

Amendment by the SNP Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.1 – Best Value Review Update

Replaces recommendations with:

1.1 regrets that more than 3 years on there are still a number of recommendations significantly behind, with still no medium to long-term financial plan being produced this council term, despite previous assurances given on timelines.

1.2.1 On section 4.7 in the report: Committee notes that instead of improving community consultation it has for the second year in a row abandoned any form of consultation with residents, staff and stakeholders on the budget, excluding the voice of communities from decisions on how their money is spent and raised.

1.2.2 Committee agrees this is unacceptable and instructs the Council Leader to apologise for this failure and instructs the Chief Executive to ensure next year's budget setting process includes community consultation.

1.3 Refers this report to the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee.

Moved by: Councillor Adam Nols-McVey

Seconded by: Councillor Lesley Macinnes

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.1 – Best Value Review Update

Adds:

1.2 Requests that the next report in 6 months time sets out a high-level action plan including target completion dates for future actions which will address each Best Value Assurance Audit Review recommendation.

Moved by: Cllr Claire Miller

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.1 – Best Value Review Update

Adds:

1.2 Committee notes with regret that over three years since the report was published, and despite the interim monitoring process, the Council:

- a) still does not have a Workforce Plan that sets out the number and types of posts and skills necessary in different roles to meet its service delivery objectives within budget alongside a transition plan to achieve this;
- b) has not yet implemented a strategic approach to self-evaluation;
- c) has not provided members with training on delivering strategic change to meet Best Value objectives;
- d) has closed actions on Community Engagement without delivering any actions to improve communication of the results and responses to consultations;
- e) has not yet ensured the Edinburgh Partnership has a clear performance and progress reporting system working to clear targets.

1.3 Committee agrees that these issues should now be considered for urgent resolution with an accelerated delivery programme, and work showing achievement of delivery of the recommendations should be reported to Committee prior to the end of June 2024.

Moved by: Cllr Iain Whyte
Seconded by: Cllr Phil Doggart

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.2 – Plant-based Treaty Action Plan

Add:

Committee asks officers to explore whether the University of Edinburgh's methodology can be used to include carbon emission information for school meal choices and other Council catering outlets, and report back on options and costs via a future business bulletin to Policy & Sustainability committee.

Further:

Asks officers to report back annually to P&S on progress made against this Action Plan and any new actions included.

Moved by: Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

Seconded by: Cllr Fiona Bennett

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.2 – Plant-Based Treaty Action Plan

Adds:

1.1.2 To celebrate Veganuary, agrees that catering at the next Full Council meeting will be plant-based as default (and Veganuary marked in this way annually thereafter, should Full Council meetings remain catered), in line with the general themes of “Awareness raising and capacity building” and “Influence and leadership” already covered in the Action Plan.

1.1.3 Agrees that this action is added to the Action Plan and monitored going forward.

Moved by: Cllr Ben Parker

Seconded by:

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Policy & Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.2 – Plant-Based Treaty Action Plan

Replace recommendations with:

1.1 Notes the Action Plan and agrees to take no further specific actions given the need for the Council to refocus actions on the priority delivery of core services public services within the limited budget available.

Moved by: Councillor Phil Doggart

Seconded by: Councillor Iain Whyte

Addendum by the SNP Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.3 – Regenerative Futures Fund

Adds to the end of 1.4:

Notes that existing funding streams have not been fairly shared across the city or targeted to areas of highest levels of poverty and need. Therefore, agrees no funding will be made available unless it is demonstrated beforehand that the total amount of annual spend will be targeted towards organisations based in and delivering services in areas of SIMD 1 and 2, and that these should be well dispersed across the city so that all the largest areas of multiple deprivation have a funded organisation based within them.

Moved by: Councillor Adam Nols-McVey

Seconded by: Councillor Kate Campbell

Addendum by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.3 – Regenerative Futures Fund

Adds:

1.6 Committee further notes that the funding request comes as an additional burden on the taxpayer with no indication of what work can or should be ceased to allow this alternative way of working to proceed, nor does it have any specific measures of success attached.

1.7 Committee therefore agrees, in light of the tight financial situation and the need for transformative change within Council services, that any proposals developed for budget consideration should seek replacement funds within current spending in this service area.

Moved by: Cllr Iain Whyte
Seconded by: Cllr Phil Doggart

Amendment by the SNP Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.4 - Future Relationship with EIJB

Committee recognises the usefulness of this report and welcomes the overview it gives of both current processes and further action to be taken to strengthen the relationship and understanding between the IJB and CEC.

Adds to existing recommendations:

1.2 the further work indicated at 4.16 will result in a specific briefing to Group Leaders and finance party spokespeople by end January, outlining all outcomes of this work ahead of the CEC 24/25 budget process.

1.3 that under the Next Steps outlined at 5.1 the results of the EIJB governance review and decisionmaking should be the subject of a briefing to members to the Policy and Sustainability and Finance and Resources Committees to ensure that there is a clear understanding within the Council of the implications of that review.

Moved by: Councillor Vicky Nicolson
Seconded by: Councillor Lesley Macinnes

Addendum by the Green group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

Tuesday 9 January 2024

Item 7.4 – Future relationship with Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

In addition to the report recommendations:

1.2 Notes that current budgeting practices are documented as diverging from governance and asks that this discrepancy between governance and practice be examine through the appropriate workstreams

1.3 Notes that Integration Authorities rely on partners for capital budgets, and asks that the processes around capital budgeting and capital strategy for health & social care be documented in the appropriate workstreams

Moved by: Cllr Alys Mumford

Seconded by: Cllr Claire Miller

Addendum by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.4 – Future Relationship with EIJB – Response to motion

Adds:

1.2 Committee suggests the review, revision and adoption of the Integration Scheme to be complete by September 2024.

Moved by: Cllr Phil Daggart

Seconded by: Cllr Iain Whyte

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.5 – City-wide carbon emissions and 2030 Climate Strategy update

Adds:

1.1.7 Welcomes work to address the misalignment between Council budgets and the Council Business Plan where becoming a net zero city is listed as one of the Council's top 3 priorities in the Business Plan yet where "net zero" remains an "unfunded priority" as part of the Council's capital budget strategy

1.1.8 Welcomes work ongoing to better understand the climate impact of the Council's budget following the methodology developed by the Institute for Climate Economics but notes with concern that 40% of the Council's capital budget for 2024-2034 is considered as neutral or unfavourable to its climate ambitions

1.1.9 Recognises the need to integrate climate and nature considerations throughout all stages of the budget lifecycle from forecasting to execution and evaluation, including in the development of the Medium-Term Financial Plan

1.1.10 Notes that in October 2023, Policy & Sustainability committee agreed that future reports on the Council Emissions Reduction Plan would include "a clear strategy to finance these actions, including a commitment to resourcing this strategy at a corporate level"

1.1.11 Agrees that as part of the development of this strategy and in the design of future budget processes / corporate strategies, "SMART" targets for increasing the % of favourable spend towards climate / nature, and eliminating all damaging spends for climate and nature, are developed

1.1.12 Further agrees that these targets should be included in future reporting against the climate strategy in the appropriate forum at committee and / or the Sustainability and Climate & Nature Emergencies APOG.

1.1.13 Reaffirms the committee's recommendation from October 2023 that "all budget motions include an accompanying statement which sets out how spending plans align with the Council's climate strategies, including this as an appendix."

Moved by: Cllr Ben Parker
Seconded by:

Addendum by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.5 – City-wide Carbon Emissions and 2030 Climate Strategy update

Adds:

1.1.7 Agrees that any such review should set out realistic and achievable timescales for the implementation of the strategy given available technology, funding and physical implementation capacity, including the overall 2030 target, in order to be open and honest with the public regarding what the Council can achieve and setting this within the national and international context.

Moved by: Cllr Iain Whyte
Seconded by: Cllr Phil Daggart

Amendment by the Administration

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.6 – Night Time Co-ordinator

Deletes recommendations and replaces with:

- 1) To note the Council are awaiting the 24/25 block grant settlement from the SNP/Green-led Scottish Government.
- 2) To note that Edinburgh remain the lowest funded local authority in Scotland and that it is hoped this will be rectified in the upcoming budget announcement.
- 3) To note the Council will have to examine the funding and delivery of core local services should this under-funding continue.
- 4) To therefore agree to refer the report to the Finance and Resources Committee of 25 January 2024 to allow any decision to be made in full knowledge of the Scottish Government budget settlement, should this information be available at that time.

Moved by: Cllr Cammy Day

Seconded by: Cllr Mandy Watt

Addendum by the SNP Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

7.6 - Night Time Coordinator

Adds:

1.1.4 Recognising the significant impact currently delivered by third sector partners to improve and make our night time economy safer, agrees that consideration through the budget process or use of TVL monies should also consider options to use additional available moneys to directly fund third sector work to improve women and non-binary people's safety around the night time economy in addition to reducing drug and alcohol harm through a public health approach, which would build on and resource work already undertaken such as the Safer Nightlife Working Group led by Crew:2000.

Moved by: Councillor Adam Nols-McVey

Seconded by: Councillor Lesley Macinnes

Amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.6 – Night Time Coordinator

Committee

Delete 1.1.3 and insert:

1.1.3 agrees to continue the decision on the preferred approach for one cycle pending the outcome of the Council's 2023/24 budget.

Moved by: Cllr Kevin Lang
Seconded by: Cllr Fiona Bennett

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.6 – Night Time Co-ordinator

Adds:

1.1.4 Agrees to adopt the second option, that of the position being funded by CEC, for a provisional period of one year with a view to exploring funding by TVL in future years.

1.1.5 Notes that as the position includes lobbying for the interests of the night time economy and potentially lobbying both the council and the Scottish government that the role should be independent of the council despite being council funded.

1.1.6 Therefore resolves that the recruitment panel for the position should include representatives of the night time economy.

Additionally:

1.1.7 agrees that trade unions, particularly those involved in hospitality, are included in the key stakeholders being engaged in this ongoing work, including the NTW forum;

1.1.8 agrees that a key aspect of the position should be in making Edinburgh's night-time economy accessible and safe for all, and that this should be included in any role description with a particular focus on women's safety.

Moved by: Cllr Alex Staniforth

Seconded by:

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 7.6 – Night Time Co-ordinator

Replace 1.1.3 with:

1.1.3 Agrees that any proposal to introduce a Night Time Co-ordinator should be drawn up as a consideration as a range of budget proposals in line with the options in the report and that this should be accompanied by an assessment of the success, or otherwise, of the Night Time Co-ordinator role in other cities.

Moved by: Cllr Phil Daggart

Seconded by: Cllr Iain Whyte

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 8.1 – Corporate Property Strategy

Adds:

1.2 Welcomes the introduction of accessibility surveys across the estate to inform the Corporate Property Strategy and requests:

- a timetable for this work and information about which buildings will be prioritised for these surveys in the first instance and why, to be shared in the Business Bulletin within the next 6 months
- that annual progress updates on this work are included in the annual updates of the Corporate Property Strategy Action Plan already due to be presented to Policy & Sustainability Committee

1.3 Requests that details included in section 4.19 - 4.22 of the report are considered as part of a separate Corporate Property Retrofit Strategy to be brought to P&S Committee within the next 6 months, to ensure that the Council is taking our responsibility towards end of lifecycle planning seriously, leading the way in finding innovative solutions to retrofitting both typical and less-typical building types and recognising the need for proactive partnership-working with other organisations including Edinburgh Partnership, NHS Lothian and others

Moved by: **Cllr Ben Parker**

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 8.1 – Corporate Property Strategy Update

Adds:

1.2 Committee notes in 4.16 “the aspiration is to use the pandemic as a catalyst..” however, almost four years after the start of the pandemic, the utilisation of the Council estate remains low; hence, the opportunities for effective collaboration are not being delivered.

1.3 Committee requests the Executive Director of Place to provide Committee within one cycle information about the current utilisation of the Council estate and where that utilisation does not meet satisfactory levels, what plans he has for disposal, or alternatives, of those specific parts of the estate.

Moved by: Cllr Phil Doggart

Seconded by: Cllr Iain Whyte

Addendum by the SNP Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 8.2 – Advice Shop Service Delivery Update

Adds:

Requests an update report once the full 12 months of output data for year 23/24 is available.

Moved by: Councillor Lesley Macinnes

Seconded by: Councillor Marco Biagi

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 8.2 – Advice Shop Service Delivery Update

Adds:

1.2 Notes that Elected Members are often an initial point of contact for people seeking advice – through surgeries or by email - and that consistency in support offered is important to ensure everyone gets the help they need;

1.3 Therefore requests that Member Services – in collaboration with the Advice Shop and other relevant agencies – produce a ‘Constituent support pack’ for Councillors and staff which contains information and signposting to council support services, examples of the most commonly accessed forms, and other resources which may be useful in best supporting constituents.

Moved by: Cllr Mumford

Seconded by:

Addendum by the SNP Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 8.3 – Edinburgh Leisure and the Real Living Wage

Adds:

Agrees that it is unacceptable for any organisation delivering services on behalf of the Council not to pay, at least, the real living wage to all employees.

Agrees the Council leader writes to Edinburgh Leisure to demand the immediate implementation of the real living wage is paid to all staff as a non-negotiable requirement of an organisation operating from council-owned assets and receiving millions of pounds in public money.

Moved by: Councillor Kate Campbell

Seconded by: Councillor Lesley MacInnes

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 8.3 – Edinburgh Leisure and the Real Living Wage

Add:

1.1.4 Edinburgh Leisure's current annual service payment from the Council is £6.7m, which is less than the £7.1m funding it received 25 years ago, despite other income and costs rising four-fold and three-fold respectively over the period.

1.1.5 Without additional funding, there is a significant risk of service reductions and venue closures, which would have a detrimental effect on the health and well-being of residents across the city.

1.1.6. Committee therefore asks that officers should fully explore how their recommended budget proposals for 2024/25 can provide the necessary uplift in Edinburgh Leisure funding so that current service levels to the public are maintained.

Moved by: Cllr Fiona Bennett

Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Lang

Addendum by the Green group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 8.4 – Internal Audit Open and Overdue

Internal Audit Actions – Performance Dashboard as at 31 October 2023

In addition to the recommendations:

“1.2 Committee notes with concern the outstanding action arising from audit CF2003 ‘Health & Safety – Managing Behaviours of Concern July 2021’ and asks for members to be briefed on completion.”

Moved by: Cllr Claire Miller

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 9.3 – Venue and Event Booking Policy

Adds

1.1.5 requests that this Terms and Conditions of Let are reported on in the Business Bulletin of the next P&S Committee, and includes clarity on how parties are engaged with when deciding on accepting and refusing / cancelling a booking;

1.1.6 Additionally requests that a lease review is undertaken by September 2024, ensuring that we have up-to-date, compliant and appropriate lease arrangements in place for all council-owned venues and that all leaseholders have been engaged with by council officers regarding their lease agreement and Terms and Conditions of Let.

Moved by: Cllr Alys Mumford

Seconded by:

Addendum by the SNP Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

9 January 2024

Item 9.6 – Whistleblowing Policy and Toolkit

Requests a report in 2 cycles with an additional procedure of the policy, outlining the process when whistleblowing relates to the conduct of a Councillor. This should set out a process for carrying out investigations within the Council as best as possible when relating to Elected Members, with proposed processes for where to pass investigation outcomes and relevant evidence, including but not limited to: the police, the ethical standards commissioner and to political parties (where councillors are members).

Moved by: Councillor Adam Nols-McVey
Seconded by: Councillor Kate Campbell