

Business Bulletin

Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 25 April 2023

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Finance and Resources Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener Councillor Mandy Watt</p> 	<p>Councillor Graeme Bruce Councillor Phil Daggart Councillor Joan Griffiths Councillor Euan Hyslop Councillor Lesley Macinnes Councillor Alys Mumford Councillor Vicky Nicolson Councillor Neil Ross Councillor Alex Staniforth Councillor Lewis Younie</p>	<p>Rachel Gentleman Committee Services 0131 529 4107</p> <p>Taylor Ward Committee Services</p>

Recent News	Background	Contact
<p>Motion by Councillor Whyte – War Memorial – City Chambers</p> <p>On 24 November 2022, the Council approved an amended motion by Councillor Whyte on the City Chambers War Memorial. This followed a previous report on the arrangements for the war memorial. In progressing the most recent motion, officers will proceed to commission a report on a design solution to protect the memorial from inappropriate use and ensure that it remains a place for remembrance and respect. A design brief is currently being prepared and the recommendations which follow will be reported to Committee once the commission is complete. In the meantime, officers will continue with the active policing of the memorial by the City Chambers security staff.</p>	<p>Full Council - 24 November 2022 - Motion by Councillor Whyte</p>	<p>Place.directorate@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>
<p>Four Seasons Health Care, Transfer of Care, Staff and Business from North Merchiston and Castlegreen Care Homes</p> <p>Following agreement at the Finance and Resources Committee B agenda, on 10th March 2023 to adopt a ‘harmonisation up’ approach to the Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment Regulations 2006 (TUPE) of staff from Four Seasons Healthcare to the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and NHS Lothian respectively, work has begun to initiate the safe transfer of care and the workforce. The key aim has been to secure the transfer of as many staff as possible, to allow continuity of care for residents, and provide reassurance for families.</p> <p>A Report has been provided to the Policy and Sustainability committee and considered under the B agenda due to the commercially sensitive information contained within the reports. At the last P&S committee on 21st March 2023, the move to harmonisation up, and bringing the care, staff and business into Edinburgh Health and Social Care (EHSCP) management was welcomed, with an addendum indicating that the Council Business Plan principles should be applied in the longer term, which will be considered by the EHSCP and EIJB, and presented to the Policy and Sustainability Committee as requested.</p> <p>Group engagement has taken place with a number of meetings with staff, families and residents, with Four Seasons Health Care formally indicating their intention to withdraw, with the EHSCP teams, and Trade Union colleagues being present to provide reassurance of support to provide continuity of care. This has been well received. Individual meetings with staff have been taking place as of week commencing 3rd April 2023, they will continue until the end of April, with any questions being responded to directly, as well as through updated, more generic, Frequently Asked Questions. The teams will be supported through a tailored induction programme. Individual reviews of resident care and care plans is well underway by the Residential Review Team.</p>	<p>B Agenda – Finance and Resources Committee – 10 March 2023</p>	<p>Katie.mcwilliam@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk / jay.sturgeon2@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>

<p>The dilapidation reports are being costed and, along with any other outstanding financial aspects, will be pursued via the legal team. Other financial aspects associated with 'start-up' and transfer of care, staff and business is being monitored, with the EHSCP Executive Management Team being kept informed. Work is also underway to ensure continuity and subsequent transfer into the Council and NHS Lothian IT systems, Council facilities management, as well as other routine aspects, to align with our current care homes.</p> <p>The proposed transfer date for the care, staff and business is the 22 May, and colleagues in EHSCP are working closely with Four Seasons to ensure a smooth transfer. The date of transfer is contingent on the Council becoming the registered body with the Care Inspectorate, with this process well underway, and Four Seasons will continue as registered provider till this is confirmed.</p> <p>Following transfer, and once the payroll has been run for two cycles, an update report will be prepared, and brought forward to the F&R committee.</p>		
<p>Joint consultation on potential changes to councils' powers to determine Council Tax liabilities on empty and second homes</p> <p>On 17 April, the Scottish Government and COSLA announced a three-month joint consultation on potential changes to councils' powers to determine Council Tax liabilities on empty and second homes. Amongst the changes being considered to increase overall housing availability are giving councils powers to charge up to double the full rate of Council Tax on second homes from April 2024, bringing these in line with the current treatment of long-term empty homes. Respondents are also being asked whether these new powers, and existing powers for long-term empty homes, should be further extended to allow a premium greater than 100% to be applied to both second homes and long-term empty homes*. The consultation additionally seeks views on whether the current Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) usage thresholds for self-catering accommodation remain appropriate.</p> <p>Consultation responses are requested through the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space, by 11 July 2023.</p> <p>*With reference to data submitted in September 2022, Edinburgh has a lower proportion of second homes but higher numbers of long-term empty properties for Council Tax purposes relative to the Scottish average.</p>		<p>Nicola.harvey@edinburgh.gov.uk / neil.jamieson@edinburgh.gov.uk / Cheryl.hynd@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>

Forthcoming activities:
