

Business Bulletin

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 16 February 2021

Teams Meeting

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Joanna Mowat</p> 	<p>Councillor Eleanor Bird Councillor Jim Campbell Councillor Maureen Child Councillor Phil Doggart Councillor Gillian Gloyer Councillor Alex Staniforth Councillor Denis Dixon Councillor Gordon Munro Councillor Susan Rae Councillor Norman Work</p>	<p>Natalie Le Couteur Committee Officer 0131 529 6160</p> <p>Martin Scott Assistant Committee Officer 0131 529 4237</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>The Convener of the GRBV Committee, Cllr. Mowat wrote to the Convener of the Policy and Sustainability Committee, Cllr. McVey on 3 November 2020 to raise the GRBV committee’s concerns about whether the review of the IJB Strategic Plan was sufficient and that the response would be included on the Committee Business Bulletin. The reply below was published on 22 December 2020.</p> <p><i>Dear Cllr Mowat</i></p> <p><i>Thank you for your letter of the 3rd of November and in relation to the question about the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board’s Strategic Plan.</i></p> <p><i>The development of a Strategic Plan is a requirement on Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) in order that they set out their planning intentions over a 3-year timeframe. In doing this IJBs have to consult with a range of people and organisations including their Council and NHS Board partners. The next Strategic Plan is not due out until March 2022 and so the EIJB will be aiming for a final draft of that in August 2021. Discussions are ongoing about when best this would be scheduled for P&S but one option would be once the IJB’s Strategic planning group has approved it which would be Autumn 2021.</i></p> <p><i>In regard to the specific issues relating to the Scottish Living Wage. The paper presented at Full Council in September set out that the Finance and Resources Committee had agreed to enact the Direction from the EIJB in relation to the Living Wage. It was further noted that the EIJB would reflect the cost pressure in its mobilisation plan return and that work would be ongoing to identify how this pressure would be addressed. The potential pressure on Council resources was also noted.</i></p> <p><i>The IJB’s Strategic Plan is not the same as its financial plan and it is a high level document which sets that Public Body’s strategic direction. The finance section included in the plan and 3-year financial statement is also quite high</i></p>	

level and is obviously impacted by external factors which cannot be fully predicted. As such, it is not my understanding that it would set out specific assumptions in it about application of salary uplifts or uplifts to contracts which is a matter for the annual budget setting plan. I understand from officers that some financial planning had been undertaken in relation to the potential uplift the IJB was to apply to contracts to reflect wage uplifts, but these had not concluded at the outset of the pandemic and were subsequently superseded by the Scottish Government's announcement. The EIJB had, as was set out in the paper to F&R, planned and budgeted for a lower uplift. Given these processes sit in the financial planning undertaken across the partnership between the IJB, CEC and NHSL any Council review of the EIJB's Strategic Plan would not be a mechanism of control against risks to Council finances - those controls sit in the budget setting process undertaken between partners, regular financial reporting and through appropriate internal and external audit processes.

Finally on the question of whether the EIJB could have a strategic plan that the Council and NHSL did not agree with. That is theoretically possible and a process is allowed for in the legislation. This would be enforceable where parties could evidence that the plan would prevent them carrying out any of their functions properly. They would then work jointly and agree to instruct the IJB to develop alternative plans.

The EIJB Chief Officer and/or the Chief Executive are happy to answer any follow up questions the committee should have.

Kind regards,

Adam

Adam McVey
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Leader of Edinburgh City Council
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Forthcoming activities:
