

Finance and Resources Committee

10.10am, Tuesday 19 November 2024

Present

Councillors Watt (Convener), Aston (substituting for Councillor Biagi), Dalglish, Dobbin, Duggart, Miller, Mitchell, Nicolson, Ross, Staniforth (except item 19) and Younie.

1. Deputations

Living Rent Lochend

In relation to item 29 – Housing Revenue Account Budget Strategy 2025/26 – referral from Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee.

The deputation noted the scheme was and is promoted as a means to reduce fuel poverty in an area of high deprivation alongside allowing the council to meet its net zero targets and believe MTIS could be of huge benefit to the community and to the housing stock, if done correctly and with special consideration on its impact on the most vulnerable. However, they believe the opposite is the truth, as the current financial set up was causing distress with the scheme working against the poorest causing long term debt and poverty. People had been forced to sell their homes, landlords were evicting private tenants and social tenants were left in the dark with little communication whether they would benefit from the scheme or not.

The deputation requested the council:

- Take action now to prevent further harm.
- Review the Management Fee - Reduce the charge to owners, making the scheme more affordable.
- Review the interest on the payback scheme. - Make repayment 0% to prevent the poorest paying the most.
- Acquisitions rate - Make acquisition payments in line with the market value so owners aren't selling below value.
- Funding - Source more funding for owners and cap costs to allow certainty and budgeting.
- Support the request from the Housing and Fair Work committee to move General Funds to the HRA to allow proper investment into its housing stock through a Just Transition that does not put the burden on the poorest.

2. Minutes

Decision

- 1) To approve the minute of the Finance and Resources Committee of 19 September 2024 as a correct record.

3. Work Programme

The Finance and Resources Committee Work Programme for November 2024 was presented.

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme of 19 November 2024, submitted.)

4. Rolling Actions Log

The Finance and Resources Committee Rolling Actions Log for November 2024 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:

Action 2(2) – Rolling Actions Log

Action 7 – Retaining Visitor Information Services on the Royal Mile - Motion by Councillor Mumford

Action 11 – Convention Bureau Funding

Action 12 – Replacement HR and Payroll System (Oracle Fusion)

Action 15 – Pride month – Motion by Councillor Heap

Action 19 – The City of Edinburgh Council 2023/34 Annual Audit Report – Referral from Governance Risk and Best Value Committee

- 2) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log of November 2024, submitted.)

5. Business Bulletin

The Finance and Resources Committee Business Bulletin for November 2024 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To acknowledge the origin of the work to identify additional city centre cycle parking being a [report](#) to this committee and thanks officers for their initial assessment and the Business Bulletin update.

- 3) To note that decisions on any additional cycle parking should be updated to the Transport & Environment Committee and agree to provide these updates to both committees.

(Reference – Business Bulletin of 19 November 2024, submitted.)

6. Revenue Monitoring 2024/25 – month five report – Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Details were provided on the projected Council-wide revenue budget position for the year, based on analysis of the first five months' financial data and forecasts of income and expenditure for the remainder of the year. Although the forecast reflected some improvement from month three, significant pressures continued to be forecast across a range of service areas, particularly within Homelessness Services and the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, with limited further mitigations identified thus far, highlighting a continuing need for urgent action.

Decision

- 1) To note that, as of month five, an overall overspend of £12.796m had been forecast, a reduction of £13.845m from the projected position as of month three.
- 2) To note that, at the meeting of the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EIJB) on 1 November, the Chief Officer was unable to present a recovery plan that would achieve in-year financial balance as required by the integration scheme.
- 3) To note therefore the request from the EIJB to defer the planned in-year "brokerage" repayment of £0.9m and refer to Council a recommendation that up to £11.6m of additional in-year support be provided to the EIJB, subject to consideration of future repayment.
- 4) To note the establishment of the Budget Support and Accountability Board as a means of enhancing grip and control of financial and operational performance in key areas of pressure.
- 5) To note, nonetheless, the on-going need for application of the full range of controls previously put in place and the potential need for further measures to be implemented to bring expenditure back within budgeted levels.
- 6) To note that a further update would therefore be provided to members at the Committee's next meeting in January and in the intervening period as required, including progress updates to relevant Executive Committees.
- 7) To refer this report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny as part of its work programme.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

7. Capital Monitoring 2024-25 - Month Five Position

The capital expenditure and funding position was provided as at month five and full-year outturn projections for the 2024-25 financial year, providing explanations for key variances.

Decision

- 1) To note the capital monitoring position for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) at month five of the 2024-25 financial year.
- 2) To note the Prudential Indicators in appendix 3 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 3) To refer the report to the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee as part of its work programme.
- 4) To note the Climate Assessment of the 2024-25 Capital Programme in Appendix (Reference – report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

8. Capital Budget Update 2025-2035

Priorities were set out for £1,328.9m of Council capital investment, in alignment with the Council Business Plan, over the medium to long-term.

Decision

- 1) To note the priorities for capital expenditure outlined in this report which are aligned to the Council Business Plan.
- 2) To note the announcement of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement is expected in December 2024.
- 3) To note that delivery of funded capital expenditure priorities was dependent on the achievement of a balanced medium-term revenue budget.
- 4) To note that a further report on the Capital Budget 2025-2035 would be presented to this Committee early in 2025 prior to Council budget setting in February 2025.
- 5) To note that investment in unfunded pressures and priorities set out in this report would require additional external funding and/or reprioritisation of existing budgets and must be supported by robust business cases.
- 6) To note the Climate assessment of the capital programme in Appendix 5 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

9. Revenue Budget Framework and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2024/29 – Progress Update

An update was provided on progress against the Council's budget strategy, in order to address the Council's projected revenue budget funding gap of £29.9m in 2025/26.

Decision

- 1) To note the budget proposals for 2025/26, part of the Council's approach to organisational transformation to close the budget gap of £29.9m.

- 2) To approve proposals for public consultation on the budget to begin 20 November 2024 and end 14 January 2025, with results reported to Committee on 4 February 2025.
- 3) To note that a further update would be presented to the Committee's meeting on 4 February 2025, considering the Council's provisional 2025/26 grant funding allocation and any other changes in key planning assumptions, including any unmitigated pressures requiring to be incorporated within the budget framework

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

10. Civic Vehicle Access to the City Chambers

Following on from the Committee's decision to remove the Council's civic cars from the exceptions within the new operating procedure for the City Chambers Quadrangle an assessment of risk to the Council's City Officers and elected members took place.

Motion

- 1) To note the assessment of increased risk arising from a previous decision to remove the Council's civic cars from exemption from the new operating procedure for the City Chambers Quadrangle, as set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.15 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
 - 2) To agree on the basis of that assessment, it is recommended to reinstate the exception within the Operating Procedure to read "The Lord Provost's car or civic cars on official business when transporting the civic regalia."
- Moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Dalgleish

Amendment

- 1) To note the assessment of increased risk arising from a previous decision to remove the Council's civic cars from exemption from the new operating procedure for the City Chambers Quadrangle, as set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.15 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
 - 2) To note, though, that there is normally sufficient parking outside the City Chambers either on High Street or on Cockburn Street and that parking there would not excessively increase the distance the civic regalia travels from the City Chambers to the car.
 - 3) To further note that the more exemptions are made from a rule the more difficult it is to enforce, and the more others become likely to test or break that rule.
 - 4) To therefore continue to include civic cars in the general ban on vehicles in the City Chambers Quadrangle.
- Moved by Councillor Staniforth, seconded by Councillor Miller

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion - 6 votes

For the amendment - 5 votes

(For the Motion – Councillors Dalgleish, Doggart, Mitchell, Ross, Watt and Younie

For Amendment 2 – Councillors Aston, Dobbin, Nicholson, Miller and Staniforth.)

Decision

To approve the following motion by Councillor Watt:

- 1) To note the assessment of increased risk arising from a previous decision to remove the Council’s civic cars from exemption from the new operating procedure for the City Chambers Quadrangle, as set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.15 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To agree on the basis of that assessment, it is recommended to reinstate the exception within the Operating Procedure to read “The Lord Provost’s car or civic cars on official business when transporting the civic regalia.

(Reference – Finance and Resources Committee 30 April (item 13), report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

11. Appointment to Working Groups

The Finance and Resources Committee were invited to appoint the chair of the Budget Strategy Working Group, note the members appointed to the working group and the terms of reference both of which were agreed by Full Council at its meeting on 27 June 2024 and consider the permanent appointment of group leaders to the membership.

Decision

- 1) To appoint Councillor Mandy Watt as the chair of the Budget Strategy Working Group.
- 2) To note the membership appointed at the meeting of the City of Edinburgh Council on 27 June 2024.
- 3) To replace Councillor Macinnes with Councillor Dobbin for the Budget Strategy Working Group.
- 4) To permanently appoint group leaders to the membership of the Budget Strategy Working Group.

(Reference – City of Edinburgh Council, 27 June (Item 4), report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

12. Health and Social Care Contracts Extension Report

The current Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership (EHSCP) commissioning activity was presented and showed how they impact on contractual arrangements including the requirement to waive the requirement of Contract Standing Orders to allow contracts to be extended at the expiry of the current contract duration.

Motion

To approve the extension of the Health and Social Care contract outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Integration Joint Board.

- moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Dalgleish

Amendment

- 1) To approve the extension of the Health and Social Care contract outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Integration Joint Board.
- 2) To note the Scottish Government's decision to delay the National Care Service bill.
- 3) To ask officers to liaise with the Scottish Government and Edinburgh Integration Joint Board to identify any areas of commissioning, procurement and contracting where there are opportunities to take the usual strategic approach to commissioning, rather than using modifications and extensions, while the timeline of the bill was being agreed.

- moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following motion by Councillor Watt:

- 1) To approve the extension of the Health and Social Care contract outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Integration Joint Board.
- 2) To note the Scottish Government's decision to delay the National Care Service bill.
- 3) To ask officers to liaise with the Scottish Government and Edinburgh Integration Joint Board to identify any areas of commissioning, procurement and contracting where there are opportunities to take the usual strategic approach to commissioning, rather than using modifications and extensions, while the timeline of the bill was being agreed.

(Reference – report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, submitted.)

13. Potential for an Invest to Save Energy Efficiency Business Case

A response was provided to a request for information approved during 2024/25 budget setting. It outlined challenges and financial risks associated with the sale of £50m of the Council's commercial estate to fund investment in energy efficient retrofit.

Decision

To note the contents of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Place.

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

14 Spend to save Funding – Edinburgh Leisure

A request was submitted from Edinburgh Leisure for use of the Council's Spend to Save Fund for five projects. The total value of Spend to Save Fund investment requested was £0.650m, with full repayment to the Fund required within four years.

Decision

- 1) To review the Spend to Save applications submitted by Edinburgh Leisure.
- 2) To refer this decision to Council for approval to use the Spend to Save Fund for each project.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

15. Forth Green Freeport – Borrowing Strategy for Retained Non-Domestic Rates Income

The proposed parameters governing the use of income from Forth Green Freeport retained NDR to support borrowing via the Council's loans fund were presented. The legislative framework and relevant guidance were taken into account as well as considering risks associated with this income stream.

Motion

- 1) To agree the over-arching principles underpinning any borrowing supported by retained non-domestic rates (NDR) from the Leith tax site in the Forth Green Freeport (FGF).
- 2) To note that borrowing would be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and that investments for individual projects or programmes would need to be supported by detailed business cases and, under standing orders, would require approval by full Council.
 - moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Dalgleish

Amendment

- 1) To agree the over-arching principles underpinning any borrowing supported by retained non-domestic rates (NDR) from the Leith tax site in the Forth Green Freeport (FGF).
- 2) To note that borrowing would be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and that investments for individual projects or programmes would need to be supported by detailed business cases and, under standing orders, would require approval by full Council.
- 3) To note the council would not see any additional funds become available for investment through retained Non Domestic Rates (NDR) until 2027/28, at which point the Free Port is projected to have cost the council £344,970.
 - moved by Councillor Dobbin, seconded by Councillor Aston

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following motion by Councillor Watt:

- 1) To agree the over-arching principles underpinning any borrowing supported by retained non-domestic rates (NDR) from the Leith tax site in the Forth Green Freeport (FGF).
- 2) To note that borrowing would be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and that investments for individual projects or programmes would need to be supported by detailed business cases and, under standing orders, would require approval by full Council.
- 3) To note the council would not see any additional funds become available for investment through retained Non Domestic Rates (NDR) until 2027/28, at which point the Free Port is projected to have cost the council £344,970.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

16 Depot Programme 2025-2030

An update on progress was provided in relation to the investment strategy for the Council's depots estate which was approved by the Finance and Resources Committee on 2 February 2016, followed by a Gateway Review on 4 December 2018, and again on 4 March 2021.

Decision

- 1) To note the updated Depot Programme, 2025-2030 which provides for multi-service hubs, long term savings and fit for purpose facilities.
- 2) To approve the proposed interim arrangements for the transfer of archival records to the City Chambers and to a leased, deep storage facility expediting the closure of Murrayburn depot. This would also ensure the continued preservation of the Council's archival collections.
- 3) To note that while these interim arrangements would be contained within the depots financial model, further work was required which would:
 - 3.1) Provide a detailed cost associated with Mechanical and Electrical (M&E) enhancement works at the City Chambers.
 - 3.2) Provide a longer term solution for the storage of the City Archives which are contained within the proposed Council Collections Centre, included in a report to Culture and Communities Committee in December.
- 4) To note that this report provided a roadmap to concluding the depots programme and that it would be reported in future as part of the Corporate Property Strategy.

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

17 Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2024/25

An update was provided on the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of 2024/25.

Decision

- 1) To note the mid-year report on Treasury Management for 2024/25.
- 2) To refer the report to City of Edinburgh Council for approval and subsequent remit by the City of Edinburgh Council to the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny.

(Reference – report by the Service Director, Finance and Procurement submitted.)

18. Asset Management Works Programme – 2023/24 Update

An annual overview was provided of the works carried out under the Asset Management Works Programme in 2023/24. Detail was provided on the current condition of the estate and planned works for 2024/25.

Decision

- 1) To note the 2023/24 Asset Management Works Programme Update.
- 2) To note the current financial pressures on repairs and maintenance spending and associated risk on future capital investment requirements.
- 3) To approve an additional allocation of £2.8m of Asset Management Works funding to support the refurbishment of Portobello Swim Centre.

(References – report by the Interim Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

19 The City of Edinburgh Council Charitable Trust – report to those charged with Governance on the 2023/24 Audit

The Convener ruled in terms of Standing order 4.4, that the following item, notice of which had been given on the notice of meeting but which report had been issued at a later date, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Committee to give early consideration to this matter.

An update was provided with the external auditor's view on matters arising from the Charitable Trusts and Charitable Funds audit in compliance with relevant International Audit Standards. An unmodified (unqualified) audit opinion was expected to be issued on the Trustee's Annual Reports and Accounts for 2023/24.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Trustee's Annual Reports and Accounts for 2023/24 and note that these would be submitted to the external auditor and thereafter to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) by 31 December 2024.
- 2) To note and approve the change of accounting policy regarding the valuation of the Charitable Trusts' collections.
- 3) To note the commentary on the management of the Charitable Trusts and Funds included in the proposed Audit Findings Report in Appendix 1 of the report by The Executive Director of Corporate Services.

(Reference – report by The Executive Director of Corporate Services., submitted.)

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Staniforth declared a financial interest as a tour guide working within the grounds of Lauriston Farm. He took no part in the decision.

20. Internal Audit Open and Overdue Internal Audit Actions – Performance Dashboard as at 13 September 2024 – referral from Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had referred the Internal Audit Open and Overdue Internal Audit Actions – Performance Dashboard as at 13 September 2024 report to the Finance and Resources Committee for ongoing scrutiny of the overdue Internal Audit actions relevant to its remit.

Decision

To note the contents of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

(Reference – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 31 October 2024 (item 7); referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, submitted.)

21. Homelessness Services – Use of Temporary Accommodation

The Convener ruled in terms of Standing order 4.4, that the following item, notice of which had been given on the notice of meeting but which report had been issued at a later date, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Committee to give early consideration to this matter.

During the COVID-19 emergency, the Council were required to significantly increase the amount of temporary accommodation available to meet demand. The 2024/25 approved budget reflected expected reductions in the amount of temporary accommodation required due to mitigating initiatives being taken forward as part of the Housing Emergency Action Plan (HEAP) agreed by Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 27 February 2024.

Decision

- 1) To approve, through a waiver of the Council's Contract Standing Orders, extending 20 contracts for the provision of temporary accommodation on a spot contract basis for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The additional cost would be up to a maximum of £2,024,744.
- 2) To note that, in response to the Monitoring Officer report on conflicting legal obligations (which is reported separately on this agenda), the service required approval of up to £8,510,240 to be spent on other temporary accommodation providers should they be required.
- 3) To note that the values requested per provider were indicative only and are dependent on accommodation requirements, therefore Committee was asked to grant delegated authority to the Executive Director of Place to adjust (within the

agreed total) the values between the named providers as necessary depending on need, type, and appropriateness of properties available from these providers.

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

22. Motion by Councillor Heap – Gorgie Farm Implementation of Culture and Communities Committee Decision – referral from The City of Edinburgh Council

On 7 November 2024, the City of Edinburgh Council approved an adjusted motion by Councillor Heap, submitted in terms of Standing Order 17, on Gorgie Farm Implementation of Culture and Communities Committee Decision. The motion was referred to Finance and Resources Committee for consideration.

Decision

To note the contents of the motion Motion by Councillor Heap - Gorgie Farm Implementation of Culture and Communities Committee Decision – referral from the City of Edinburgh Council.

(Reference – City of Edinburgh Council 7 November (item 22); referral from the City of Edinburgh Council, submitted.)

23. Commercial Property Portfolio – Update Report

An update was provided on the performance of the portfolio in relation to the strategy for the management of the commercial property portfolio approved on June 2023 by Finance and Resources Committee.

Decision

To note the performance of the Commercial Property Portfolio, and progress with the implementation of the Commercial Portfolio Strategy over the financial year 2023/24 and the first six months of 2024/25.

(Reference – report by the Interim Director of Place, submitted.)

24. 249 High Street Options Appraisal

An outline of options were provided for the future use of the premises on 249 High Street following Visit Scotland's decision to withdraw from their lease in March 2025.

Motion

- 1) To note the intention of Visit Scotland to terminate the lease on 249 High Street effective from 23 March 2025.
 - 2) To note that further work would be required to further establish the exact cost of a Council led visitor Centre and that either option would require funding to be allocated as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process.
- moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Dalgleish

Amendment 1

- 1) To note the intention of Visit Scotland to terminate the lease on 249 High Street effective from 23 March 2025.
 - 2) To note that further work would be required to further establish the exact cost of a Council led visitor Centre and that either option would require funding to be allocated as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process.
 - 3) To note the rationale for Visit Scotland giving up physical visitor centres in order to focus on a strategy of supporting visitors in line with changing patterns of how visitors plan their trips.
 - 4) To note the high running costs relative to income that Visit Scotland incurred.
 - 5) To note that provision of tourist information is the provenance of tourist organisations and that the funding of the Council providing and operating a visitor centre would be better directed to support Council services, particularly given current budget challenges.
 - 6) To request that Officers consider the alternative option and seek an alternative use/tenant that would be appropriate for this prestigious location and that can attract an associated premium rent.
 - 7) To note that Visit Scotland would vacate the space at the end of March 2025.requests urgent effort to find a tenant and requests an update on progress at the next Committee meeting through the Business Bulletin.
- moved by Councillor Dobbin, seconded by Councillor Aston

Amendment 2

- 1) To note the intention of Visit Scotland to terminate the lease on 249 High Street effective from 23 March 2025.
 - 2) To note that further work would be required to further establish the exact cost of a Council led visitor Centre and that either option would require funding to be allocated as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process.
 - 3) To ask officers to continue, as previously agreed by this committee, to develop options for the future use of 249 High Street as a visitor centre and to provide sufficient information to political groups to enable this to form part of budget motions.
- moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), amendments 1 and 2 were adjusted and accepted as addenda to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion as adjusted	-	6 votes
For amendment 1	-	2 votes
For amendment 2	-	3 votes

(For the Motion as adjusted – Councillors Dalgleish, Doggart, Mitchell, Ross, Watt and Younie

For Amendment 1 - Councillors Aston, Dobbin, and Nicholson

For Amendment 2 – Councillors Miller and Staniforth.)

Decision

To approve the following motion by Councillor Watt:

- 1) To note the intention of Visit Scotland to terminate the lease on 249 High Street effective from 23 March 2025.
- 2) To note that further work would be required to further establish the exact cost of a Council led visitor Centre and that either option would require funding to be allocated as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process.
- 3) To note the rationale for Visit Scotland giving up physical visitor centres in order to focus on a strategy of supporting visitors in line with changing patterns of how visitors plan their trips.
- 4) To note the high running costs relative to income that Visit Scotland incurred.
- 5) To note that provision of tourist information is the provenance of tourist organisations and that the funding of the Council providing and operating a visitor centre would be better directed to support Council services, particularly given current budget challenges.
- 6) To request that Officers consider the alternative option and seek an alternative use/tenant that would be appropriate for this prestigious location and that can attract an associated premium rent.
- 7) To note that Visit Scotland would vacate the space at the end of March 2025.requests urgent effort to find a tenant and requests an update on progress at the next Committee meeting through the Business Bulletin.
- 8) To ask officers to continue, as previously agreed by this committee, to develop options for the future use of 249 High Street as a visitor centre and to provide sufficient information to political groups to enable this to form part of budget motions.

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

25. Braidwood Centre, Dumbiedykes Road, Edinburgh – Proposed Lease Acquisition of Garden Ground

The Braidwood Centre is due to be leased out to the Greyfriars Charteris Centre (GCC). It has been identified that the garden area to the rear of the building is outwith Council ownership and owned by the Scottish Ministers. GCC have confirmed that the garden area is integral to their proposals for the building. Negotiations with Historic Environment Scotland who manage the ground on behalf of the Scottish Ministers have been conducted and Heads of Terms agreed.

Motion

To approve a new 15-year lease acquisition of approximately 650 sq m of ground to the rear of the Braidwood Centre at 69 Dumbiedykes Road, Edinburgh on the terms outlined in this report and on other terms and conditions to be agreed by the Interim Executive Director of Place.

- moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Dalgleish.

Amendment

- 1) To approve a new 15-year lease acquisition of approximately 650 sq m of ground to the rear of the Braidwood Centre at 69 Dumbiedykes Road, Edinburgh on the terms outlined in this report and on other terms and conditions to be agreed by the Interim Executive Director of Place.
- 2) Given the substantial arrangement of the land has existed between City of Edinburgh Council and Historic Environment Scotland / Scottish Government since 1912, additionally requests that officers now engage with Scottish Ministers to explore a future permanent asset transfer of the grounds to the City of Edinburgh Council reporting back via business bulletin to this committee.

- moved by Councillor Dobbin, seconded by Councillor Aston

In accordance with Standing Order 22.13 the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Watt.

- 1) To approve a new 15-year lease acquisition of approximately 650 sq m of ground to the rear of the Braidwood Centre at 69 Dumbiedykes Road, Edinburgh on the terms outlined in this report and on other terms and conditions to be agreed by the Interim Executive Director of Place.
- 2) Given the substantial arrangement of the land has existed between City of Edinburgh Council and Historic Environment Scotland / Scottish Government since 1912, additionally requests that officers now engage with Scottish Ministers to explore a future permanent asset transfer of the grounds to the City of Edinburgh Council reporting back via business bulletin to this committee.

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

26 Award of Security Contract

Approval was sought to award a contract for Security Services to Vigilant Protect UK Limited to commence on 1 February 2025 for an initial period of three years, with two further 12-month extensions, at a total estimated value of £13,864,802.

Motion

- 1) To approve the award of a contract for Security Services to Vigilant Protect UK Limited.

- 2) To approve the commencement of the contract on 1 February 2025 for an initial period of three years, with two further optional 12 month extensions, at a total estimated value of £13,864,802.
 - 3) To note at paragraph 3.4 of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Place that “where there is a business case to do so, the Council will also require flexibility to replace some contracted-out-functions with in-house capability.”
 - 4) To therefore, request officers prepare a business case to be presented to Committee in 1 cycle.
- Moved by Councillor Watt, seconded by Councillor Dalglish

Amendment 1

- 1) To approve the award of a contract for Security Services to Vigilant Protect UK Limited.
 - 2) To approve the commencement of the contract on 1 February 2025 for an initial period of three years, with two further optional 12 month extensions, at a total estimated value of £13,864,802.
 - 3) To note that the proposed contract covers guarding of Council premises by security personnel and that under 3.4 in the report by the Interim Executive Director of Place the proposed contract allows in-term flexibility to in-house capability.
 - 4) To note that staff who have worked for many years in the same role would continue through this revised contract to be on temporary contracts, reducing their rights, entitlements, job security and working conditions.
 - 5) To note that the Council’s stated ambition is to be a fair work city and that this therefore falls short of that ambition.
 - 6) To note at paragraph 3.4 the report states that “where there is a business case to do so, the Council would also require flexibility to replace some contracted-out-functions with in-house capability.”
 - 7) Now there was certainty over the new contract for security services, to ask officers to develop options for in-house security personnel as previously discussed. Therefore, officers were requested to prepare a business case to be presented to Committee in 1 cycle.
- Moved by Councillor Dobbin, seconded by Councillor Nicholson

Amendment 2

- 1) To approve the award of a contract for Security Services to Vigilant Protect UK Limited.
- 2) To approve the commencement of the contract on 1 February 2025 for an initial period of three years, with two further optional 12 month extensions, at a total estimated value of £13,864,802.

- 3) Now that there is certainty over the new contract for security services, asks officers to develop options for in-house security personnel as previously discussed and to provide recommendations to the Policy & Sustainability Committee in Q1 2025”

- Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

Amendment 3

- 1) To approve the award of a contract for Security Services to Vigilant Protect UK Limited.
- 2) To approve the commencement of the contract on 1 February 2025 for an initial period of three years, with two further optional 12 month extensions, at a total estimated value of £13,864,802.
- 3) To note at paragraph 3.4 of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Place that “where there is a business case to do so, the Council will also require flexibility to replace some contracted-out-functions with in-house capability.”
- 4) To therefore, request officers prepare a business case to be presented to Committee in 1 cycle.

- moved by Councillor Younie, seconded by Councillor Ross

Amendment 4

- 1) To approve the award of a 1) contract for Security Services to Vigilant Protect UK Limited.
- 2) To approve the commencement of the contract on 1 February 2025 for an initial period of three years, with two further optional 12 month extensions, at a total estimated value of £13,864,802.

- moved by Councillor Doggart, seconded by Councillor Mitchell

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), amendment 1 was adjusted and accepted as an addenda to the motion and amendment 2 was accepted as an addenda to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion as adjusted	-	7 votes
For amendment 3	-	2 votes
For amendment 4	-	2 votes

(For the Motion as adjusted – Councillors Aston, Dagleish, Dobbin, Miller, Nicholson, Staniforth and Watt

For Amendment 3 - Councillors Ross and Younie

For Amendment 4 – Councillors Doggart, and Mitchell.)

Decision

- 1) To approve the award of a contract for Security Services to Vigilant Protect UK Limited.
- 2) To approve the commencement of the contract on 1 February 2025 for an initial period of three years, with two further optional 12 month extensions, at a total estimated value of £13,864,802.
- 3) To note at paragraph 3.4 of the report by the Interim Executive Director of Place that “where there is a business case to do so, the Council will also require flexibility to replace some contracted-out-functions with in-house capability.”
- 4) To therefore, request officers prepare a business case to be presented to Committee in 1 cycle.
- 5) To note that the proposed contract covered guarding of Council premises by security personnel and that under 3.4 in the Paper the proposed contract allows in-term flexibility to in-house capability.
- 6) To note that staff who had worked for many years in the same role will continue through this revised contract to be on temporary contracts, reducing their rights, entitlements, job security and working conditions.
- 7) To note that the Council’s stated ambition is to be a fair work city and that this therefore falls short of that ambition.
- 8) To note at paragraph 3.4 the report states that “where there is a business case to do so, the Council will also require flexibility to replace some contracted-out-functions with in-house capability.”
- 9) To note that now there was certainty over the new contract for security services, asks officers to develop options for in-house security personnel as previously discussed. Therefore, officers were requested to prepare a business case to be presented to Committee in 1 cycle.
- 10) Now that there is certainty over the new contract for security services, ask officers to develop options for in-house security personnel as previously discussed and to provide recommendations to the Policy & Sustainability Committee in Q1 2025”

(Reference – report by Interim Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

27 Contract Awards for the Supply of Utilities

Approval was sought for three contract awards for Electricity Natural Gas and Water and to award contracts using the Scottish Government National Framework agency agreement. Approval was also sought to delegate future awards to the Chief Executive or appropriate Executive Director, in consultation with the relevant Convener and Group Leaders.

Decision

- 1) To approve the following contract awards from the Scottish Government National Framework where an agency agreement is in place.

- 1.1) Starting 1 April 2024, Supply of Electricity for a maximum term of six years (31 March 2030) to EDF Energy Customer Limited.
 - 1.2) Starting 1 April 2024, Supply of Water and Wastewater services for a maximum term of four years (31 March 2028) to Scottish Water Business Stream Ltd.
 - 1.3) Starting 1 April 2025, Supply of Natural Gas for a maximum term of six years (31 March 2031) to TotalEnergies Gas and Power.
- 2) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive or the appropriate Executive Director, in consultation with the relevant Convener and Group Leaders, to approve further contract awards from the Scottish Government national framework agreements where an agency agreement is in place (Gas, Water and Electricity).

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

28 Response to the Monitoring Officer report on conflicting legal obligations / Finance and Procurement Policies – Assurance Statement

The Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee had referred the Response to the Monitoring Officer report on conflicting legal obligations / Finance and Procurement Policies – Assurance Statement report to the Finance and Resources Committee for consideration of additional funding being provided, as required, to ensure such safe transition to compliant and, as far as is possible, suitable temporary accommodation from all unlicensed HMO accommodation for all homeless households affected and agree that an update be provided to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee once this request has been considered.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services; and
- 2) To agree an update be provided to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee once this request has been considered.

(References – Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee 1 October (item 12); referral from the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, submitted.)

29. Housing Revenue Account Budget Strategy 2025/26 – referral from the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

The Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee had referred the Housing Revenue Account Budget Strategy 2025/26 to the Finance and Resources Committee for consideration in order to align with the General Fund budget development.

Decision

To note the contents of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

(References – Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee 1 October (item 6); referral from the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, submitted.)

30. Corporate Services Directorate - Revenue Budget Monitoring 2024/25 – Month Five position

A forecast was presented detailing expenditure and income to be within budget for services delivered by the Directorate in 2024/25, based on the five-month revenue budget monitoring position.

Decision

- 1) To note Corporate Services Directorate were forecasting expenditure and income to be within budget for services delivered by the Directorate in 2024/25.
- 2) To note measures would continue to be progressed to fully deliver approved savings targets and to offset budget pressures to achieve outturn within the approved revenue budget for 2024/25.
- 3) To note the ongoing risks to the achievement of a balanced revenue budget projection for services delivered by Corporate Services Directorate.

(Reference – report by the Service Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

31. Foster a Culture of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

This was the first themed Deep Dive report as part of the assurance reporting framework on the implementation of Our People Strategy 2024-2027. Focus was on the theme to Foster a Culture of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

The report highlighted activity undertaken in the final year of the existing Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and introduces the themes of the new Workforce Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2024 - 2028 which would be considered at Policy and Sustainability Committee in December 2024. It outlined 2023/24 achievements and activity and introduces activity for the year ahead. . It also established a new equalities dashboard to provide insight that will identify the action plan priorities in the years ahead and help track and measure progress.

Decision

To note the contents of the People Strategy Deep Dive Report - Foster a Culture of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

32. Annual Fraud Prevention and Detection Report

An overview was provided in the annual report of fraud prevention and detection activities undertaken in 2023/24.

Decision

To note the Council's work on fraud prevention and detection during the 2023/24 financial year.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

33. Finance and Procurement Policies – Assurance Statement

In accordance with the Council’s policy review framework, the Service Director: Finance and Procurement had undertaken an annual review of the suite of policies falling within his remit. This review had attested to their on-going currency, relevance and appropriateness.

Decision

To note and be assured that the Finance and Procurement policies detailed in the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services had been reviewed and were considered to remain current, relevant and fit-for-purpose.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

34. Procurement Delivery Plan 2024/2025 – November Update

An overview was provided of planned procurement activity, this would allow time for elected members to ask questions about the procurement strategy at an early stage.

Decision

To note the content of the report and the update to current procurement exercises in Appendix 1 and expiring contracts detailed in Appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

(Reference – report by the Service Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

35. Retail units at Fountainbridge, Edinburgh – Proposed Lease and Sub Lease

In 2019, the Council sold part of the land at Fountainbridge to the adjoining owner Vastint Hospitality BV to be included in their mixed-use development of residential, office and hotel accommodation. As part of the negotiation for the disposal, terms were agreed for the Council to lease two ground floor commercial units for onward sub lease to the local community. Approval was sought for the lease acquisition and subsequent sub lease on the terms and conditions outlined in this report.

Decision

To approve the lease acquisition and sub lease of the commercial units at Fountainbridge, Edinburgh on the terms outlined in this report and on other terms and conditions to be agreed by the Interim Executive Director of Place

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

36. Leith Theatre, Ferry Road, Edinburgh – Amendments to Proposed Lease

Committee approved a report on 21 September 2023 setting out terms for a new long-term lease of Leith Theatre to Leith Theatre Trust. During subsequent discussions, some of the material terms had changed which required fresh Committee approval.

Approval was sought to grant those variations on the terms and conditions outlined in the report.

Decision

To approve the revised terms to the lease with Leith Theatre Trust of Leith Theatre, Ferry Road, Edinburgh on the terms outlined in this report and on other terms and conditions to be agreed by the Executive Director of Place.

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

37. Currie Bowling Club 283 Lanark Road West Edinburgh – Proposed Lease Extension

Approval was sought to extend the lease of Currie Bowling Club, 283 Lanark Road, on the terms and conditions outlined in the report by the Interim Executive Director of Place.

Decision

To approve a 50-year lease extension to Currie Bowling Club on the terms outlined in this report and on other terms and conditions to be agreed by the Interim Executive Director of Place.

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

38. 29 Leith Street Edinburgh – Proposed Lease Extension

Approval was sought to grant a lease extension for the premises at 29 Leith Street on the terms and conditions outlined in the report by the Interim Executive Director of Place.

Decision

To approve a 15-year lease extension to Imran Mahmood of the premises found at 29 Leith Street, Edinburgh on the terms outlined in this report and on other terms and conditions to be agreed by the Interim Executive Director of Place.

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

39. West Mains, Ratho Station – Proposed Deed of Servitude

Approval was sought for the grant of a Deed of Servitude in order to increase the water supply network at West Mains, Ratho Station.

Decision

To approve the grant of a Deed of Servitude in favour of Taylor Wimpey UK Limited at West Mains, Ratho Station on the terms outlined in this report and on other terms to be agreed by the Interim Executive Director of Place.

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

40. Greendykes Development (Phases K&L), Greendykes Road – Proposed Deed of Servitude

Approval was sought to grant a Deed of Servitude in relation for electricity cabling to supply residential units at the Greendykes (Phases K&L) development.

Decision

To approve the grant of a Deed of Servitude in favour of Electricity Network Company under the terms and conditions outlined in this report and on any other terms to be agreed by the Interim Executive Director of Place.

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

41. Motion by Councillor Miller – Scottish Women's Budget Group Report

The following motion by Councillor Miller was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17.

Motion

“Committee:

- 1) To thank Scottish Women's Budget Group (SWBG) for holding focus groups on gender budgeting during autumn 2023, to thank officers and elected members for participating, and thank SWBG for preparing a report summarising the themes raised and recommendations for Council to take forward.
 - 2) To request that the SWBG report and officers' associated plans to implement changes answering the recommendations be reported to committee”
- moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Miller.

42. Motion by Councillor Staniforth – National Insurance Contributions for ALEOS

The following motion by Councillor Staniforth was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17.

Motion

- 1) To note that in the Westminster budget National Insurance rose to 15% (from 13.8%) for employers and that the threshold for paying it lowered to salaries above £5000 (from £9100).
- 2) To note that the Scottish Government would receive additional funding from the Barnett formula as a result of this tax increase.
- 3) To note that it can, and should, be expected that the Scottish Government use at least part of that increase to fund councils such that paying the additional tax for their workforce is not an extra financial burden on those hard-pressed councils and provides full cost recovery.
- 4) To note that council-funded ALEOs, such as Edinburgh Leisure, would also see an increase in the amount of National Insurance they will pay as employers and

that in the case of Edinburgh Leisure, as it employs a large number of part time staff, the lowering of the threshold for payment will be particularly burdensome.

- 5) To therefore request that the Finance and Resources convenor write to the Scottish Finance Minister and make representation to COSLA that, in addition to being funded enough to pay the extra tax for their own workforce, councils should be funded enough that they can also pass on to council funded ALEOs enough to pay the extra tax for their workforce.

- moved by Councillor Staniforth, seconded by Councillor Miller

Amendment 1

- 1) To note that in the Westminster budget National Insurance rose to 15% (from 13.8%) for employers and that the threshold for paying it lowered to salaries above £5000 (from £9100).
- 2) To notes that the UK Government has committed to additional funding for the Scottish Government to cover Employer National Insurance Contributions (ENICs) for the public sector in Scotland.
 - 1) To note that the public sector in Scotland was proportionally larger than in England, and public sector workers receive better pay, therefore Barnett consequential will not cover the additional cost of the UK Government budget decision to increase ENICs in Scotland.
 - 2) To note that the UK Government had not confirmed what will be covered by the additional funds for the 'public sector' and notes concerns that there is a lack of clarity on certain areas which, if not covered, could represent significant additional cost to local authorities.
- 5) To recognise the need for clarity on the potential costs of this UK government policy on council services.
- 6) To agree to receive a report in one cycle which sets out the potential additional annual costs of ENICs on these areas:
 - a. The Housing Revenue Account
 - b. ALEOs
 - c. Commissioned services
 - d. Contracted services
 - e. Third sector organisations delivering programmes through grants
 - f. Any other external organisation delivering services on behalf of the council
- 7) To agree to share with COSLA, the Scottish Government and the UK Government the accurate information about the additional costs that could be incurred by Edinburgh council to continue delivering services
- 8) To agree that the convener writes to the UK Government requesting that they fully cover those costs and writes to the Scottish Government requesting that

they pass on in full any funding received to cover the additional ENICs for the public sector.

- Moved by Councillor Aston, seconded by Councillor Nicholson

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

“Committee:

- 1) To note that in the Westminster budget National Insurance rose to 15% (from 13.8%) for employers and that the threshold for paying it lowered to salaries above £5000 (from £9100).
- 2) To note that the Scottish Government would receive additional funding from the Barnett formula as a result of this tax increase.
- 3) To note that it can, and should, be expected that the Scottish Government use at least part of that increase to fund councils such that paying the additional tax for their workforce is not an extra financial burden on those hard-pressed councils and provides full cost recovery.
- 4) To note that council-funded ALEOs, such as Edinburgh Leisure, will also see an increase in the amount of National Insurance they will pay as employers and that in the case of Edinburgh Leisure, as it employs a large number of part time staff, the lowering of the threshold for payment will be particularly burdensome.
- 5) To therefore request that the Finance and Resources convenor write to the Scottish Finance Minister and make representation to COSLA that, in addition to being funded enough to pay the extra tax for their own workforce, councils should be funded enough that they can also pass on to council funded ALEOs enough to pay the extra tax for their workforce.”
- 6) To note that the UK Government had committed to additional funding for the Scottish Government to cover Employer National Insurance Contributions (ENICs) for the public sector in Scotland.
- 7) To note that the public sector in Scotland was proportionally larger than in England, and public sector workers receive better pay, therefore Barnett consequentials would not cover the additional cost of the UK Government budget decision to increase ENICs in Scotland.
- 8) To note that the UK Government had not confirmed what would be covered by the additional funds for the ‘public sector’ and notes concerns that there is a lack of clarity on certain areas which, if not covered, could represent significant additional cost to local authorities.
- 9) To recognise the need for clarity on the potential costs of this UK government policy on council services.
- 10) To agree to receive a report in one cycle which sets out the potential additional annual costs of ENICs on these areas:

- a. The Housing Revenue Account
 - b. ALEOs
 - c. Commissioned services
 - d. Contracted services
 - e. Third sector organisations delivering programmes through grants
 - f. Any other external organisation delivering services on behalf of the council
- 11) To agree to share with COSLA, the Scottish Government and the UK Government the accurate information about the additional costs that could be incurred by Edinburgh council to continue delivering services
 - 12) To agree that the convener writes to the UK Government requesting that they fully cover those costs, and writes to the Scottish Government requesting that they pass on in full any funding received to cover the additional ENICs for the public sector.

43. Motion by Councillor Staniforth – IJB Recovery Plan

The following motion by Councillor Staniforth was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17.

Motion

- 1) To note Third sector organisations face the risk of there being no grant funding available from the EIJB next year due to financial constraints.
- 2) To note many of these funded projects had been evaluated to be cost effective, but with most direct savings being realised by council services rather than the IJB despite them being delegated services.
- 3) To note the IJB agreed on 1st November to “hold discussions as soon as possible with NHS Lothian, the Council, and third sector organisations to consider alternative proposals for the long-term future of third-sector funding, mindful of the current financial position across the Scottish public sector and the need to meet EIJB objectives.
- 4) To note the CFO of the IJB was unable to provide assurance for a breakeven position and the IJB was entering another recovery plan, despite considerable savings achieved over the past year.
- 5) To note since the joint motion passed by Finance & Resources Committee in January 2024, there had been greater collaboration between IJB and Council Committees and the IJB has developed a Medium Term Financial Plan to better forecast spending requirements as requested.
- 6) To note the IJB passed a further proposal on 1st November noting the structural deficit of £32m that the IJB was created with and asked that partners “work collaboratively to produce proposals for increasing the IJB’s recurring funding to reduce the structural budget deficit ready for the financial year 25/26.

- 7) To request that officers engage fully in both of these discussions and provide business bulletin updates, and information to finance leads in between meetings, as required.
 - 8) To request that work is done to determine where there is crossover between the projects funded by the IJB and projects funded through other Council grant schemes, both in terms of organisations and project focus.
 - 9) To request that once there are options available for ways forward both in terms of third sector funding, and wider IJB funding arrangements, briefings are offered to parties in advance of budget setting.
- moved by Councillor Staniforth, seconded by Councillor Miller

Amendment

- 1) To note Third sector organisations face the risk of there being no grant funding available from the EIJB next year due to financial constraints;
- 2) To note many of these funded projects had been evaluated to be cost effective, but with most direct savings being realised by council services rather than the IJB despite them being delegated services;
- 3) To note the IJB agreed on 1st November to “hold discussions as soon as possible with NHS Lothian, the Council, and third sector organisations to consider alternative proposals for the long-term future of third-sector funding, mindful of the current financial position across the Scottish public sector and the need to meet EIJB objectives
- 4) To note the CFO of the IJB was unable to provide assurance for a breakeven position and the IJB is entering another recovery plan, despite considerable savings achieved over the past year.
- 5) To note the 25 savings plans in the recent MTFs and that, in 7.1, there was significant underperformance in achieving savings in purchasing costs despite three consultants being brought into the partnership to achieve savings in this area in the past 2 years.
- 6) To note that COSLA and Scottish Government were currently co-designing the Population Health Framework (PHF). This 10-year Framework which would take a collaborative and preventative approach to address the wide-ranging determinants of health, including social and economic factors and the local and physical environment
- 7) To note since the joint motion passed by Finance & Resources Committee in January 2024, there had been greater collaboration between IJB and Council Committees and the IJB has developed a Medium Term Financial Plan to better forecast spending requirements as requested.
- 8) To note the IJB passed a further proposal on 1st November noting the structural deficit of £32m that the IJB was created with and asked that partners “work collaboratively to produce proposals for increasing the IJB’s recurring funding to reduce the structural budget deficit ready for the financial year 25/26.

- 9) To request that officers engage fully in both of these discussions and provide business bulletin updates, and information to finance leads in between meetings, as required.
- 10) To request that work is done to determine where there is crossover between the projects funded by the IJB and projects funded through other Council grant schemes, both in terms of organisations and project focus.
- 11) To request that once there were options available for ways forward both in terms of third sector funding, and wider IJB funding arrangements, briefings are offered to parties in advance of budget setting.
- 12) To request that the F&R committee convenor seeks a breakdown of costs of recent consultants brought in to address issues around purchasing and commissioning costs and an analysis of the financial benefit of these appointments and circulates this with committee members
- 13) To request that the convenor sought clarity about any potential funding which may come through the Population Health Framework (PHF) to City of Edinburgh Council and circulates this with committee members.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

- 1) To note Third sector organisations face the risk of there being no grant funding available from the EIJB next year due to financial constraints;
- 2) To note many of these funded projects had been evaluated to be cost effective, but with most direct savings being realised by council services rather than the IJB despite them being delegated services;
- 3) To note the IJB agreed on 1st November to “hold discussions as soon as possible with NHS Lothian, the Council, and third sector organisations to consider alternative proposals for the long-term future of third-sector funding, mindful of the current financial position across the Scottish public sector and the need to meet EIJB objectives
- 4) To note the CFO of the IJB was unable to provide assurance for a breakeven position and the IJB is entering another recovery plan, despite considerable savings achieved over the past year.
- 5) To note the 25 savings plans in the recent MTFS and that, in 7.1, there is significant underperformance in achieving savings in purchasing costs despite three consultants being brought into the partnership to achieve savings in this area in the past 2 years
- 6) To note that COSLA and Scottish Government were currently co-designing the Population Health Framework (PHF). This 10-year Framework which will take a collaborative and preventative approach to address the wide-ranging determinants of health, including social and economic factors and the local and physical environment

- 7) To note since the joint motion passed by Finance & Resources Committee in January 2024, there had been greater collaboration between IJB and Council Committees and the IJB has developed a Medium Term Financial Plan to better forecast spending requirements as requested.
- 8) To note the IJB passed a further proposal on 1st November noting the structural deficit of £32m that the IJB was created with and asked that partners “work collaboratively to produce proposals for increasing the IJB’s recurring funding to reduce the structural budget deficit ready for the financial year 25/26.
- 9) To request that officers engage fully in both of these discussions and provide business bulletin updates, and information to finance leads in between meetings, as required.
- 10) To request that work is done to determine where there is crossover between the projects funded by the IJB and projects funded through other Council grant schemes, both in terms of organisations and project focus.
- 11) To request that once there are options available for ways forward both in terms of third sector funding, and wider IJB funding arrangements, briefings are offered to parties in advance of budget setting.
- 12) To request that the F&R committee convenor sought a breakdown of costs of recent consultants brought in to address issues around purchasing and commissioning costs and an analysis of the financial benefit of these appointments and circulates this with committee members.
- 13) To request that the convenor sought clarity about any potential funding which may come through the Population Health Framework (PHF) to City of Edinburgh Council and circulates this with committee members

44. St James Quarter – amendments to terms of disposition of asset

The Committee, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

An outline of the amendments to terms of disposition of assets of the St James Quarter was presented.

Decision

As detailed in the Confidential Schedule, signed by the Convener, with reference to this minute.

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

45. Miscellaneous Debts - Write-Off

The Committee, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

The current miscellaneous debt that was outstanding was summarised. This miscellaneous debt was deemed uncollectable and thus recommended for write-off. All possible methods of recovery had been attempted and the debt remained outstanding

Decision

As detailed in the Confidential Schedule, signed by the Convener, with reference to this minute.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

46. Directorates Cyber Incident Response – Internal Audit Report Phased Implementation Plan - referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Committee, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had referred a report on directorates cyber incident responses to the Policy and Sustainability for discussion and information.

Decision

To note the referral from the Governance Risk and Best Value Committee.

(Reference – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 17 September 2024 (item 24); referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, submitted.)

47. Changes to the Private Sector Leasing Scheme

The Committee, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8,9 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

Proposed changes to the Private Sector Leasing Scheme were presented.

Decision

As detailed in the Confidential Schedule, signed by the Convener, with reference to this minute.

(Reference – report by Interim Executive Director of Place, submitted.)