

Minutes

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Thursday 23 June 2022

Present

Councillors Meagher (Convener), Bruce, Caldwell, Campbell, Dobbin, Flannery, Kumar, Parker, Rae, Watt and Whyte.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee of 24 March 2022 as a correct record.

2. Work Programme

The Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee Work Programme for June 2022 was presented.

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme, submitted.)

3. Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee Rolling Actions Log

The Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee Rolling Actions Log for June 2022 was presented.

Decision

To note the outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin

The Business Bulletin for June 2022 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To request that acquisition data be included in future reporting.

- 3) To agree that officers would circulate information on the location of acquisitions and disposals in the city.
- 4) To note that the Executive Director of Place offered briefings on any areas continued from the last Committee to new members.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, submitted.)

5. Parental Employability Support

Approval was sought for the continuation of, and addition to, services provided under the Scottish Government's Best Start, Bright Futures delivery plan 2022-2026. The services would continue to provide employability support for parents across Edinburgh, with additional projects proposed in alignment with the recruitment of specialist employability key workers.

Motion

- 1) To note the update on the Parental Employability Support (PES) programme, which was funded by the Scottish Government for delivery of initiatives to support parents into and to progress in employment.
- 2) To approve the recommendations for the core PES programme (as set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 3) To approve the proposal to recruit a team of key workers to develop an employability service to further support parents and to ensure local implementation of the Scottish Government's plans to implement the "Best Start, Bright Futures" delivery plan to alleviate child poverty.
- 4) To approve the development and delivery of a childminder training programme.
- 5) To approve the direct award of £268,000 of funding to Capital City Partnership (CCP), as part of their Service Level Agreement (SLA) with City of Edinburgh Council, to commission a Disabled PES programme of services.
- 6) To note the work currently being undertaken by consultants Ekosgen to review the Affordable Childcare for Working Parents Service.

- moved by Councillor Meagher, seconded by Councillor Whyte

Amendment

- 1) To note the update on the Parental Employability Support (PES) programme, which was funded by the Scottish Government for delivery of initiatives to support parents into and to progress in employment.
- 2) To approve the recommendations for the core PES programme (as set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place) with the exception of £0 for Canongate Youth.
- 3) To agree to ring fence £20k funding for Canongate Youth from the funding for the key worker team.

- 4) To further agree that a report will come back to Committee in one cycle, following officer engagement with Canongate Youth, with more detail on the project and outcomes, for a decision from Committee.
- 5) To approve the proposal to recruit a team of key workers to develop an employability service to further support parents and to ensure local implementation of the Scottish Government's plans to implement the "Best Start, Bright Futures" delivery plan to alleviate child poverty.
- 6) To approve the development and delivery of a childminder training programme.
- 7) To approve the direct award of £268,000 of funding to Capital City Partnership (CCP), as part of their Service Level Agreement (SLA) with City of Edinburgh Council, to commission a Disabled PES programme of services.
- 8) To note the work currently being undertaken by consultants Ekosgen to review the Affordable Childcare for Working Parents Service.
- 9) To agree that the criteria for the contracts managed by CCP, and the outcomes would be reported in detail in the CCP annual report.
- 10) To agree that these awards would be made with priority given to organisations based in, and delivering services within, areas of SIMD 1-5.

- moved by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Rae

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Meagher:

- 1) To note the update on the Parental Employability Support (PES) programme, which was funded by the Scottish Government for delivery of initiatives to support parents into and to progress in employment.
- 2) To approve the recommendations for the core PES programme (as set out in Appendix 1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place) with the exception of £0 for Canongate Youth.
- 3) To agree to ring fence £20k funding for Canongate Youth from the funding for the key worker team.
- 4) To further agree that a report will come back to Committee in one cycle, following officer engagement with Canongate Youth, with more detail on the project and outcomes, for a decision from Committee.
- 5) To approve the proposal to recruit a team of key workers to develop an employability service to further support parents and to ensure local implementation of the Scottish Government's plans to implement the "Best Start, Bright Futures" delivery plan to alleviate child poverty.
- 6) To approve the development and delivery of a childminder training programme.

- 7) To approve the direct award of £268,000 of funding to Capital City Partnership (CCP), as part of their Service Level Agreement (SLA) with City of Edinburgh Council, to commission a Disabled PES programme of services.
- 8) To note the work currently being undertaken by consultants Ekosgen to review the Affordable Childcare for Working Parents Service.
- 9) To agree that the criteria for the contracts managed by CCP, and the outcomes would be reported in detail in the CCP annual report.
- 10) To agree that these awards would be made with priority given to organisations based in, and delivering services within, areas of SIMD 1-5.
- 11) To request that details of the success of projects within the PES Programme be included in future reporting.
- 12) To request that a briefing note on the employability delivery model be circulated to committee members.

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

6. UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund

An update on the UK Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Round 2 application process was presented, which sought approval for the submission of bids for two projects. Approval was also sought for the approach to develop the Investment Plan required for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).

Motion

- 1) To agree the two projects proposed as Council priorities for application to the UK Levelling Up Fund Round 2 (as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 2) To note Edinburgh's conditional allocation from the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), and the requirement for submission of an Investment Plan by 1 August 2022 to secure access to those funds.
- 3) To agree the proposed approach to development of an Edinburgh UK SPF Investment Plan.
- 4) To note that a final draft Investment Plan would be prepared for approval by Committee in August 2022 in advance of submission to the UK Government.
- 5) To agree that if an extension to the deadline for submission of the Investment Plan for SPF was not agreed, delegated authority would be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Council Leader and Convener of Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work to submit the Investment Plan on behalf of the Council.

- moved by Councillor Meagher, seconded by Councillor Watt

Amendment

- 1) To agree the two projects proposed as Council priorities for application to the UK Levelling Up Fund Round 2 (as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 2) To note Edinburgh's conditional allocation from the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), and the requirement for submission of an Investment Plan by 1 August 2022 to secure access to those funds.
- 3) To regret the lack of information on the development of the SPF Investment Plans and to request an urgent briefing for Councillors which set out:
 - Whether the investment plan was for three years or one year.
 - Which projects currently funded under the European Structural Fund would be put forward, and whether there was any funding gap for these projects.
 - Detail on what applications were being invited from third parties, and whether these were for revenue or capital, or both.
 - The criteria for the applications for third parties, and what outcomes were attached to these.
- 4) To agree that a final draft Investment Plan would be prepared for approval by Committee in advance of any submission to the UK Government.
- 5) To agree that if an extension was not agreed by the UK Government an emergency Committee would be convened in order for the investment plan to be approved ahead of submission.
- 6) To agree that the investment plan would set out in detail the outcomes that would be delivered.
- 7) To agree that the investment plan would set out in detail how any investment would be targeted towards areas of high SIMD in the city, equally spread so that projects were easily accessible to all residents across the city, and would set outcomes which would help us achieve our objective of tackling poverty.
- 8) To agree that the investment plans would include carbon impact assessments, especially for any capital projects, which set out how they will help us achieve our net zero target of 2030.
- 9) To agree that the investment plans would include detail on how the skills development aspect of any investment would help us with our aim of achieving a just transition and developing the skills in our workforce to help us meet our net zero target of 2030.

- moved by Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Kumar

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an amendment to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Meagher:

- 1) To agree the two projects proposed as Council priorities for application to the UK Levelling Up Fund Round 2 (as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 2) To note Edinburgh's conditional allocation from the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), and the requirement for submission of an Investment Plan by 1 August 2022 to secure access to those funds.
- 3) To regret the lack of information on the development of the SPF Investment Plans and to request an urgent briefing for Councillors which set out:
 - Whether the investment plan was for three years or one year.
 - Which projects currently funded under the European Structural Fund would be put forward, and whether there was any funding gap for these projects.
 - Detail on what applications were being invited from third parties, and whether these were for revenue or capital, or both.
 - The criteria for the applications for third parties, and what outcomes were attached to these.
- 4) To agree that a final draft Investment Plan would be prepared for approval by Committee in advance of any submission to the UK Government.
- 5) To agree that if an extension was not agreed by the UK Government an emergency Committee would be convened in order for the investment plan to be approved ahead of submission.
- 6) To agree that the investment plan would set out in detail the outcomes that would be delivered.
- 7) To agree that the investment plan would set out in detail how any investment would be targeted towards areas of high SIMD in the city, equally spread so that projects were easily accessible to all residents across the city, and would set outcomes which would help us achieve our objective of tackling poverty.
- 8) To agree that the investment plans would include carbon impact assessments, especially for any capital projects, which set out how they will help us achieve our net zero target of 2030.
- 9) To agree that the investment plans would include detail on how the skills development aspect of any investment would help us with our aim of achieving a just transition and developing the skills in our workforce to help us meet our net zero target of 2030.
- 10) To request that the call for applications communication that was sent to third parties be circulated to Committee members.
- 11) To request that a list of third-party agencies that had received the call for applications communication be circulated to Committee members.

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

7. Motion by Councillor Campbell – Housing Service Improvement Plan – Repairs Update

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Campbell in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Committee,

Notes that the Housing Service Improvement Plan (HSIP) was due in June 2022.

Recognises the ongoing issues in relation to the repairs service, and the continuous scrutiny which committee has applied over the last few years. Notes that particular areas where problems seem to reoccur are in relation to complaints handling and completion of works, where often there is no notification that a job has not been completed, resulting in repeated complaints.

Recognises that significant improvements are underway but agrees that these need to continue to be monitored.

Requests a detailed update, in the next HSIP, on the process around monitoring complaints, and completion of works, including the processes, procedures and responsibilities for ensuring that any complaint raised is monitored until the works are complete, including information on any sign off process.”

Decision

To approve the motion.

8. Motion by Councillor Rae – Lift Repairs

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 this matter.

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Rae in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Committee regrets the unacceptable lengthy delays in repairs to lifts across council housing stock in the city and recognises that procurement procedures for replacement parts for lifts are consistently failing tenants. Committee accepts that leaving tenants in a high rise block with no access to lifts, in some cases any lifts at all, is a failure of duty of care to tenants, particularly those who are elderly, disabled and vulnerable, and puts them at severe risk. Committee therefore requests a report in one cycle on restructuring acquisition and storage of parts for emergency lift repairs to ensure that tenants are not effectively trapped in their own homes.”

Decision

To approve the motion.