

Notice of Meeting and Agenda

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

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 .
- 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. 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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