

Housing and Economy Committee

10.00am, Thursday 6 June 2019

Present

Councillors Kate Campbell (Convener), Watt (Vice-Convener), Booth (substituting for Councillor Rae), Jim Campbell, Doggart (substituting for Councillor Rose), Key, Lang, McLellan, Miller, Munro and Work.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Housing and Economy Committee of 21 March 2019 as a correct record.

2. Work Programme

The Housing and Economy Committee Work Programme for the period June to August 2019 was presented.

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme, submitted)

3. Housing and Economy Rolling Actions Log

The Housing and Economy Committee Rolling Actions Log for June 2019 was presented.

Decision

1) To agree to close the following actions:

- Action 1 – Old Town Business Improvement District
- Action 4(1) – Marketing Edinburgh Service Level Agreement
- Action 8(3) – Promoting Play on Housing Revenue Account Land – ‘No Ball Games’ Signs
- Action 10 – Sheltered Housing Liaison Group – Deputation
- Action 11 – Marketing Edinburgh Service Level Agreement
- Action 12(2) – Planning for Universal Credit Full Services
- Action 16 - Motion by Councillor Cameron – COMAS and Social Enterprise

- Action 18 – Business Bulletin
 - Action 19 – Homelessness Task Force – Update
 - Action 22(1) – Improved Access to Edinburgh Airport
 - Action 27(2 & 3) – Edinburgh Tourism Strategy Update Report
- 2) To add an expected completion date to those outstanding actions marked as “ongoing”.
 - 3) To add an expected completion date to Action 22(2) – Improved Access to Edinburgh Airport
 - 4) To update the rolling Actions Log to reflect updates and decisions taken at this meeting.
 - 5) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted)

4. Housing and Economy Business Bulletin

The Housing and Economy Committee Business Bulletin for June 2019 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To agree to quarterly briefings on the City Region Deal meetings, on the issues progressed that were relevant to the Housing and Economy Committee.
- 3) To agree to share with the Committee the response to the call for evidence provided by the Council.
- 4) To agree that the report on the MIPIM event would include tangible KPIs and outcomes.
- 5) To agree that future feedback reports on MIPIM would be brought to Committee as early as possible after the event had taken place.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, submitted)

5. Edinburgh Economy Strategy – Annual Progress Report

In June 2018 the Housing and Economy Committee approved the Edinburgh Economy Strategy and a five-year programme of work to enable good growth for Edinburgh’s economy.

Details were provided of the progress made towards delivery of the Edinburgh Economy Strategy during the first full year. The progress made against each of the eight steps for good growth outlined in the strategy was detailed and a series of recommendations were provided for priority action and delivery by the Council and partners during year two of strategy implementation in 2019/20.

Motion

- 1) To note the progress made towards delivery of the Edinburgh Economy Strategy during 2018/19.

- 2) To approve the priorities for delivery during 2019/20.
 - 3) To note the decision of this Council to declare a climate emergency and the subsequent decision at Corporate Policy & Strategy Committee to set a climate target for 2030.
 - 4) To call for research and analysis on the current economy and the economic challenges for Edinburgh as a result of this target.
 - 5) To agree that this research and analysis would inform a review of the Edinburgh Economy Strategy in order to develop an outcome based strategy for Edinburgh to meet these commitments, taking into account jobs that would emerge from the need to meet the net zero carbon target, sectoral analysis of carbon footprint and the support, collaboration and leadership that the council would need to provide to move us towards a more sustainable economy.
- moved by Councillor Kate Campbell, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the progress made towards delivery of the Edinburgh Economy Strategy during 2018/19.
 - 2) To approve the priorities for delivery during 2019/20.
 - 3) To agree that the recruitment of members of the Economic Advisory Panel should be undertaken as proposed in the report, but that the final membership of the panel should be subject to approval by the Housing and Economy Committee within one cycle.
- moved by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Jim Campbell

Amendment 2

- 1) To note the progress made towards delivery of the Edinburgh Economy Strategy during 2018/19.
 - 2) To approve the priorities for delivery during 2019/20.
 - 3) To note the decision of this Council to declare a climate emergency and the subsequent decision at Corporate Policy & Strategy Committee to set a climate target for 2030.
 - 4) To call for research and analysis on the current economy and the economic challenges for Edinburgh as a result of this target.
 - 5) To agree that this research and analysis would inform a review of the Edinburgh Economy Strategy in order to develop a Green New Deal for Edinburgh, which would provide a strategy for a resilient and zero-carbon economy, including a just transition plan to ensure jobs and employment are protected and improved.
- moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Booth

In terms of Standing Order 21.11, Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the motion by Councillor Kate Campbell.

Voting

For the motion - 9 votes

For the amendment - 2 votes

(For the motion – Councillors Jim Campbell, Kate Campbell, Doggart, Key, Lang, McLellan, Munro, Watt and Work.

For the amendment – Councillors Booth and Miller.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Kate Campbell:

- 1) To note the progress made towards delivery of the Edinburgh Economy Strategy during 2018/19.
- 2) To approve the priorities for delivery during 2019/20.
- 3) To note the decision of this Council to declare a climate emergency and the subsequent decision at Corporate Policy & Strategy Committee to set a climate target for 2030.
- 4) To call for research and analysis on the current economy and the economic challenges for Edinburgh as a result of this target.
- 5) To agree that this research and analysis would inform a review of the Edinburgh Economy Strategy in order to develop an outcome based strategy for Edinburgh to meet these commitments, taking into account jobs that would emerge from the need to meet the net zero carbon target, sectoral analysis of carbon footprint and the support, collaboration and leadership that the council would need to provide to move us towards a more sustainable economy.
- 6) To agree that the recruitment of members of the Economic Advisory Panel should be undertaken as proposed in the report, but that the final membership of the panel should be subject to approval by the Housing and Economy Committee within one cycle.

(Reference – Housing and Economy Committee, 7 June 2018 (item 8); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

6. Mixed Tenure Improvement Strategy Update

The Housing and Economy Committee had previously considered the Housing Service's Mixed Tenure Improvement Strategy. The Strategy set out options to develop the Council's Scheme of Assistance to support home-owners maintain and repair their property in mixed tenure blocks where the Council was also an owner.

An update was provided on the Scheme of Assistance and the development of the mixed tenure service team.

Decision

- 1) To note the update.

- 2) To agree to receive an update report in January 2020.

(Reference – Housing and Economy Committee, 24 January 2019 (item 6); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

7. Later Living Housing

In response to a motion by Councillor Jim Campbell agreed by the City of Edinburgh Council on 13 December 2018, an update was provided on barriers and opportunities for people who needed or wished to move to housing that met their needs in later life.

Findings were drawn on from across Scotland which highlighted common themes in relation to housing for older people. The limited availability of accessible and easily adaptable homes in the private sector was identified.

The commitment from the affordable housing sector that 4,500 of the 20,000 new affordable homes planned in the city over the next 10 years would support Health and Social Care priorities was outlined in the Housing Contribution Statement that supported the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board Draft Strategic Plan 2019/22.

Housing and health and social care partners would continue to work together to ensure that homes were meeting identified need across the city and integrating with services at a local level.

Motion

- 1) To discharge the motion on Later Living Housing by Councillor Jim Campbell agreed by the City of Edinburgh Council on 13 December 2018.
 - 2) To note that housing and health and social care partners would continue to work together to deliver better outcomes for older people including addressing the need for suitable housing and integrated services.
- moved by Councillor Kate Campbell, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To discharge the motion on Later Living Housing by Councillor Jim Campbell agreed by the City of Edinburgh Council on 13 December 2018.
 - 2) To note that housing and health and social care partners would continue to work together to deliver better outcomes for older people including addressing the need for suitable housing and integrated services.
 - 3) To ask Council officers to promote the opportunities identified in this report across all tenures on the supply side and raise awareness on the demand side.
- moved by Councillor Jim Campbell, seconded by Councillor McLellan

In terms of Standing Order 21.11, the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion by Councillor Kate Campbell.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Kate Campbell:

- 1) To discharge the motion on Later Living Housing by Councillor Jim Campbell agreed by the City of Edinburgh Council on 13 December 2018.
- 2) To note that housing and health and social care partners would continue to work together to deliver better outcomes for older people including addressing the need for suitable housing and integrated services.
- 3) To ask Council officers to promote the opportunities identified in this report across all tenures on the supply side and raise awareness on the demand side.

(Reference – Act of Council No 10 of 13 December 2018; Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, 29 March 2019 (item 6); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

8. The EDI Group – update report

An update was provided on the progress of the transition strategy for the EDI Group Limited (EDI) which aimed to close EDI and its subsidiary companies and bring their projects and assets into the Council.

Decision

To note the report.

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

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Kate Campbell declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Director of EDI.

9. Commercial Needs Studies

The Council commissioned a commercial needs study covering four commercial property markets in Edinburgh – industrial; office; retail and leisure; and visitor accommodation – to inform City Plan 2030 and other relevant Council policies and strategies.

The key findings of the four studies were summarised and potential Council interventions in response were set out.

Decision

- 1) To note the findings of the commercial needs study reports.
- 2) To agree to circulate the links to full documents set out in the report to all Councillors to allow discussion to be fed back to members of the Cross-Party Leadership Forum.

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

10. Housing Service Improvement Plan: Update

An update was provided on the planned improvements to the Housing Service. The approach to redesigning the Housing Service with a specific focus on developing more effective and responsive services to customers was outlined which would complement the significant planned investment in tenants' homes and estates.

The plan focused on taking forward six improvement workstreams in 2019/20 prioritising service improvements in repairs and maintenance alongside rent collection, lettings, estate management, housing quality and housebuilding. The measures set out in the improvement plan aimed to significantly improve customer satisfaction, operating performance and reduce costs.

Decision

- 1) To agree to prioritise the improvement workstreams for 2019/20 set out at paragraph 4.22 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To note that an update on the longer-term approach to service redesign and the three-year plan to support this would be reported to Committee in August 2019.

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

11. Marketing Edinburgh Update

Marketing Edinburgh was an arm's length company of the Council whose stated mission was to promote the city to visitors, tourists and investors.

An update was provided on the annual performance of Marketing Edinburgh for the year 2018/19, including a final update on key performance indicators (KPIs) within the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Council in 2018/19.

Progress was also reported on the development of a new business plan for Marketing Edinburgh recognising the importance of convention and film to the city as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

Decision

- 1) To note the annual performance update from Marketing Edinburgh as detailed in appendix 1.
- 2) To note the progress update and timetable for the development of a new business plan for Marketing Edinburgh including the recognition of the importance of convention and film to the city.
- 3) To note that a progress update would be included in the August Business Bulletin with a detailed implementation plan for the future of Marketing Edinburgh being presented to the Committee on 31 October to ensure plans were firmly in place in advance of 1 April 2020.
- 4) To note that the performance update included in this report would also be reported to Governance Risk and Best Value Committee in August 2019.

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

12. Town Centre Fund – Allocations Report

The Council had been awarded £2.613m from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Fund. This was capital funding that could be used to enhance town centres and was required to be spent in 2019/20 with work commencing or contracts signed.

Approval was sought on the proposed final allocations of the Town Centre Fund.

Motion

- 1) To agree the proposed allocations of the Town Centre Fund as follows:
 - i) South Queensferry public realm – £1.000m.
 - ii) Granton Station – £1.013m.
 - iii) Westside Plaza phase two – £0.400m.
 - iv) Pennywell Culture and Learning Hub – £0.200m.
 - v) Total for above projects – £2.613m.
 - 2) To agree that Locality Managers considered other suitable projects which would fit with the Council's strategic objectives and would benefit town centres, particularly those in areas of most need. These projects would be considered should funds become available in the future.
 - 3) To agree that, should any of the supported projects not fully spend their allocation during 2019/20, surplus funds should be reallocated among the other projects at the discretion of the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the appropriate Convenor and Vice Convenor.
 - 4) To recommend the Finance and Resources Committee of August 2019 release funds from Albion Equity Ltd shares, to the Corstorphine Community centre project, and call for a further report to the most appropriate Executive Committee before the end of August 2019, on how any additional requirements beyond this amount could be found to enable the project to proceed, either as match funding or Council resources.
 - 5) To agree that progress updates were provided in the Business Bulletins from 31 October 2019 and that a report would be brought back at the first Committee after the end of the financial year setting out project progress and outcomes as appropriate.
- moved by Councillor Kate Campbell, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To agree the proposed allocations of the Town Centre Fund as follows:
 - i) South Queensferry public realm – £1.000m.
 - ii) Granton Station – £1.013m.
 - iii) Westside Plaza phase two – £0.400m.
 - iv) Pennywell Culture and Learning Hub – £0.200m.
 - v) Total for above projects – £2.613m.

- 2) To agree that Locality Managers considered other suitable projects which would fit with the Council's strategic objectives and would benefit town centres, particularly those in areas of most need. These projects would be considered should funds become available in the future.
- 3) To agree that, should any of the supported projects not fully spend their allocation during 2019/20, surplus funds should be reallocated among the other projects at the discretion of the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the appropriate Convener and Vice Convener.
- 4) To note that the funds were likely to be generated from the shares to be redeemed from Albion Equity Ltd and that this could be allocated to the Corstorphine Community Centre and that officers were asked to engage with the Corstorphine Community Centre to identify the funding necessary to complete the project.
- 5) To agree that progress updates were provided in the Business Bulletins from 31 October 2019 and that a report would be brought back at the first Committee after the end of the financial year setting out project progress and outcomes as appropriate.
- 6) To call for a town centre investment strategic statement to enable future decision making.

- moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Booth

In terms of Standing Order 21.11, the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion by Councillor Kate Campbell.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Kate Campbell:

- 1) To agree the proposed allocations of the Town Centre Fund as follows:
 - i) South Queensferry public realm – £1.000m.
 - ii) Granton Station – £1.013m.
 - iii) Westside Plaza phase two – £0.400m.
 - iv) Pennywell Culture and Learning Hub – £0.200m.
 - v) Total for above projects – £2.613m.
- 2) To agree that Locality Managers considered other suitable projects which would fit with the Council's strategic objectives and would benefit town centres, particularly those in areas of most need. These projects would be considered should funds become available in the future.
- 3) To agree that, should any of the supported projects not fully spend their allocation during 2019/20, surplus funds should be reallocated among the other projects at the discretion of the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the appropriate Convener and Vice Convener.

- 4) To recommend the Finance and Resources Committee of August 2019 release funds from Albion Equity Ltd shares, to the Corstorphine Community Centre project, and call for a further report to the most appropriate Executive Committee before the end of August 2019, on how any additional requirements beyond this amount could be found to enable the project to proceed, either as match funding or council resources.
- 5) To agree that progress updates were provided in the Business Bulletins from 31 October 2019 and that a report would be brought back at the first Committee after the end of the financial year setting out project progress and outcomes as appropriate.
- 6) To call for a town centre investment strategic statement to enable future decision making.

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

13. Appointments to Working Groups 2019/2020

The Housing and Economy Committee was required to annually re-appoint the membership of its working groups. The proposed membership structures and remits of each were detailed in appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

Decision

- 1) To agree the remits of the working groups set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.
- 2) To replace Councillor Day with Councillor Watt on the Homelessness Forum as set out in Appendix One.
- 3) To replace Councillor Day with Councillor Watt on the Homelessness Task Force as set out in Appendix Two.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

14. Granton Waterfront Regeneration – update – referral from the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

On 14 May 2019 the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee received an update on the Granton Waterfront Regeneration covering the Development Framework, Strategic Partners, Homes Under Development and Early Action Projects.

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee had noted the update, discharged the amended motion by Councillor Mowat from Council on 7 February 2019, and referred the report to the Housing and Economy Committee for information.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Act of Council No 19 of 7 February 2019; Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, 14 May 2019 (item 21); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

15. Communal Bins in Muirhouse - Review of the Council's Approach to Waste Disposal and Bin Storage in the High Rise Blocks and Other Communal Living Arrangements in Muirhouse – referral from the Transport and Environment Committee

On 16 May 2019 the Transport and Environment Committee had considered a report by the Executive Director of Place providing an analysis of the current situation with regard to waste disposal in Muirhouse including a review of bin store positioning and layout and the use of garbage chutes.

Details were also provided of the appraisal which had been undertaken on whether a lack of bins was responsible for the current situation of overflowing bins and waste strewn bin stores, together with an action plan and timeline to improve conditions in Muirhouse with specific regard to waste disposal.

The Transport and Environment Committee had referred the report to the Housing and Economy Committee for consideration.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 16 May 2019 (item 15); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

16. Investing in Muirhouse Tower Blocks – Update – referral from the North West Locality Committee

On 28 March 2019, the North West Locality Committee had considered a report by the Executive Director of Place providing an update on ongoing repairs and investment and associated tenant and resident engagement in the Muirhouse tower blocks.

The North West Locality Committee had referred the report to the Housing and Economy Committee for information.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note that local ward members would continue to receive regular briefings with updates to Committee in the Business Bulletin as required.

(References – North West Locality Committee on 28 March 2019 (item 7); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

17. Motion by Councillor Miller – Wellbeing Measures

The following motion by Councillor Miller was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“Committee:

“Notes the benefits of measuring economic success using wellbeing and the potential synergy of wellbeing measures with this Council’s economy strategy, which is to build inclusion, innovation and collaboration in the city’s economy.

Recognises the depth of expertise on wellbeing economics in Scotland, including Wellbeing Economy Governments policy labs and the Wellbeing Economy Alliance.

Calls on officers to identify ways in which wellbeing measures can be incorporated into and strengthen the economic aims of this Council, and to make recommendations to the relevant executive committee(s).

Notes, in addition, that the City Region Deal is a key driver of the regional economy for decades ahead and, within the evaluation framework for the City Region Deal, seeks opportunities to develop wellbeing measures of economic performance where it is possible for Edinburgh to influence its regional partners.”

Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Miller.

- moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Booth

Amendment

To take no action.

- moved by Councillor McLellan, seconded by Councillor Jim Campbell

Voting

For the motion - 8 votes

For amendment - 3 votes

(For the motion – Councillors Kate Campbell, Booth, Key, Lang, Miller, Munro, Watt and Work.

For the amendment – Councillors Jim Campbell, Doggart and McLellan.)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Miller.

18. Emergency Motion by Councillor Kate Campbell – Parks and Cemeteries Homeless Evictions

The Convener ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Committee to give early consideration to the matter.

The following motion by Councillor Kate Campbell was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16:

“Committee,

Regrets that enforcement notices were issued to people rough sleeping in our parks and cemeteries.

Notes the work of the Homelessness Task Force and the clear policy direction set by both Committee and Council that our role is to support our most vulnerable citizens into accommodation and to remove barriers to accessing services.

Notes that where a criminal act has taken place Police Scotland are able to enforce the law, but that taking action against people on the basis that they are rough sleeping and don't have a home is unacceptable.

Notes the Executive Director of Place is putting together a briefing note for elected members.”

- moved by Councillor Kate Campbell, seconded by Councillor Watt

Decision

- 1) To approve the motion by Councillor Kate Campbell.
- 2) To agree that the Convener would write again to Police Scotland to emphasise cross-party support in condemning their recent actions to issue eviction notices to homeless people rough sleeping in the Council's parks and cemeteries.
- 3) To ensure the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee were briefed on this Committee's decision as leads for the Council's Service Level Agreement with Police Scotland.