in mind that the purpose of the diary function is, in part, diary management with colleagues.

When describing meetings and appointments, whether private or professional, individuals should always be mindful of the permissions and access they have granted to their calendar, and think carefully about the level of detail they wish to include in the appointment details. This is particularly relevant when the nature of a meeting is personal and private to those involved. For example, Elected Members as data controllers in their own right in respect of constituency information are responsible for ensuring that that data is not shared unnecessarily with others.

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Summary of Policy Update - Issue 29

This is a summary of the Policy Update reflecting activity of interest to the GRBV Committee between 1 March 2021 to 31 March 2021.

You can read the update in full and previous issues on the Orb by following this link: https://orb.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/11220/council_monthly_policy_and_engagement_updates

From the Council

Education, Children and Families Committee
(2 March) –

- Reviewed a report into allegations of racism in schools
- Noted the development, progress and challenges of delivering community-based adult learning during lockdown.

Finance and Resources Committee
(4 March) –

- Noted the annual report of the Sustainable Capital Strategy 2021-31, the Annual Treasury Management Strategy 2021-22, and the findings of the 2020 health and safety performance report.

Planning Committee
(10 March) –

- Reviewed progress of the Proposed Plan Stage and Development Plan Stage of City Plan 2030.

City of Edinburgh Council
(11 March) –

- Noted a review of political management arrangements.
- Considered the Sustainable Capital Strategy 2021-31 and the Annual Treasury Management Strategy 2021-22 reports referred by Finance and Resources Committee.

Culture and Communities Committee
(16 March) –

- Considered revisions to Locality Improvement Plans and changes to the Community Councillor Complaints Procedure.
- Noted progress on developing trauma informed services.

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee
(18 March) –

- Reviewed an update on the impact of a one-year rent freeze on the 2021-22 revenue budget.

- Considered the process for determining the Council's vote(s) in a [Business Improvement District (BID) Ballot](#).

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee
(23 March) –

- Noted the latest [whistleblowing update](#), the [Whistleblowing Annual Report 2020](#), and the status of the [Change Portfolio](#) of significant projects.
- Reviewed the [Annual Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22](#) referred from the City of Edinburgh Council on 11 March.
- Scrutinised the [Internal Audit Annual Plan 2021-22](#), the [Internal Audit Charter Annual Update 2021/22](#), and the [External Audit Plan 2020/21](#).

From the Scottish Parliament

Note – The Scottish Parliament commenced its pre-election phase on 25 March. The election will be on 6 May and the first meeting of the next session of the Parliament is scheduled to take place on 13 May 2021.

Bills completing a Legislative Stage:

[Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill](#) – Stage 3 (17 March)

[European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill](#) – Stage 3 (23 March)

[Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill](#) – Stage 3 (11 March)

[Redress for Survivors (Historical Child Abuse in Care) (Scotland) Bill](#) – Stage 3 (11 March)

[United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill](#) – Stage 3 (16 March)

Publications:

Recent papers cover, [health inequality and Covid-19](#), and [key milestones of Covid-19 in Scotland](#). A series of reports on climate change and sustainability also looked at [blue carbon](#), [Scottish woodland creation](#), and the Scottish Government's [Infrastructure Investment Plan](#).

From the Scottish Government

Note – From 25 March, the Scottish Government will not publish any consultations, strategies or plans until after the election on 6 May. Further information on this can be read [here](#).

Consultations:

[Local Place Plan Regulations](#) (opened 15 March, closes 25 June) – a consultation relating to the preparation, content, submission and registration of Local Place Plans. Introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, these are community-led plans providing proposals for the development and use of land.

[Draft Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products and Oxo-degradable Plastic Products) (Scotland) Regulations 2021](#) (opened 17 March, closes 13 April) – seeking views and comments from stakeholders and the general public on a discussion paper setting out the draft regulations.

Regulation of Child Contact Centre Services (opened 22 March, closes 12 July) – a consultation seeking views to inform the development of the regulation of child contact centres following the Children (Scotland) Act 2020.

Publications:

Housing to 2040 (15 March) – a vision and route map to deliver an ambition for everyone to have a safe, good quality and affordable home that meets their needs in the place they want to be by 2040.

A Scotland for the future: opportunities and challenges of Scotland's changing population (15 March) – the first national population strategy setting out a programme of work at national and local level.

Homelessness and Universal Credit: research report (17 March) – qualitative and quantitative analyses exploring links between various features of Universal Credit and homelessness.

Nature-based early learning and childcare – influence on children's health, wellbeing and development: literature review (17 March) – a review of global evidence examining the extent to which nature-based early learning and childcare (ELC) influences young children's physical, cognitive, and social and emotional development.

Systems of local governance and how citizens participate: international review (18 March) – a report exploring citizen participation in local governance systems in seven case studies from around the world.

Public sector – understanding equality data collection (22 March) – research exploring the range of equality and socio-economic disadvantage data collected by public sector organisations.

Local Place Plans: literature review and final report (22 March) – setting out the evidence for the development of a draft 'how to' guide for the preparation of community-led local place plans.

Social Renewal Advisory Board: our response (23 March) – the Scottish Government's initial response to the Social Renewal Advisory Board's report 'If not now, when?'.

Planning Policy – Section 3F: research (23 March) – a report informing the development of policy to propose reasonable levels of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions reduction that can be expected from use of low and zero carbon generating technologies in new buildings.

Inclusive growth through social enterprise: Scotland's Social Enterprise Action Plan 2021-2024 (24 March) – a three-year action plan to create new ethical and socially responsible businesses in Scotland.

Funding of local government 2021 to 2022 (24 March) – an overview of the process to determine the local government finance settlement for 2021 to 2022.

Health and social care for older people: statement of intent (24 March) – setting out the Scottish Government's approach to health and social care for older people.

Learning/Intellectual Disability and Autism Towards Transformation (24 March) – a transformation plan to ensure that progress is made in transforming Scotland for autistic people and people with learning/intellectual disabilities.

[Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2017-20](#) (24 March) – a statistical report covering child poverty, pensioner poverty, poverty for equality groups, and income inequality.

[Persistent poverty in Scotland 2010 to 2019](#) (24 March) – estimates of the proportion of people living in persistent poverty in Scotland between 2010 and 2019.

[Children's social work statistics: 2019 to 2020](#) (24 March) – statistical data from local authorities and secure units on children and young people, who were: formally looked after; under child protection measures; or in secure care at some point between 1 August 2019 and 31 July 2020.

From other Agencies

Audit Scotland

[Improving outcomes for young people through school education](#) (23 March) – a report highlighting that progress on closing the poverty-related attainment gap between the most and least deprived school pupils has been limited. It also calls for more evidence to understand educational achievement beyond exams.

COSLA

[Response to Social Renewal Advisory Board](#) (26 March) – a response to the Social Renewal Advisory Board's report 'If not now, when?'.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

[Evaluating the socio-economic duty in Scotland and Wales](#) (2 March) – a report examining how 24 public bodies in Scotland and Wales are implementing, or preparing to implement the socio-economic duty, which is part of the Equality Act 2010.

Improvement Service

[Participatory Democracy and the Role of Elected Members](#) (23 March) – a review of participatory democracy as part of the Thought Leadership Series including contributions from academics and local government.

Scottish Housing Regulator

[Framework Agreement](#) (30 March) – setting out the terms of an agreement between the Scottish Housing Regulator and Scottish Ministers, in relation to the governance, financing and operation of the functions of the Regulator.

If you have any questions please email strategyandinsight@edinburgh.gov.uk

Forthcoming activities:

None.