

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 16 January 2024

Present

Councillor Campell, Faccenda, Heap, Jenkinson, Kumar, Mowat, Miller, Nols-McVey, Miller, Thornley, Younie and Whyte (substituting for Councillor Rust).

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of 28 November 2023 as a correct record.

2. Outstanding Actions

Details were provided of the Outstanding Actions arising from decisions taken by the Committee.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:
 - Action 1.2 - Committee Decision Process and the Policy Register
 - Action 5.2 - City of Edinburgh Council – 2022/23 Annual Accounts Audit
 - Action 6 - Motion by Councillor Griffiths – Childcare 4 All
 - Action 7 - Response to Critical Risk Motion – Report by Chief Executive
 - Action 8 - Leadership of the development of new local strategic priorities - Best Value thematic work in City of Edinburgh Council 2022/23
 - Action 13.2 - Internal Audit Update Report: Quarter 2 2023/24
 - Action 15 - Capital Monitoring 2023-24 - Month Five Position –referral from the Finance and Resources Committee
 - Action 9.2 - Millerhill Energy from Waste Plant Heat Offtake Unit
- 2) To agree to update the following action:
 - Action 11.2 - Edinburgh International Conference Centre – Annual Update for the year ending 31 December 2022 – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee
- 3) To note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Outstanding Actions January 2024, submitted.)

3. Work Programme

The Committee Work Programme was presented.

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme January 2024, submitted.)

4. Education and Justice Services Annual Assurance

Decision

- 1) To defer the Education and Justice Services Annual Assurance report to the meeting of GRBV on the 20th of February 2024.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services, submitted.)

5. Millerhill Energy from Waste Plant: Heat Interchange Unit

The report outlined the response to an action agreed by the Council to provide a report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee to allow scrutiny of the increase in costs to date associated with the construction of a Heat Interchange Unit at Millerhill. It was highlighted that a six-monthly update would be provided from August 2024 onwards.

Decision

- 1) To note this update on the cost of the development of a Heat Interchange Unit at the Millerhill Energy from Waste site;
- 2) To note that six monthly updates on the project will be provided for Committee, starting from August 2024; and
- 3) To agree that officers provide an update and details on lessons learnt on procurement process once the contract is agreed by way of a Breifing note and a Business Bulletin update.

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

6. Draft Public Performance Scorecard

The first Quarterly Public Performance Scorecard report was presented, providing an overview of performance across a range of Council services up to the end of September 2023. Analysis of performance against the Key Performance Indicators was also provided. Current performance against targets and a comparison with same period last year in addition to four-year average for longer term trends was provided with an over of the scrutiny undertaken by Executive Committees.

Decision

- 1) To note the content and format of the new Public Performance Scorecard which covers the reporting period July to September 2023;

- 2) To note that work will continue to simplify the language and use plain English as much as possible before publication of this report on the performance pages;
- 3) To note that the Public Performance Scorecard will be brought to committee on a quarterly basis for scrutiny;
- 4) To welcome officers' suggestion that a focus group of members of the public could review the scorecard and give feedback on its accessibility and endorses this approach;
- 5) To welcome proposed changes from officers on the presentation of data, to simplify and provide comparable data over a longer period of time; and
- 6) To agree that a workshop is set up workshop following the focus group consultation and allowing enough time to enact changes focussing on:
 - Areas where there is a grey RAG or no target including - Homeless cases housed, Average number of days to re-let properties, Rent collected as % of total rent due and Value of lost rent from empty homes;
 - Performance data for areas not covered in the report; and
 - Ways in which to enhance accessibility and to make the format as engaging to members of the public as possible.

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

8. Analysis of the top five areas of risk associated with issues raised in audits

The report provided a response to the request from Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee to report back on an analysis of the top five areas of risk associated with issues raised in audits in Place, Corporate Services and Children, Education and Justice Services. The report highlighted areas of underlying and thematic weaknesses and what steps directorates are taking to manage risks in at a Directorate and Council level where appropriate.

Decision

- 1) To note the report, in response to the action 4.2 raised at GRBV Committee on 19 September 2023; and
- 2) To agree that officers to set up a workshop for members of GRBV regarding scrutiny of risk.

(References – Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

9. Treasury Management: Mid-Term Report 2023/24 – referral from the City of Edinburgh Council

The City of Edinburgh Council Committee had referred a report on Treasury Management: Mid-Term Report 2023/24 to the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee for information.

Decision

- 1) To note that The City of Edinburgh Council has referred the Treasury Management: Mid-Term Report 2023/24 to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny; and
- 2) To note that officers to include figures on annual interest paid on borrowing in 6 monthly report.

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

10. The EDI Group – annual update for the year ending 31 December 2022 – referral from the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

The Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee had referred a report on the EDI Group – annual update for the year ending 31 December 2022 to the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee for information.

Decision

To note the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services

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