

## Notice of Meeting and Agenda

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### Policy and Strategy Committee

Tuesday 6 December 2011 at 10.00 am  
in the City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

#### 1 Order of Business

Including any notices of motion and any other items of business submitted as urgent for consideration at the meeting.

#### 2 Declaration of Interests

Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

#### 3 Minute of the Policy and Strategy Committee of 8 November 2011 (circulated) – submitted for approval as a correct record

#### 4 Deputations – if any

#### 5 Motions

##### 5.1 By Councillor Blacklock – Scottish Government Consultation on Same-sex Marriage – submitted in terms of Standing Order 28

“Committee notes that the Scottish Government is currently carrying out a consultation on same-sex marriage which will end on the 9th December.

Committee agrees that:

1. The law should be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry.
2. No religious body or religious celebrant should be required to conduct same-sex marriages.
3. Religious bodies should be able to conduct same-sex marriages if they want to.
4. The law should be changed to allow mixed-sex couples to register a civil partnership.

Committee agrees therefore that the Chief Executive should submit a consultation response reflecting these points.”

**5.2 By Councillor Burgess – Transient Visitor Levy (Tourist Bed Tax) – remitted from the Council in terms of Standing Order 28.3**

“This Council:

Notes that the proposal for a levy on visitor accommodation was discussed by the Council as long ago as 1997;

Notes that the idea has resurfaced periodically since then, including as the subject of a report by the Edinburgh Tourism Action Group and in the Council’s Economic Development Framework Review in 2007;

Notes support for the concept from the Leader and Deputy Leader reported in the media this autumn but that no report has been made to Council on the proposal;

Recognises the ongoing severe reductions in funding to the Council but that the ongoing Council Tax freeze has limited the Council’s ability to raise revenue;

Recognises the potential of a relatively small levy of around £1-2 per night to generate at least £5-10million per annum and that this scale of levy is unlikely to discourage visitors or affect the hotel trade;

Understands that such an approach is taken in the US, other parts of Europe and in major city tourism destinations such as Vancouver, New York and Venice;

Agrees in principle that Edinburgh should now go ahead with the introduction of a Transient Visitor Levy; and

Therefore formally agrees for a full report on the introduction of a Transient Visitor Levy to be made to the Policy & Strategy Committee early in the New Year 2012 at the latest.”

**6 Central Library Development;-**

- (a) presentation by the Directors of City Development and Services for Communities
- (b) joint report by the Directors of City Development and Services for Communities (to follow)

**7 ‘Fairness and Respect’ Equalities, Diversity and Human Rights Scheme 2009/12 – Annual Progress Report 2010/11 - report by the Director of Corporate Governance (circulated)**

**Note:** The Appendix to this report has been placed in Group Rooms.

- 8 **Mainstreaming Employment within the City of Edinburgh Council – 2011 Annual Report** - report by the Director of Corporate Governance (circulated)
- 9 **Statutory Performance Indicators: Benchmark data for 2010/11** - report by the Director of Corporate Governance (circulated)
- 10 **Annual Performance Report 2010/11** - report by the Director of Corporate Governance (circulated)
- 11 **Corporate Management Performance Report – August/September 2011** - report by the Director of Corporate Governance (circulated)
- 12 **OneCity Trust – Appointment** – report by the Director of Corporate Governance (circulated)
- 13 **Management Reporting Arrangements** – report by the Chief Executive (circulated)

**Carol Campbell**  
**Acting Head of Legal and Administrative Services**

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### **Membership**

Councillor Dawe (Convener)	Councillor Godzik
Councillor Cardownie (Vice-Convener)	Councillor Hinds
Councillor Balfour	Councillor Jackson
Councillor Blacklock	Councillor Gordon Mackenzie
Councillor Brock	Councillor MacLaren
Councillor Buchanan	Councillor Mowat
Councillor Burgess	Councillor Munn
Councillor Burns	Councillor Wheeler
Councillor Edie	

### **Notes:**

- 1) In terms of Standing Orders, substitutes are not permitted at meetings of the Policy and Strategy Committee.
- 2) If you have any questions about the agenda or meeting arrangements, please contact Louise Williamson, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ; ☎ 0131 5264 4264; e-mail [louise.p.williamson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:louise.p.williamson@edinburgh.gov.uk) .
- 3) The agenda, minutes and public reports for this meeting and all the main Council committees can be viewed online by going to [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk). Members and officers of the Council can also view them by going to the Orb home page and clicking on Committee Business.
- 4) A copy of the agenda and papers for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the main reception office, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh.



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