

Amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy & Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.1 – Police Partnership Performance and Activity Report: 1 October to 31 March 2020

At the end of 1.1, insert; “thanks community police officers for their engagement with local communities and believes the report demonstrates the positive contribution of those officers which had been funded directly by the Council”.

Delete 1.2 and insert; “1.2 regrets the decision of the coalition administration to end all Council funding for community police officers and expresses concern at the likely impact this will have on the proactive activity demonstrated in the report”

Moved by Cllr Hal Osler

Seconded by Cllr Gillian Gloyer

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.2 – Review of Political management arrangements 2020

Committee

Deletes 1.6 and replaces with

1.6 Agrees that Full Council meetings will be held virtually until 31st December 2020 and the situation will be reviewed in December 2020.

Renumbers 1.7 as 1.8

Adds

1.7 Agrees to assess the feasibility of resuming holding of Executive Committees in person in the Main Council Chamber aligned with Scottish Government advice regarding the return of businesses on 14th September 2020 with suitable social distancing.

1.9 In view of additional workload and pressure on officer time created by additional Policy & Sustainability Committee meetings, along with the reduction in business created by the resumption of the other Executive Committees, agrees to suspend the requirement for Executive Committee agenda planning meetings. Further agrees that the Policy and Sustainability Committee should meet on an eight-week cycle.

Moved by Cllr John McLellan

Seconded by Cllr Susan Webber

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.2 – Review of Political Management Arrangements

Addition to the end of 1.5: and that all members of Licencing Sub-Committee be issued with relevant papers for review and comment prior to decisions being made.

ADD 1.8: Requests an update come to Policy and Sustainability Committee in September clarifying the process for a possible phased reduction in Committee activity, as described in 4.9. This update should make clear to Committee how any decisions would be taken, who would take those decisions, and under what circumstances.

Moved by: Councillor Melanie Main

Seconded by: Councillor Mary Campbell

Amendment by the Coalition

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.4 - Community Centres & Libraries Re-opening

Insert “youth work” after “early learning and childcare”.

Moved by: **Councillor Adam McVey**
Seconded by: **Councillor Cammy Day**

Addendum by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.4 – Community Centres and Libraries reopening

Committee:

Accepts the recommendations with some reluctance.

Recognises the significance of the libraries for Edinburgh residents from education and learning, access to technology and provision of other services.

Further recognises that required building works were eligible to recommence weeks ago through the Scottish Government's routemap and expresses dissatisfaction that building works are cited as a reason for prolonged closure.

Notes that the Scottish Government has provided information and advice to help public libraries re-open safely and a number of other local authorities have progressed innovative ways to re-open libraries through click and collect services, reintroduction of home library services, phased re-opening of public lending and reference branches.

Therefore, adds a call for a report in one cycle to the Policy and Sustainability Committee with further details as set out below:

- i) specifically on the re-opening of libraries in Edinburgh setting out clearer timescales for opening, learning from other local authorities which are more advanced in re-opening of libraries and details, including financial, of services impacted by library closures.
- ii) outlining services directly or indirectly impacted by the closure of Community Centres or Libraries, detailing any alternative or innovative ways that have been used (or are being planned) to maintain continuity of services that would otherwise have been lost. This should include any projected financial consequences of the alternative service provision.

Moved by Councillor Iain Whyte

Seconded by Cllr Susan Webber

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.4 – Community Centres and Libraries Reopening

Addendum 1.1.5: Requests a further report with a review and update of the current position to the relevant committee before November 2020, to include details and rational for future reductions in access or opening.

Moved by: **Councillor Melanie Main**

Seconded by: **Councillor Mary Campbell**

Amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.4 – Community Centres and Libraries Re-Opening

Agrees 1.1.1

Deletes 1.1.2 - 1.1.4 and inserts

1.1.2 notes the Scottish Government guidance issued on the 15th July for the safe opening of libraries

1.1.3 understands that several other Scottish local authorities have already restarted providing some library services

1.1.4 acknowledges the vital role of libraries and community centres within communities, especially for some of the most vulnerable individuals

1.1.5 considers it unsatisfactory that the report fails to provide any dates for the reopening of library facilities

1.1.6 therefore agrees to continue the report for one cycle and calls for dates for re-opening to be provided for all facilities referred to.

Moved by Cllr Hal Osler

Seconded by Cllr Gillian Gloyer

Addendum by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.5 – Re-opening of Public Conveniences

Committee

1.2 Notes that the next review of public convenience operation is not scheduled to take place until October

1.3. Considers that in the meantime there is a Public Health requirement to accelerate the re-opening of public conveniences in locations where people are gathering in large numbers and, where they are already open , to have their hours extended and agrees to instruct officers to achieve as a matter of urgency.

1.4 Notes that in taking forward accelerated re-opening the following public convenience locations should be prioritised: Hamilton Place, Stockbridge, Colinton Road, Colinton, Harlaw Visitor Centre, Balerno and West Princes Street Gardens.

1.5. Notes that the accelerated and extended re-opening should be time limited to account for the seasonal and weather-related nature of these informal public gatherings.

1.6 Requests an urgent improvement in signage in busy public places, reinforced on days when good weather attracts crowds, to direct the public to open public conveniences and to inform them of the opening times and their requirement to obey the law and not engage in anti-social behaviour.

Moved by Cllr Susan Webber

Seconded by Cllr Iain Whyte

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.5 – Re-opening of public conveniences

Notes that in some places – in particular the Meadows, Bruntsfield Links, Portobello Beach and surrounding residential areas – despite toilet facilities being open, public urination is still a problem. Therefore:

agrees that the Council work with local police to monitor local sites and take action to prevent the problems continuing including increasing opening hours of public conveniences.

agrees that for the limited public conveniences now open, there should be clear public notices at each site of the facilities, opening hours, and safety notices as detailed in this report, and signage to the public convenience within a half mile radius as appropriate.

Notes that a review of operations following re-opening will be presented to the appropriate Committee in October 2020, and requests that this review include:

- Information given on the measures and investment of the public conveniences in this report.
- The measures and costs of opening the three public conveniences not given in this report.
- A proposed annual schedule for the opening of public conveniences from October 2020.
- Details of public access to toilet facilities in businesses across the city where public conveniences have been closed and the effects of Covid-19 on this scheme.
- Options for a revised public toilet facilities policy for the city.

Moved by: **Councillor Melanie Main**

Seconded by: **Councillor Mary Campbell**

Amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.5 – Re-opening of Public Conveniences

Deletes 1.1 and inserts the following

- 1.1 Note the public health guidance which has been issued by the Scottish Government in respect of the reopening of public conveniences;
- 1.2 Note the operational risks and arrangements to mitigate these which are being put in place for Council owned public conveniences;
- 1.3 Agree the reopening of all the remaining Council owned public conveniences except those outlined in 4.9
- 1.4 Agree without delay the actioning of measures as set out in Appendix 1 to allow for the reopening of these public conveniences
- 1.5 Note that as agreed by the P&S Committee on the 9th July a review of operations following reopening will be presented to the appropriate Committee in October 2020;

Moved by Cllr Hal Osler

Seconded by Cllr Gillian Gloyer

Addendum by the Coalition

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.6 – Supporting Local Businesses in Edinburgh – Road Occupation Permits for Tables and Chairs

Notes these proposals support the use of road space over pedestrian space and encourages officers to work with businesses to use road space where possible, to prioritise accessibility and equalities.

Moved by: **Councillor Adam McVey**
Seconded by: **Councillor Cammy Day**

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.7 – Roseburn to Union Canal Active Travel Route and Greenspace Improvements

Committee

Deletes all and replaces with

1.1.1 Welcomes the detail of the report developing proposals that aim to join up important active travel routes and make significant improvements to the quality of greenspaces, including Dalry Community Park;

1.1.2 Notes with concern that work on this Active Travel route commenced in 2015 and, some five years on still does not have a completed design despite dedicated Active Travel funding being available in successive Council budgets and therefore seeks to explore every opportunity to expedite the delivery of the project and bring forward the completion date from Summer 2022 without compromising the quality;

1.1.3 Approves subject to 1.1.4 the undertaking of further work, including a package of enabling works comprising of site clearance*, ground investigation and excavations to locate existing underground services;

1.1.4 Recognises the realities of the *site clearance and that there may be public concern at the removal of trees and therefore recommends that this is dealt with in a practical, open and proactive manner through public engagement.

Moved by Cllr Susan Webber

Seconded by Cllr Iain Whyte

Addendum by the Coalition

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.8 – Concept Masterplan for Waverley Station

Agrees that a Members' briefing be circulated on the financial contribution of Edinburgh Council to the project's partnership and the Council's contribution to the development of the concept, including the reasons why a waiver was required rather than committee approval, and further agrees that any other financial contribution be approved by the Finance and Resources Committee.

Moved by: **Councillor Adam McVey**
Seconded by: **Councillor Cammy Day**

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.9 – Updated Pedestrian Crossing Prioritisation 2020/21

At end of 1.1.1, insert “with the addition of the new crossing on Bo’ness Road which has been agreed and is being delivered by the North West Locality Team”.

Add new 1.1.4 “notes that the proposed signalised crossing of the A8 east of Kaimes Rd was approved by Committee over ten years ago, has a high adjusted PV2, and has a Section 75 contribution allocated to it; agrees therefore to implement this crossing at the earliest possible opportunity and, in any case, before the end of this financial year”.

Moved by Cllr Gillian Gloyer

Seconded by Cllr Hal Osler

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.10 – Council Response to the Scottish Parliament's Inquiry into a Green Recovery

Committee

Deletes all and replaces with

- 1.1 Notes the late inclusion of the appendix
- 1.2 Notes the inclusion of new tax regimes and other state interventions that would impact the local economy in unprecedented ways
- 1.3 Notes that neither scrutiny or discussion of this detail has been possible, nor will it have cross party support
- 1.4 Calls to delay submission and continue the report for one cycle

Moved by Cllr Iain Whyte

Seconded by Cllr Susan Webber

Addendum by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.11 – Accounts Commission: Local Government in Scotland - Overview 2020

Committee

Agrees the recommendations and adds:

1.2 Instructs the Chief Executive to report to Committee in two cycles providing a comprehensive assessment of how the Council is addressing the recommendations outlined in the Key Messages section of the report and suggesting any further actions that could be taken to address these in order that Councillors can scrutinise and prioritise work to improve the Council in these areas.

1.3 The report to provide an officer assessment of the sources of information, training and guidance available to Councillors to help them answer the questions set out for them in the report in order that these can be assessed and debated by Elected Members in public at Committee with a view to improving scrutiny of the Council's performance and to help engender a culture of continuous improvement.

Moved by Cllr Iain Whyte

Seconded by Cllr Graham Hutchison

Addendum by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 6.12 – Edinburgh Integration Joint Board Progress Report

Committee

Adds

1.2 Recognises the impact the Mobilisation Plan had on care homes, the residents of those care homes and their families.

1.3 Notes with concern the EIJB's inability for the second consecutive year to set a budget by 31 March 2020, which was in breach of the Accounts Commission's recommendation of December 2019.

1.4 Welcomes the revisions to the EIJB's Strategic Plan.

Moved by Councillor Whyte

Seconded by Councillor Webber

Amendment by the Coalition

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 8.1 – Motion By Councillor Lang – Support for Local Businesses

Deletes all and replaces with:

- 1) Notes that, as of 21 July, the Council has paid out to local businesses £102.7m of the £111.5m allocated by the Scottish Government for business grants and that a number of appeals are ongoing so this is not a definitive position.
- 2) Notes that the 'Revenue Update 2020/21' report to the meeting of the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 23 July stated at: 4.24:
It has furthermore been suggested that any underspend on the Business Grants scheme, rather than being returned to the Scottish and/or UK Government, instead be made available to local authorities to support flexible, place-based local economic recovery, a role they are ideally placed to lead on.
- 3) Notes that the 'Supporting Local Businesses in Edinburgh' report to the meeting of the full Council on 28 July agreed a 'Support for Local Business' campaign in aid of traders in local town centres and high street alongside the Ready Set Go programme, a one stop shop approach to licensing and permissions, action on procurement to make council spend more accessible to local businesses and the Spaces for People programme which is designed to make space available for businesses to operate safely and to encourage footfall by making it easier for people to move around their town centres.
- 4) Notes the importance of measures which actively encourage people to visit and spend money with businesses to help them recover and thrive.
- 5) Agrees that if more money becomes available to support these efforts, officers present further actions to committee to support businesses, particularly focused on maximising the survival of small businesses across the City.

- 6) Agrees that the Leader of the Council should work with COSLA and ministers to make the case for any underspend in Business Support Grants to be returned to local authorities

Moved by: **Councillor Adam McVey**
Seconded by: **Councillor Cammy Day**

Amendment by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Item 8.1 – Council Support for Local Businesses

Add at end of 1):

Therefore, at the closure of the existing business support schemes, there is £8.8m remaining of the Edinburgh allocation, currently held by the Scottish Government, which will only be released for proposals that are supported by Scottish Government.

Insert new points after 4) and renumber:

5) Notes that COSLA has suggested that any underspend should be used to fund the COVID-19 costs including loss of income incurred by councils.

6) Agrees that measures for 'Support for Local Business' should be clearly targeted, (for example at specific business sectors requiring help or geographical areas), and increase the sustainability of the local economy.

Delete original 5) and insert:

Therefore requests officers consult with members and explore further measures that could provide 'Support for Local Business' that would require funding and report in September to committee.

Amend original point 6) to read:

Agrees that the Leader of the Council write to the Scottish Government to make the case for some surplus funding to be made available to support the local economy.

Moved by: Councillor Melanie Main

Seconded by: Councillor Chas Booth

Emergency Motion by Councillor McVey

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Schools Results for Session 2019-20 during Covid-19

Commends teaching staff and support staff for their effort and commitment in preparing qualification assessments during one of the most challenging times.

Notes the hard work and effort pupils have made in their education throughout their school year and the impact Covid-19 has had on them.

Notes the challenges in this year's assessment process due to the need to cancel examinations due to public health guidance.

Notes the SQA and Scottish Government have encouraged students to appeal and request officers urgently work with schools to offer any support needed to submit appeals where pupils feel they have been undermarked and notes any fees for appeals have been waived to help facilitate appeals.

Further requests officers report to the Education, Children and Families Committee on results for session 2019-20 when full data is available to determine whether there were issues with this year's process which would have meant any group of young people in Edinburgh were adversely affected to enable any Edinburgh specific information to be submitted to the Scottish Government and the SQA.

Moved by: **Councillor Adam McVey**

Seconded by: **Councillor Cammy Day**

Emergency Motion by Councillor Webber

Policy and Sustainability Committee

6 August 2020

Pentland Hills Regional Park – Overnight Parking

Committee notes:

New information has just come to light regarding a significant increase in the numbers of people camping within Pentlands Regional Park, with much higher than in previous years.

Notes camping is taking place around the Council-owned reservoirs at Harlaw, Threipmuir and Bonaly.

Regrets, some campers are not behaving responsibly, leaving significant amounts of litter, including human waste, sanitary items and toilet paper. Campers also appear to be sourcing wood for campfires from living trees, and swimming in the water impacting on recreational anglers who have paid to fish on the reservoirs

Recognises the potential immediate threat to the environment and the natural resources of the Regional Park.

Notes that the wider community would support the immediate closure for overnight parking at the carparks.

Calls for the Executive Director of Place to consider if these carparks could be closed overnight, and report back to this committee in one cycle.

Moved by Cllr Susan Webber

Seconded by Cllr Nick Cook