

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday 7 June 2022

Present

Councillors Day (Convener), Aston (substituting for Councillor Campbell), Bandel, Beal, Biagi, Burgess, Dijkstra-Downie, Duggart, Griffiths, Lang, Macinnes, McVey, Meagher, Miller, Frank Ross, Watt and Whyte.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Policy and Sustainability Committee of 29 March 2022 as a correct record.

2. Policy and Sustainability Committee Work Programme

The Policy and Sustainability Committee Work Programme for 7 June 2022 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To ask the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services to confirm the date for the submission of the report in respect of item 22 on the Work Programme – End Poverty in Edinburgh Delivery Plan 2020-30.
- 2) To otherwise note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme 9 June 2022, 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 clarify the dates for submission of the reports in respect of the following actions:
 - Action 1 –** Business Case for the Management Transfer of Secondary School Sports Facilities to Edinburgh Leisure – Progress Report
 - Action 2 –** City of Edinburgh Council – Motion by Councillor Main – Recycling in Schools

Action 6 – Update on the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Older People Joint Inspection Improvement Plan

Action 8 – City of Edinburgh Council - Barriers to Elected Office – Motion by Councillor Main

Action 10 - Petition for Consideration – Twinning Edinburgh with Gaza City

2) To ask the Chief Officer, Edinburgh and Health and Social Care Partnership to advise members on why Action 5 (update on the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Older People Joint Inspection Improvement Plan) had been deferred from the June 2022 meeting to August 2022.

3) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4. Future Policy Agenda – Presentation by the Chief Executive

The Convener ruled that Standing Order 22.15 be waived to allow discussions beyond the 40-minute time limit.

The Chief Executive set out the policy agenda for both national and local levels which the Council would be facing over the next few years. There were strategic challenges for the city which included the cost of living crisis, increased risk of severe poverty, increased demand for core services, transition to net zero and a challenging economic outlook.

The Council's current business plan included 3 main priorities which were:

- To end poverty by 2030
- Wellbeing and Equalities
- A sustainable and Net Zero City

The presentation covered the forward look for Council Policy which had taken into account a number of issues including local political priorities, key ongoing strategic and legislative duties and continuing service improvement and financial planning programmes and included new Scottish Government policy, legislation and regulations which would arise.

In conclusion the Chief Executive stressed that there would be significant city-wide strategic challenges, an ambitious programme of local and national policies to deliver and a challenging financial environment.

Motion

To note the presentation by the Chief Executive.

- moved by Councillor Day, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) Notes the verbal update by the Chief Executive.
- 2) Notes the Council is still working to a business plan which prioritises action on climate change and tackling poverty and inequality.

- 3) Further notes that residents face increasing difficulties as a result of a cost of living crisis, driven by significant inflation and failure of regulators and the UK Government to act to constrain profits of energy producers increasing prices to unacceptable and damaging levels.
- 4) Further notes the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change emphasising the need for urgent deep cuts to carbon emissions to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.
- 5) Agrees that in the resource planning in the lead up to the budget and in drawing up all plans, officers will outline options for further prioritising resources and officer capacity needed to progress action to tackle poverty and inequality.
- 6) Agrees that in the resource planning in the lead up to the budget and in drawing up all plans, officers will outline options for further prioritising resources and officer capacity needed to progress action on the climate emergency.
- 7) Requests a report within 1 cycle on the delivery of specific resources allocated in the 22/23 budget of poverty and inequality reduction measures.
- 8) Requests a report within 1 cycle on the delivery of specific resources allocated in the 22/23 budget of climate emergency measures.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Burgess

Amendment 2

To agree that in the resource planning in the lead up to the budget the Council will make the case for increased funding from the Scottish Government for a growing City that is amongst the lowest funded per head in Scotland, and in drawing up all plans, officers will outline options for prioritising officer capacity needed to ensure we “get the basics right” and ensure everyday council services are delivered better: fixing roads, potholes, the bins.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Doggart

In accordance with Standing Order (22)12, Amendments 1 and 2 were adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Day:

- 1) To note the presentation by the Chief Executive.
- 2) To note that the Council was still working to a business plan which prioritised action on climate change and tackling poverty and inequality.
- 3) To further note that residents faced increasing difficulties as a result of a cost of living crisis, driven by significant inflation and failure of regulators and the UK and Scottish Governments to act to constrain profits of energy producers increasing prices to unacceptable and damaging levels.

- 4) To further note the most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change emphasising the need for urgent deep cuts to carbon emissions to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.
- 5) To agree that in the resource planning in the lead up to the budget and in drawing up all plans, officers would outline options for further prioritising resources and officer capacity needed to progress action to tackle poverty and inequality.
- 6) To agree that in the resource planning in the lead up to the budget and in drawing up all plans, officers would outline options for further prioritising resources and officer capacity needed to progress action on the climate emergency.
- 7) to request a report within 1 cycle on the delivery of specific resources allocated in the 22/23 budget of poverty and inequality reduction measures.
- 8) To request a report within 1 cycle on the delivery of specific resources allocated in the 22/23 budget of climate emergency measures.
- 9) To agree that in the resource planning in the lead up to the budget the Council would support CoSLA to make the case for increased funding from the Scottish and UK Governments for a growing City that was amongst the lowest funded per head in Scotland, and in drawing up all plans, officers would outline options for prioritising officer capacity needed to ensure we “get the basics right” and ensure everyday council services were delivered better: fixing roads, potholes, the bins.