

Business Bulletin

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 24th October 2023

Dean of Guild Courtroom, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Policy and Sustainability Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener: Councillor Cammy Day</p> 	<p>Councillor Cammy Day (Convener) Councillor Danny Aston Councillor Alan Beal Councillor Fiona Bennett Councillor Marco Biagi Councillor Kate Campbell Councillor Sanne Dijkstra-Downie Councillor Phil Doggart Councillor Kevin Lang Councillor Lesley Macinnes Councillor Adam McVey Councillor Jane Meagher Councillor Claire Miller Councillor Alys Mumford Councillor Ben Parker Councillor Mandy Watt Councillor Iain Whyte</p>	<p>Jamie Macrae, Committee Officer</p> <p>Joanna Pawlikowska Assistant Committee Officer</p>

Recent News

Background

Bioquarter Update

The procurement of a private sector development partner at the BioQuarter is going well although the process is taking longer than first envisaged. The Council [agreed](#) in October 2021 to be a party to EBQ3 Ltd, along with Scottish Enterprise and University of Edinburgh, and that this company would be the contracting authority for bringing on board a development partner. The process is now in its final stages, with the bidding process complete and final evaluation underway. Once this is complete, the contracting authority will work with a preferred bidder and will undertake due diligence before coming to a final decision on awarding the contract. It is envisaged that this will be early next year.

Contact

[David Cooper](#)
Head of Development and Regeneration, Place Directorate

Heat Networks – Update

Officers are engaging with the Scottish Government officials concerning the timing of the formal request to be designated the consent authority for Edinburgh, having due regard to the “switching on” of the relevant legislation.

Scottish Government officials have advised that they anticipate that consenting provisions will be shared with stakeholders (including the City of Edinburgh Council) and then consulted upon in February-May 2024, with a view to consenting provisions being operational by October 2024, albeit these timescales are dependent upon the passage of the Energy Bill currently before the House of Commons and the enactment of secondary legislation.

While the Scottish Government is still formulating the consenting provisions and charges/fees associated with consenting, it is considered that it would be premature for the Council to develop a policy around consenting prior to having seen the consenting provisions, as inevitably any policy developed speculatively by the Council will have areas of misalignment with the provisions. Further, the resource implications for the Council as consent authority will be dependent upon the consenting provisions and the charge/fee regime.

The Council has engaged with the Scottish Government which has confirmed that Building Assessment Reports (BARs) may be shared freely provided any personal data is redacted. Accordingly, officers have updated the relevant webpage (www.edinburgh.gov.uk/buildingassessmentreports) to clarify that BARs can be shared upon request. Officers will also include this information in any policy and strategy documents around heat networks including the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency (LHEES) Delivery Plan. Additionally, it is suggested that the Council could compile data from various BARs received for a given area to give

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[Kyle Drummond](#)
Programme Development Officer, Place Directorate

prospective heat network developers access to data that is useful but not disclosive.

It is envisaged that the heat network zones set out in the Council's LHEES and subsequent statutory heat network zone review statement will initially be published as static maps, but, subject to resources, officers would seek to migrate these to a web-based format (similar to the existing Edinburgh Atlas) to allow more information to be shared, subject to the provisions of the relevant data sharing agreements.

Corporate Property Strategy – Use of Renewable in Council Buildings

The Corporate Property Strategy was [approved](#) at the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 22 August 2023, with an addendum agreed requesting an update on any options to accelerate the use of renewables in both Council and Public Sector properties. Officers are exploring options to accelerate the installation of photovoltaic (PV) to produce sustainable electricity across the Council corporate estate and will ensure elected members are kept updated as works progress.

Contact

[Sherina Ness](#)
Senior Project Manager,
Corporate Services

Health and Social Care Contracts

The undemoted update is in relation to a motion from Cllr Miller asking for an update on social care contracts, the details of the procurement procedures and decision making for contracts that:

- a) Have been procured or extended during the last 12 months.
- b) Currently going through any stage of procurement, extension or alteration.
- c) Which is expected to begin procurement or may require extension, or alteration within the next 12 months.

This update responds to the points raised above by outlining the routine procurement process undertaken for social care contracts.

The Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership (the Partnership) identifies procurement requirements by monitoring contracts already in place as well as discussing with council officers where external contracts are required to meet the demand of services in place or upcoming aspirations. The resultant procurement pipeline is overseen by the Partnership's Procurement Board.

In line with the Contract Standing Orders, requirements in excess of £25K are typically contracted by the following process;

A Procurement Requirement Form (PRF) is issued to Commercial and Procurement Services from the Partnership requesting that procurement specialist resource is allocated. PRFs are signed off at a monthly Procurement Board to ensure budget is available for the requirement and the Partnership is supportive of the identified need.

Commissioning Officers in the Partnership undertake co-production with stakeholders to determine the full scope of the

Contact

[Mike Massaro Mallinson](#),
Service Director –
Operations, Edinburgh
Health and Social Care
Partnership

requirement in a specification. On receipt of the specification, the procurement specialist assigned to the requirement works with commissioning colleagues to produce a Procurement Strategy which is presented to the Procurement Board for approval of the approach proposed. Once approval is given, the tender documentation is finalised, alongside further engagement as appropriate, and issued to the market for completion. Tender returns are evaluated by officers within the Partnership.

Contract award recommendations are made within the scheme of delegation and in line with Contract Standing orders.

On occasion, the Contract standing orders which expect competition to take place as set out within public sector legislation may be waived in line with exclusions permitted under the Public Contracts Scotland Regulations (2015) or the Reform Act 2014 and statutory guidance for health and social care services.

In response to the motion, appendix 1 details the contracts procured or extended in the last 12 months (addressing point a in the motion) and appendix 2 shows the current commissioning and procurement exercises underway (answering points b and c). This is based on our existing procurement pipeline. As such it will not include any future requirements identified through ongoing horizon scanning.

The motion from Cllr Miller also 'requests that the Chief Executive reviews and considers process improvements it can make regarding the use of urgency powers and provide a briefing to elected members on improvements to be introduced' and a separate report on this will be forthcoming.

Dentistry Services in Edinburgh

The update undernoted is in response to a request by Cllr Davidson at a previous Policy and Sustainability Committee on NHS dentistry services.

There are challenges with access to NHS dentistry in Edinburgh and across Scotland. This was a problem pre-covid, however dentistry was particularly badly affected by the pandemic because of the nature of dental treatment and the fact that many dental procedures generate aerosols that required new and much more time-consuming infection prevention and control measures.

The General Dental Services contract is a national contract negotiated by the Scottish Government. NHS Lothian provides the management support to the contracting arrangements with community independent General Dental Practitioners through the Primary Care Contracts Team, headed by the NHS Lothian Director of Primary Care. This was the agreed arrangement in the Lothian Integration Partnership's Schemes of Integration. In addition, the Director of Primary Care has direct management of the Lothian wide Public Dental Service which is also managed on behalf of the HSCPs in preference to a 'hosted' arrangement.

Contact

[Mike Massaro Mallinson](#),
Service Director –
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NHS Lothian are trying to make it easier for people to know which dentists are currently accepting new NHS patients, and they seek updated information from practices monthly to inform this list. This may change at any time if the practice reaches capacity (nhslothian.scot).

While the Health Board can signpost people to NHS dental practices, it cannot register or assign patients to a dental practice. However, NHS Lothian does have a dedicated service for people who are not registered with a dentist run by the NHS Lothian Public Dental Service through the Chalmers Dental Centre in Edinburgh. This service can provide urgent care needs but does not extend to registration with a dentist. This service can be contacted by phone on 0131 536 4800, Monday to Friday 09:00-16:30. In the out-of-hours period all patients can access emergency dental care via NHS24 on 111 who can direct patients to the local emergency out-of-hours dental centre.

In terms of registration, while a patient may not have seen a dentist for a course of NHS treatment for some years, if they have had a course of treatment since 2006 then unless their dentist has informed them in writing that they have been deregistered from their list of patients they should still be registered with that dentist as an NHS patient.

Work is ongoing to address some of the challenges facing access to an NHS dentist through work by the Chief Dental Officer. They have been undertaking a review of the General Dental Services contract to consider and develop the full range of treatment options that are necessary to ensure that NHS dental contractors are able to provide care to patients that secures and maintains the oral health of NHS patients.

Supporting Community Climate Action

The following update was provided to the Climate, Sustainability and Nature Emergencies APOG on 3rd August:

- There is Scottish Government Funding available for the establishment of local climate action hubs across in the country.
- The future hub is anticipated to bring together various climate related initiatives in the city in a more coordinated way.
- An application will be submitted by Edinburgh Climate Action Network (ECAN) to establish a hub in Edinburgh (with support from other stakeholders including EVOC). It is expected the application will be submitted by mid-September.
- The Council Sustainability team is part of the advisory panel and provided comments on the draft application which has been submitted in September to Scottish Government.

The APOG welcomed these updates and was supportive of the initiative.

Contact:

[Christine Downie](#),
Strategy Manager,
Corporate Services

Council Climate Action Scorecards

Council Climate Action Scorecards were launched on 18 October 2023. This is a grassroots initiative run by volunteers to assess every UK council on its climate action, in a range of areas including buildings, transport, planning and biodiversity. Only 41 of the UK's 388 local and combined authorities scored above 50%, with the average score being 32%. With a total score of 58%, the City of Edinburgh Council ranks joint 4th overall, and 1st in Scotland demonstrating the challenge ahead to achieve net zero. We will use the scorecards to understand where we can be bolder and where we need to make faster progress. Our three highest scores are in the Collaboration & Engagement (78%), Planning and Land Use (70%) and Waste Reduction & Food (67%) categories. Edinburgh is the highest performing Scottish local authority across all categories, except Transport (4/32) and Building & Heating (8/32). These two areas are where our scores are the lowest (respectively 44% and 40%) and this is where we know we need to focus our efforts. These findings are in line with our annual progress report on our Council Emissions Reduction Plan, which is on the agenda for Policy & Sustainability Committee on 24th October.

Contact:

[Claire Marion](#),
Lead Change and Delivery
Officer (Carbon
Management)

Local Government Bench working Framework 2021 /22 – Homeless Indicators Update.

LGBF steering group met on 19 September and inclusion of homelessness indicators were discussed. The Improvement Service (who chair the steering group) outlined the previous discussions on this topic and highlighted that there was no consensus on which measures to include as areas have different drivers/causes for homelessness. The steering group have agreed this is a priority for all. The Improvement Service are reviewing the statutory returns and will come back to the next steering group with their initial analysis for further discussion.

Contact

[Catherine Stewart](#),
Lead Change and Delivery
Officer,
Corporate Services

Forthcoming activities:
