


Business Bulletin

Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 16 January 2025

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

Finance and Resources Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p data-bbox="124 295 453 371">Convener Councillor Mandy Watt</p> 	<p data-bbox="603 295 1023 707">Councillor James Dalgleish Councillor Stuart Dobbin Councillor Phil Daggart Councillor Clair Miller Councillor Max Mitchell Councillor Vicky Nicolson Councillor Adam Nols-McVey Councillor Neil Ross Councillor Alex Staniforth Councillor Lewis Younie</p>	<p data-bbox="1118 295 1406 501">Andrew Henderson Committee Services Carolanne Eyre Committee Services</p>

<p>Scottish Women’s Budget Group – Progress Update</p> <p>This responds to item 9.1 - Scottish Women's Budget Group Report from Finance and Resources Committee on 19th of November 2024, by providing an update on the progress of recommended actions set out in the Scottish Women’s Budget Group report from August 2023.</p> <p>Officers established a collaborative working group with the Scottish Women’s Budget Group (SWBG) in August 2024 to review the recommendations, and a work plan was agreed until March 2025 with a view to support the budget setting process.</p> <p>In August 2024 the working group agreed the following workplan to further the recommendations. Working in partnership with colleagues the SWBG committed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting Committees/Directorates to identify the gender equality issues related to their work. 2. Identifying gender budgeting targets (indicators) for areas and the data needed to monitor/review these (so that it expands beyond budget monitoring). This includes incorporating this within existing work on the Council’s performance management e.g. data collection and recording and piloting of the use of Power BI. 3. Reviewing Integrated Impact Assessments to identify how the current analysis is capturing any gendered issues and use the learning from this to help update training/support for staff. 4. Delivering gender-based budgeting training for staff/members as appropriate to raise awareness and improve practice. This should include supporting the development/updating of existing equality guidance and training materials. 5. Supporting colleagues to understand what good consultation in relation to the budget looks like and how this can be carried out – specifically reviewing and commenting on budget proposals for consideration in September. 6. Supporting colleagues to consider how equalities could be integrated more fully and earlier into the Council’s processes. 7. To provide peer support during the budgeting setting process. 	<p>F&R 19.11.2024 Item 9.1</p>	<p>Lucy Pearson Lead Officer - Equalities</p>
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8. Advising and supporting on activity to develop a prevention-led approach to budgeting.

Alongside this work, the SWBG also committed to delivering Gender Budgeting training to officers and elected members. To date, 44 elected members have received training and 32 colleagues (Place x8, Corporate Services x16, Children, Education and Justice Services x7 and Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership x1) with budget responsibility across the organisation.

Continual progress has been made on the work plan with highlights including the SWBG:

- Reviewing 5 existing IIAs proposals against key gender budgeting principles of transparency, participatory, holistic, outcomes focussed and advances equality
- Attending the recent IIA meeting for the Scheme of Delegation for Community Councils meeting

Over the coming months, the SWBG will continue to engage with officers to:

- Continue to support the budget process
- Review the impact of poverty and climate change through a gender lens to support the council's business plan objectives
- Deliver further gender budgeting training to more officers with a focus on engaging with more managers and those with budget management responsibilities across the organisation
- Attend a committee in Q4 of 24/25 and provide elected members with feedback on their gender budgeting scrutiny -as a follow on from their gender budgeting training to help further understand how their work addresses inequality

To date, the SWBG have fed back that IIAs being carried out on the budget proposals this year, is a positive step. The IIA process is currently being reviewed and is subject to a routine internal audit, therefore several strands of process improvement are being dealt with together.

Officers will report back to Finance and Resource Committee in May 2025, with a final progress report from the SWBG - this report will reflect on progress made since the previous report, and further recommendations if applicable. It is anticipated that the SWBG will host a supplementary member briefing session at this stage.

<p>The working group will continue to meet with the SWBG every month.</p>		
<p>Update on Internal Audit Open Audit Actions</p> <p>At their meeting on 20 February, the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee approved an amendment to the Internal Audit Open and Overdue Audit Actions – Performance Dashboard report, requiring that an update on open actions in relation to the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard Compliance audit becomes a standing item on the Finance and Resources Bulletin until the end of 2024 to ensure any slippage in progress is addressed.</p> <p>Progress since the last Business Bulletin has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first round of one to one meetings between the Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) and individual system owners to discuss their payment channels have been completed; • The second round of one to one meetings are part way through; • As part of the second round of meetings, initial work on completing the Self-Assessment Questionnaire for each payment channel has started. <p>The QSA anticipates that his work will be complete by the end of January 2025. A meeting has been scheduled with Internal Audit for the middle of January to discuss the follow on actions identified by the QSA with a view to including them as further management actions.</p>	<p>GRBV 20.02.2024 Item 8.2</p>	<p>Innes Edwards Principal Treasury and Banking Manager</p>
<p>Professional Services 2023-2024</p> <p>At its meeting on 25 August 2009, the Finance and Resources Committee noted the intention to report Council expenditure on consultants on an annual basis.</p> <p>On 29 October 2020, Finance and Resources Committee approved the award of a multi-lot framework agreement for the provision of Professional Services to support the Council's technical services in delivering construction, maintenance and repair programmes.</p> <p>On 9 December 2021, Finance and Resources Committee approved the award of a multiple supplier Clerk of Works Framework at a total estimated value of £3m.</p> <p>For 2023/24, payment of £21.230m was made to Framework providers.</p> <p>Revenue expenditure of £2.820m and capital expenditure of £3.754m was incurred during 2023/24 for provision of other</p>	<p>F&R 25.08.2009 Consultants Report</p> <p>F&R 20.10.2020 Item 7.6</p> <p>F&R 09.12.2021 Item 7.10</p>	<p>Iain Shaw Principal Accountant</p>

<p>specialist services, procured in accordance with the Council’s Contract Standing Orders, but which sit out with the Professional Services Framework.</p> <p>A summary of expenditure to each service provider is saved at: Audited annual accounts – The City of Edinburgh Council.</p> <p>The reported expenditure includes payments to each service provider, where payments exceed £2,500 across all Council services.</p> <p>The purchase of professional services is governed by relevant procurement legislation and Council Contract Standing Orders (CSOs). CSOs were approved by Council on 22 June 2023. Professional services are purchased externally where Council staff cannot provide the service, either due to a requirement for specialist expertise or to service capacity constraints.</p> <p>A review of Council Contract Standing Orders of 27th June 2019 defined consultants providing professional services as specialists “who charge a fee for providing advice or services such as, but not limited to business or project management, human resources, environment, communication, information technology, property and estates and financial services”.</p> <p>The costs set out in this report were contained within the Council’s approved revenue budget and Capital Investment Programme for 2023/24.</p> <p>Revenue expenditure on external professional services was 0.510% of the revenue outturn reported to Finance and Resources Committee on 19 September 2024.</p> <p>Expenditure incurred on external professional services to progress Capital Investment Programme (CIP) projects was 7.299% of the CIP outturn reported to Finance and Resources Committee on 19 September 2024.</p>	<p>Full Council 22.07.2023 Item 7.12</p> <p>Full Council 27.06.2019 Item 8.7</p> <p>F&R 19.09.2024 Items 7.7 and 7.9</p>	
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Forthcoming activities:
