

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.1 – A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh: Progress Update and Draft Proposal

In 1.2.2, insert at end;

“which has been based on the current requirements of the Bill, and notes how these may change if the Bill is amended during the parliamentary process; and agrees that officers should progress elected member workshops to develop a consensus where possible on the detail of how the proceeds of the visitor levy should be spent”.

Moved by: Cllr Kevin Lang
Seconded by: Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

Amendment by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.1 – A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh: Progress Update & Draft Proposal

Deletes 1.2 and replaces with:

“1.2 It is further recommended that Committee approves:

1.2.1 The considerations around the proposed charge level and remit of the scheme as set out in paragraphs 4.14-4.15.2 and 4.15.4-4.41 (but not at 4.15.3).

1.2.2 The possible use of the net proceeds, as set out in paragraphs 4.42-4.46.1 and 4.46.3-4.54 (but not at 4.46.2). Additionally, specifies:

At 4.45 about “Sustainability and Net Zero”:

- Believes that the climate, nature and sustainability impacts of Council activity should be embedded and accounted for in all Council work such that 100% of spending contributes to sustainability and net zero targets, thus mainstreaming sustainability and net zero instead of specifying that just c.25% of spend is prioritised for these initiatives.

At 4.46.3 about the “Culture, heritage and festivals” portfolio:

- Believes that the focus of this portfolio should be for small festivals and events which happen across the city, particularly at a grassroots community level, and that funds allocated through this portfolio should support activity to democratise the festival and cultural offer by and for residents, for example through the provision of free tickets for local people, as well as looking to only support events / activities which can demonstrate fair work practices and positive actions to minimise their environmental impact during operation

at 4.46.5 about “Industry growth and resilience” portfolio:

- Deletes the word “growth” in recognition that the focus of this portfolio should be on job security, terms, wages, and quality of employment, seeking to achieve sustainable community benefits

at 4.49 about “Participatory budgeting”

- Welcomes the suggestion that part of the TVL spend could be allocated through participatory budgeting and believes that this could be best explored through the “Culture, heritage and festivals” portfolio
- Nevertheless, recognises that the target to meet 1% of the Council’s budget spend through participatory budgeting should still be pursued through all spending

and requests that officers account for all of the above in further drafts of the scheme

1.2.3 The proposed governance structure, as set out in paragraphs 4.55-4.60, with the addition of Trade Union representation on the proposed Edinburgh VL Advisory Group

1.2.4 Informal engagement with stakeholders around these parameters; and

1.2.5 The proposed response to the Scottish Parliament’s calls for views, as set out in Appendices 8 and 9, for submission by 15 and 1 September 2023, subject to any revisions required to reflect the position of Committee, given amendments submitted and accepted”

Also, adds:

“1.4 Believes that the levy should be pitched at a similar level to other European cities but notes that a decision on this specific detail should come at a later date

1.5 Agrees that this further report will also include scoping of additional charges possible within the remit of the scheme in line with the principles of the Amsterdam model where holiday rentals and short term lets pay 10% of turnover, either to be progressed concurrently with the general TVL scheme, or to be supplemented later

1.6 Welcomes the push back in the draft consultation response against the bill’s 18-month implementation timescale and agrees that this should be communicated to the Scottish Government in the strongest possible terms”

Moved by: Councillor Ben Parker
Seconded by:

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.1 – A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh: Progress Update and Draft Proposal

Replace recommendations with:

Notes with the concern:

a) the issues raised in paragraphs 4.23 and 4.24 about cost and competitiveness of the Edinburgh tourism sector, the soaring prices for accommodation in Edinburgh this summer, the likely increases in accommodation prices from the predicted 80% reduction in all types of self-catering accommodation noted in Appendix 2, and the impact of increased accommodation costs on the Fringe and other Festivals at peak times in Edinburgh.

b) the failure to provide a use on net proceeds in paragraph 4.26 that relates to improvements to basic, universal services for all local citizens.

Therefore, agrees to proceed no further with costly work to implement a Transient Visitor Levy and to respond to the consultation by informing the Scottish Government of the damaging impacts such an imposition would have on the vital Tourism and hospitality economy in Edinburgh.

Moved by: Councillor Iain Whyte
Seconded by: Councillor Phil Daggart

Addendum by the Administration

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.2 – Redeployment Update

Committee agrees:

- 1) To support the joint trade union pledge to continue to support the council commitment to no compulsory redundancies and support for in-housing of council services as agreed in the Council Business Plan in December 2022.
- 2) To support the commitment to argue for fair funding for the capital city from both the Scottish and UK Governments.
- 3) To request the Leader continues to highlight Edinburgh as the lowest funded council in Scotland and argue for fair funding for the capital city.

Moved by: Cllr Cammy Day

Seconded by: Cllr Mandy Watt

Addendum by the SNP Group

Policy & Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.2 – Redeployment Update

1.3 Welcomes the reinstatement of the commitment to no compulsory redundancies and reassurance that this will give to staff in the redeployment pool, many of whom are carrying out important work within the council in temporary roles which will now be considered for transition to permanent posts.

1.4 Notes the Council's budget is now carrying a deficit of £600,000. Further notes the "best value service review" will show in-housing waste services is the most cost-effective and efficient method of waste collections delivering the best service for residents. This will add a further £500,000 deficit to the budget that will therefore mean a £1.1m additional gap is being funded through other actions either at the corporate or departmental level.

1.5 Notes actions that seem to be creating in-year revenue budget savings, which appear to have been progressed by the administration without democratic oversight and approval of councillors, such as:

- cancelling support which enables young people with additional support needs to access after school clubs.
- a loss of lifelong learning posts and cuts to the ad hoc lifelong learning budget, delivered through the lifelong learning review.

1.6 Agrees to receive a further report on the 23/24 budget within 2 cycles. Agrees this report includes:

- A full options appraisal of all additional actions now being taken to create in-year savings to fund the budget gaps from policies which have been reversed.
- Equalities impact assessments for each of these actions
- An explanation of the governance around the budget process, and the standing orders which apply to actions now being taken to reverse budget decisions and how all parties are able, equally, to utilise these.

Moved by: Councillor Adam Nols-McVey

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.2 – Redeployment Update

Add:

1.1.3 Reaffirms that the council policy remains one of no compulsory redundancies and regrets any uncertainty felt by staff about this following the approval of the Liberal Democrat budget in February which proposed “saving” £600k by changing this.

1.1.4 Notes that redeployment is of benefit to the council, preserving talent and expertise and of benefit to those in the redeployment pool.

1.1.5 Resolves that redeployment should always be conducted with employee welfare as the primary concern.

1.1.6 Notes the £600k deficit in the Council’s budget now arising from the non-delivery of this “saving”.

1.1.7 Requests that the next revenue monitoring report at Finance & Resources committee explicitly outlines how this £600k saving will be delivered instead, and what democratic oversight Councillors will have or have had in relation to this to date.

Moved by: Cllr Alex Staniforth

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Administration

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.3 – Corporate Property Strategy

Adds in recommendation 1.1.3 -

To request an update is included in the business bulletin on any options to accelerate the use of renewables in both Council and Public Sector properties.

Moved by: Cllr Cammy Day

Seconded by: Cllr Mandy Watt

Addendum by the SNP Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.3 – Corporate Property Strategy

Adds to the end of point 1.1.1 before “and”:

“Agrees work is prioritised on community-based district heating networks. This should fully utilise public buildings and facilities like swimming pools and look to Energy for Edinburgh to delivery short and medium term projects.”

Agrees that community centres are a critical resource for our communities which have only grown in importance during the cost of living crisis and that the strategy must have, as a starting point, protecting and continuing the use of these buildings by communities as the primary objective.

Agrees to receive a report in two cycles which sets out the condition of each community centre building, as the report to finance and resources committee in March 2020 did, but which also includes additional information about each building in terms of ability to retrofit to improve energy efficiency and costs required to meet accessibility standards.

Agrees this report will include an update on the detailed profiles of individual community centres that officers are developing, and how this approach will be utilised to identify best practice and share insights across all a management committees, improving services and increasing capacity.

Agrees that where any buildings are considered to be underutilised that the approach will be to support increased activity, not use any information gathered through this profiling to justify closures of buildings.”

Moved by: Councillor Adam Nols-McVey

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.3 – Corporate Property Strategy

Adds:-

1.1.3 Requests an annual update report on the property strategy outlining via suitable indicators :-

- Running costs (energy, water, rates, maintenance)
- Carbon expended
- Electricity use
- Estimate of any embedded carbon required

Suitable summaries of the above should include as a minimum -

- Totals across the whole estate;
- The 10 most costly buildings to run in categories above;
- The 10 most costly buildings per square metre of gross internal area.

Moved by: Cllr Alan Beal

Seconded by: Cllr Fiona Bennett

Amendment by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.3 – Corporate Property Strategy

Amends the report recommendations to read:

“Policy and Sustainability Committee:

- 1.1.1 Thanks officers for developing the proposed Corporate Property Strategy, welcomes the strategic approach to the whole estate, and supports the three themes of Live Well Locally, Our Future Work and Net Zero Properties
- 1.1.2 Notes the Strategy would mean possible disposals or replacement of council buildings, and notes communities will be concerned by the possible changes to local facilities such as community centres or libraries
- 1.1.3 Agrees to continue the proposed Corporate Property Strategy for one cycle and calls on officers to:
 - 1.1.3.1 Provide a high-level overview of the programme which would be developed if the Strategy is agreed, including an indicative list of buildings which are expected to require a project business case
 - 1.1.3.2 Either develop a fourth strategic theme of access and inclusion, or clearly show access and inclusion mainstreamed throughout the Strategy, acknowledging that the council’s estate is currently not fully accessible, the systemic and unacceptable exclusion this causes, and committing the Council to prioritising actions to address this through this work
 - 1.1.3.3 Further develop the Net Zero Properties strategic theme to consider the overall impact of disposals or demolition for the city, and not just for the Council’s own portfolio

Moved by: Councillor Claire Miller

Seconded by: Councillor Ben Parker

Addendum by the Administration

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.4 – Energy for Edinburgh - options appraisal

Adds recommendation 1.1.3

To agree to continue the report pending consideration of the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy by the Policy and Sustainability Committee in December 2023.

Moved by: Cllr Cammy Day

Seconded by: Cllr Mandy Watt

Amendment by the SNP Group

Policy & Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.4 – Energy for Edinburgh – options appraisal

Deletes recommendation 1.1.2 and replaces with:

1.1.2 Considers the business case should be developed to reflect options 4.1.3, 4.1.5 and 4.1.6 as compatible and deliverable options to meet the objectives of the company and help meet Edinburgh's climate objectives.

1.1.3 Acknowledges the significant opportunities in the medium and long term of Energy for Edinburgh's involvement in delivering heat networks and supports involvement in major projects like bioquarter and Granton as outlines in 6.2.1 and 6.2.2.

1.1.4 Committee agree the need for more immediate delivery and therefore agrees the proposed final business case will be presented to committee in no later than 4 cycles, cantering on a joint venture approach (9.18.2 in the report) to deliver a low-carbon heat energy production and/or distribution project within the city.

Moved by: Councillor Adam Nols-McVey

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.4 – Energy for Edinburgh – options appraisal

Adds:-

1.2 Further, the Policy and Sustainability Committee:-

1.2.1 Recommends that the Board explore the options for Heat Networks in more depth, including practical steps that can be taken. This could include dialogue with possible industry partners and similar organisations; also cost estimates and direct savings to the Council's energy costs should be considered.

1.2.2 Suggests that the Board procures a secondment to EfE to develop the strategy in more depth.

1.2.3 Suggests that the Board relieves the Council of the company secretariat role and enables access to appropriate legal assistance.

1.2.4 Asks the Board to exercise fiscal prudence by ensuring that outgoing costs match the company activity – such as audit costs.

Moved by: Cllr Alan Beal

Seconded by: Cllr Fiona Bennett

Amendment by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

Thursday 22 August 2023

Item 7.4 – Energy for Edinburgh – options appraisal

Deletes all recommendations and replaces with:

1.1.2 Welcomes the options appraisal and thanks officers for their work conducting it

1.1.3 Believes there is a key role for Energy for Edinburgh (EfE) in helping the Council to develop and deliver heat networks across the city

1.1.4 Recognises that the Council's LHEES strategy and associated work to outline possible heat network zones will be critical to ensure successful delivery of heat network projects across the city, and to inform how best EfE can support with this

1.1.5 Acknowledges the need to rapidly accelerate delivery of heat network projects in order to meet climate targets and to ensure the Council is well placed to realise and benefit from the growing opportunities in this space

1.1.5 Agrees that immediately following the publishing of the Council's LHEES strategy, officers prioritise the development of a business case for Energy for Edinburgh to deliver heat network projects as soon as is feasible, both for existing developments and new projects

1.1.6 Further agrees that as part of the development of this business case, officers explore options for how co-operative principles and community wealth building could be embedded into the company

Moved by: Councillor Ben Parker

Seconded by:

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.4 – Energy for Edinburgh – options appraisal

Replace 1.1.2 with:

1.1.2 Agrees to wind up Energy for Edinburgh and use any savings made to continue to develop the business case for local heat networks inhouse

Moved by: Councillor Iain Whyte
Seconded by: Councillor Phil Doggart

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.6 – Interim Chief Officer Update – Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership

Add

1.1.5 agrees that the key areas of performance to be reported to the committee, as set out in Part 2 of the Appendix, should be expanded to include:

- e) The number of people waiting for a bed to become available to receive in-patient hospital care;
- f) The number of people waiting to be admitted to hospital and are in receipt of a package of care at home;
- g) The number of patients currently 'boarding' due to unavailability of a bed in the most suitable ward.

Moved by: Cllr Fiona Bennett
Seconded by: Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.6 – Interim Chief Officer Update – Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership

Inserts additional text at the end of 1.1.2

“subject to the following adjustments”

Inserts new points under 1.1.2

“1.1.2.1 Current Performance section in Part 2 of the update should report performance of services delivered in addition to the information provided on waiting times and waiting lists

1.1.2.2 Risks and Escalation section in Part 2 should provide the current risk status alongside the note of how the risks are being governed and managed

Moved by: **Councillor Claire Miller**

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.7 – Castlegreen and North Merchiston Care Homes – Transfer Update

At the end of recommendation 1.3 add the following:

“and requests that the upcoming report to Finance & Resources Committee will include a detailed explanation of the difference between the overpayment amount reported to members in previous reports and briefings versus £87k which has been agreed and paid to the Council.

Moved by: **Councillor Claire Miller**

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Conservative Group

Policy & Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.7 – Castlegreen and North Merchiston Care Homes – Transfer Update

Adds to recommendations:

1.4 Notes with concern the information in Paragraph 4.14 that a decision was made on 26 July 2023 by the Council Corporate Leadership Team to proceed with the Red and Amber aspects of Urgent Capital Work given that:

- a. not all Group Leaders assented to this proposal;
- b. it potentially breaches an act of Council as the suggested source of the funding was the 2022/23 Council underspend which the Council had specifically agreed should not be allocated until a comprehensive report on its use is presented to the Finance and resources Committee in September;
- c. an alternative method of resolving the urgency was suggested by the Conservative Group of presenting a report to the 31 August full Council meeting in order that the issues could be addressed, scrutinised, and determined in public.

1.5 Agrees that a review is undertaken of urgency procedures to determine a formal process as to how decisions can be made when Group Leaders (and the Lord Provost) are consulted but there is no agreement on a way forward with a report on the review presented by the Chief Executive to the next meeting of the Policy and Sustainability Committee. The report should outline any necessary changes to the Scheme of Delegation and Standing Orders required to bring its recommendations into effect.

Moved by: Councillor Phil Doggart

Seconded by: Councillor Iain Whyte

Amendment by the SNP Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.8 – Annual Performance Report, 2022/23

Replaces point 1.3 with:

1.3.1 Notes that approvals and completions for affordable homes have both had their targets revised stating in appendix B: *Target revised in November 2022 based on year[1]end projections, as detailed in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2023-28*

1.3.2 Notes further that in the SHIP report there is no explicit mention of revising targets in the annual performance report and that the only reference is when targets are described as the 'original target' in 3.2 and 4.12:

3.2 Around 800 new affordable homes could be approved for site start in Edinburgh this financial year (2022/23) and based on current delivery programmes, an additional 1,246 affordable homes could be completed. Approvals for this year are below the original target of 1,170 homes as house builders and development partners are delaying procuring new contracts due to cost inflation.

4.12 Approvals for this year are below the original target of 1,170 homes as many development partners are delaying procuring new contracts due to cost inflation

1.3.3 Agrees that without explicit reference to revision of targets this cannot be considered to have been approved by councillors and must have been an officer decision, approved without democratic oversight.

1.3.4 Regrets that on this important metric the administration are setting targets based on delivery projections, and agrees that this in no way constitutes a robust approach to performance scrutiny, rendering the setting of targets irrelevant.

1.3.5 Agrees that the report is referred to Full Council on 28th September 2023 with the amendment that the original targets of 1,170 for approvals and 1,290 for completions are reinstated.

Moved by: Councillor Adam Nols-McVey

Seconded by:

Addendum by the SNP Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.10 – International Travel and Member Guidance

Deletes paragraph 9.1 in Appendix 1

1.1.2.2

Adds to the end of 10.7 in Appendix 1: “In all instances the subsequent Committee should be explicitly informed when elected members fail to attend a conference, use international travel approved and/or booked or any other event with a cost the Council and what proportion of public funding was recovered.”

Moved by: **Councillor Adam Nols-McVey**

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.10 – International Travel and Member Guidance

At the end of para 1.1.2. insert:

“and agrees the form should be adjusted to include ferry travel as a listed travel mode, with CO₂e emissions/km for foot passengers at 0.0187kg.”

Moved by: Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Lang

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.10 – International Travel and Member Guidance

Add:

1.1.5 Notes that there is no reason for internal flights, given the environmental damage internal flights cause when compared with public transport such as trains and buses.

1.1.6 Therefore amends Appendix 1 such that domestic flights will not be allowed under any circumstances.

Moved by: Cllr Alex Staniforth

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Administration

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.11 – Edinburgh and Taiwan Visit Report and Activity

Adds recommendation 1.1.7

Committee agrees to work towards a memorandum of understanding between Taiwan and the appropriate city partners as referenced in the report.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

Amendment by the SNP Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.12 – The City of Edinburgh Council Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28 – Revised Draft

“Notes to date Gaelic signage has been installed at Meadowbank Sports Centre, Castlebrae Community Campus, Greyfriars graveyard, the Central Library and the Darroch Annexe, James Gillespie’s High School and further notes installation at Trinity Academy and Bangholm Outdoor Centre is also pending.

Requests an additional report within 3 cycles progressing an action list of Gaelic signage in the city including place names, city transport infrastructure, schools and within and outside other Council buildings.”

Moved by: Councillor Lesley Macinnes

Seconded by: Councillor Marco Biagi

Amendment by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.12 – Edinburgh Council Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28 – Revised Draft

Delete recommendations and insert:

Committee:

- 1) Notes the report, notes the revised draft Gaelic Language Plan for 2023-28 and notes the feedback received during the consultation;
- 2) Thanks officers for their time in preparing the draft plan and consultation process, and thanks those members of the Gaelic community and organisations who responded;
- 3) Notes that the draft plan states, "The future shape and location of GME provision in the city has been under consideration for a number of years, [...] in January 2022 [EC&F Committee] decided to pause plans for a statutory consultation on the proposed new GME provision so that officers could undertake further pre-consultation engagement with parents and partners. This activity is underway and will inform timescales for the actions to improve GME..." (p.369 of committee papers);
- 4) Notes that the number of schools across the city offering Gaelic Learners Education (GLE) had dropped significantly in recent years;
- 5) Notes that while the progress summary (p.388) identifies Gaelic signage as a key indicator of progress, this is not included in the current draft action plan whereas it was included in the council's previous 2018-2022 Gaelic language plan (p.18);
- 6) Approves the draft Gaelic Language Plan 2023-28 (Appendix 1) for submission to Bord na Gaidhlig for its consideration and approval, subject to the following additions:
 - a) Insert new action 2.1.5, "The council will continue to engage with The Scottish Government, the Gaelic community in Edinburgh and other stakeholders to try to identify a site, and the requisite funding to deliver, a GME High School in Edinburgh.

Timescale: dependent on identifying a site, and agreeing a funding package with the Scottish Government

Lead: CEJS"

- b) Insert at the end of action 2.2.2, "in order to ensure that Gaelic is offered in a greater number of primary and secondary schools."
- c) Insert new action 3.5, "Whenever new signage is installed or existing signage is replaced across the council estate and as part of council operations, the cost of installing Gaelic or bilingual signage will be investigated. Gaelic or bilingual signage will be installed where appropriate, especially where there is high footfall. We will also encourage council ALEOs to adopt this policy."

Timescale: as and when new signage is installed or existing signage replaced

Lead: CS, Place"

Moved by: Councillor Ben Parker
Seconded by:

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.13 – Edinburgh Community Climate Fund

Add

“1.2 requests a Business Bulletin update in two cycles on the Improvement Plan, addressing in particular plans for an improved registration experience for voters, which was deemed ‘poor’ by one in three users, and proposed strategies for better inclusion of underrepresented groups in participatory budgeting.”

Moved by: Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

Seconded by: Cllr Kevin Lang

Amendment by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.13 – Edinburgh Community Climate Fund

Delete all and replace with:

- 1.1 Notes the success of the Community Climate Fund in being significantly over-subscribed.
- 1.2 Notes that the Community Climate Fund supports both the council's net zero, climate and nature ambitions as well as moving towards its target for participatory budgeting.
- 1.3 Recognises that participatory budgeting processes work best when run on a recurring basis as this builds long-term support and raises engagement levels.
- 1.4 Therefore resolves that identifying recurring funding for the Community Climate Fund will be considered as part of the budget process with the aim of making it a regular annual event, including consideration of expanding the fund going forward.
- 1.5 Further agrees that officers engage with relevant community groups and the Community Climate Hub to redesign aspects of the processes behind the fund, based on feedback gathered this year.

Moved by: Cllr Alex Staniforth

Seconded by: Cllr Ben Parker

Amendment by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.14 – Declaring a Nature Emergency

Adds:

1.1.4 Notes from the report that, in order to accelerate progress in tackling the Nature Emergency, a priority for the service is to build capacity and training across the workforce

1.1.5 Recognises that without the sufficient in-house capacity, skills, knowledge and understanding across the Council, progress to tackle the Nature Emergency will falter

1.1.6 Therefore, in order to support groups in the run up to the budget process, requests a briefing note to outline where particular skill / capacity gaps lie in the Council currently; what specific additional training or posts are required to remedy this; the costs associated with these and details about whether funding for all current key posts for delivering work to tackle the Nature Emergency is permanent or temporary

Moved by: Councillor Ben Parker

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Conservative Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 7.14 – Declaring a Nature Emergency

Adds

1.1.4 Notes the potential outcomes outlined in paragraph 4.10 and agrees the following:

- a. Where proposals are taken forward to expand the areas of parks and open space being naturalised these should be subject to an open consultation process which includes the ability for communities to say no or make alternative suggestions:
- b. That future reports present a fully costed proposal for any “reduction in chemical use for weed removal, increasing mechanical removal as an alternative treatment” outlining how this can be funded and how it will meet the Council’s statutory requirements to keep areas clean and free of detritus;
- c. That any initiatives around the use of the “additional funding has been secured for road verge and cycleway maintenance” should outline how these can be used to begin a full clean-up of these public areas to remove materials hazardous to wildlife (particularly plastics) along with an estimate of any further costs involved.

Moved by: Councillor Iain Whyte
Seconded by: Councillor Phil Doggart

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 8.1 – Heat Networks and Building Assessment Reports

1.1.4 Agrees that a report should be produced within 2 cycles to:-

- Develop a Council policy for the consenting of heat networks in Edinburgh - this is to include reasons for granting or revoking licences etc
- Indicate resource implications as a consent authority
- Identify any gaps or uncertainties in the guidance and regulations for heat network developers
- Show options for dissemination of heat network information to interested parties eg BARs

1.1.5 Council notes the importance of heat networks as a way of maximising energy efficiency and resource use, and as an important way of moving towards net zero carbon heating

Moved by: Cllr Alan Beal
Seconded by: Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

Addendum by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Item 9.2 – Policy for Supporting Adult Carers and Caring Relationships

In addition to the report recommendation

“1.1.2 Agrees to:

Ongoing monitoring of this new policy, noting in particular the challenges outlined in the report such as capacity to deliver support for carers and the need for effective communications with carers about support options, to inform the next review of the policy”

Moved by: Councillor Claire Miller

Seconded by:

Emergency Motion by the Green Group

Policy and Sustainability Committee

22 August 2023

Circumstances surrounding the consultation on the future of care homes and the EIJB strategy

Committee:

1. Thanks the Chief Executive for his review of the process to consult on the future of our care homes following the request made at Policy and Sustainability committee in May.
2. Welcomes the briefing note on his findings which was circulated to Committee and stakeholders (relevant officers, trade union representatives) on Wed 16/08/23.
3. Acknowledges the errors of governance, process and communication which were identified.
4. Notes that committee members and stakeholders have questions arising from the briefing note, and may wish to instruct additional actions.
5. Calls for a short report in one cycle, summarising the review and the actions arising.

Moved by: Councillor Claire Miller

Seconded by: