


Business Bulletin

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 31 October 2024

Teams Meeting

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Kate Campbell</p> 	<p>Councillor Jule Bandel Councillor Jack Caldwell Councillor Christopher Cowdy Councillor Katrina Faccenda Councillor Simita Kumar Councillor Joanna Mowat Councillor Adam Nols-McVey Councillor Kayleigh O'Neill Councillor Tim Pogson Councillor Louise Young</p>	<p>Rachel Gentleman Committee Services Manager</p>

Recent news	Background/Contact
<p><u>Data Literacy</u></p> <p>In response to the Motion by Councillor Younie - Data Literacy Rollout at Full Council on 8 February 2024. To request six-monthly updates to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee business bulletin on the progress of, and learning from, the rollout.</p> <p>The Data literacy workstream is part of the Councils wider Data Strategy led by Heather Robb and approved by the Corporate Leadership Team on 26 July 2023. The Council is progressing a number of options for the development of a data literacy programme both within the Council and through the Digital Office for Scottish Local Government.</p> <p>We are currently working with our ICT partner CGI to implement Power BI Business Intelligence tools. This project will include setting up the administration, governance, process and practices for the system. We also aim to upskill staff from across the Council in Power BI to increase our capability and capacity in data analytics and the use of Power BI, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering Power BI awareness sessions for managers, staff and Elected Members • Ensuring that staff who will create/author reports attend mandatory bespoke training course through our preferred supplier 	<p>Edel McManus</p> <p>Change Delivery Manager</p> <p>Corporate Services Directorate</p> <p>Tel: 0131 469 3285</p>

- Setting up a Community of Practice group within the Council for Power BI authors. The group will provide a space for shared learning, peer support and innovation sessions with other Councils or businesses.

More broadly, the Digital Office for Scottish Local Government has been working to develop data literacy products specifically designed for Local Government. This includes:

- The development of an online learning module for Data Literacy in Local Authorities. [The Council is currently reviewing the technical specification for the module and its compatibility with the Councils Learning Hub application.
- The Scottish Government, through the Scottish Digital Academy and in partnership with the Digital Office for Scottish Local Government are working with the Data Literacy Academy to provide professional learning on data literacy and stewardship. The academy would offer a range of courses/modules which would meet the needs of different learners depending on their role. This work is at the early stages and the first pilot session will run in November 2024 with a view to using the pilot to inform further development.

As this works progresses, we will determine the best approach for managers, staff and Elected Members to access these learning products. Additionally, we will liaise with Education Services to consider any potential future application for these resources in schools.

Forth Green Freeport

The tax sites were confirmed via Statutory Instrument in June 2024 and the Full Business Case was submitted in September 2024 to the UK and Scottish Governments for review. Upon sign-off, seed funding will be released.

The Social Key Performance Indicators are still being agreed with the UK and Scottish Governments and will be monitored and reported on annually.

The first annual report on performance of the Forth Green Freeport is expected to be provided to Committee in autumn 2025, once the Forth Green Freeport has been up and running for one year.

To date, no end-users have yet established themselves in the tax sites and therefore there are no breaches of Investment

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Principles to report and no non-domestic rates (NDR) revenue being generated yet.

Millerhill Energy for Waste Plant Heat Offtake Unit Update

This is the first six monthly update on the Millerhill Energy for Waste Heat Offtake Unit update, as requested by Committee.

The Council is currently working with FCC on changes in respect of the Heat Offtake Agreement (and other relevant agreements) in order to ensure that the agreement is in accordance with the Energy from Waste contractual arrangements. A further meeting is planned in early November 2024 to progress this.

In terms of the design and build of the Heat Offtake Unit, discussions are ongoing between FCC and their preferred contractor.

A further update will be provided in six months and a briefing on the lessons learned through the procurement process will be provided once the discussions between FCC and their preferred contractor have concluded.

Edinburgh International Conference Centre Loan Stocks

Officers were asked at GRBV Committee on [7 May 2024 following a business bulletin update](#) to provide further information on where funding has been sourced in relation to the income trust and the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) Loan Stocks and what is the approval process for funding to EICC.

A report to Council in October 2007 notes that the Lothian Road Income Trust was set up in 1992 to receive capital receipts from the sale of various sites in the Exchange district and that over the years the accrued funds were used to meet development costs of the Exchange and EICC's funding requirements. The report noted that £11m plus interest would be used to meet part of the funding gap for the Additional Function Space (AFS) development.

A subsequent report to Council in June 2010 identified a further £16m funding package from Scottish Enterprise, including proceeds from the sale of Conference House, plus a capital contribution, repayable after the sale of the offices, subject to sufficient profit being generated.

The Income Trust also received interest on its credit balances.

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Previous update:
[16.01.2024](#)

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Twenty-five year loan stock has been issued to EICC to meet both operational costs (noting no operational costs have been met since 2015) and reimbursement of capital expenditure. Loan stock was first issued in 1997. In the period 1997 – 2023, £10.63m of loan stock was issued, with £6.29m being reimbursement of capital expenditure, and £4.34m for operational funding / development expenses. EICC submits an annual claim to the Council for reimbursement of eligible capital expenditure. This is reviewed by Finance, and once agreed, EICC is reimbursed from the remaining balance. EICC's claim for 2023 expenditure was authorised for payment in June 2024, and the balance of available funding now stands at c£1.615m as at 31.08.24.

ALEO Governance Framework

The ALEO Governance Framework has now been drafted and is currently going through the necessary checks. The intention is to engage with elected members and ALEOs on the framework, and then bring a proposal to GRBV for scrutiny in January 2025, before going to Council for approval in February 2025. It is important to get the framework correct and the delay in consideration is to allow for a more thorough review process.

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