

Committee Minutes

Policy and Strategy Committee

Edinburgh, 2 October 2012

Present:- Councillors Burns (Convener), Cardownie (Vice-Convener), Balfour, Brock, Burgess, Chapman, Child, Nick Cook, Edie, Ricky Henderson, Lewis, Mowat and Munro.

1 Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Policy and Strategy Committee of 4 September 2012 as a correct record.

2 Employee Survey 2012 Headline Results and Next Steps

Details were provided on the key findings of the fifth Employee Survey of the Council which prioritised the key areas for attention and identified the next steps.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 2) To ensure support was given at all levels within each service area to involve employees in improvement planning and ensure commitment to actively taking part in an annual employee engagement programme.

(Reference – report no PS/24/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

3 Revenue Budget – ICT Savings

Details were provided on the progress against two of the ICT savings targets set out in the 2012/13 Revenue Budget, which had been approved by the Council in February 2012.

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Approval was sought to transfer savings relating to mobile telephony and rationalisation of broadband lines from directorates.

Decision

- 1) To note the savings set out in the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 2) To agree that these savings be transferred from directorate budgets in line with current usage, to meet the agreed ICT savings target.

(References - Act of Council No 2 of 9 February 2012; report no PS/25/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

4 Welfare Reform

An update was provided on the Welfare Reform Act 2012 together with a summary of progress so far of the Council's response to the UK Government proposed changes.

Decision

- 1) To note the Welfare Reform Act changes and the likely impacts on claimants and the Council.
- 2) To note the scale and scope of the ongoing work and the need for further details from the UK Government.
- 3) To agree to establish a corporate programme to deliver the changes and to mitigate impacts to be funded from existing resources within Directorates.
- 4) To request that a further report be brought to the Policy and Strategy Committee on options for joint and partnership working across Money Advice Services in the city to maximise the effectiveness of these services in meeting the challenges of Welfare Reform.
- 5) To note that further reports would be made to the Policy and Strategy Committee.

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- 6) To request within one month of this meeting, a draft mitigation plan setting out how the Council will deal with specific impacts of welfare reform, such as:
 - a) Details on priorities for use of Discretionary Housing Allowance
 - b) Revised approaches to HMOs and shared accommodation generally in light of changes to Shared Room Rate
 - c) Priorities for the Community Support Fund and how it will dovetail with other Council services for vulnerable people
 - d) Implications for housing allocations and new development in light of penalties for under-occupation
 - e) Advice and advocacy for people at greatest risk of loss of benefit
 - f) Options for protecting the flow of rental income for social landlords
 - g) Details of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme
- 7) To agree to receive regular updates on the implementation of the mitigation plan and other welfare reform related issues.
- 8) To agree that the new Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee should retain oversight of this issue.

(Reference – report PS/26/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

5 Revised Recruitment and Selection Policy

Details were provided on the changes which had been made to the Recruitment and Selection Policy and approval sought for the revised policy as a local collective agreement with the trades unions.

Decision

To approve the revised Recruitment and Selection Policy as a local collective agreement with the trades unions for immediate implementation across the Council.

(Reference – report no PS/27/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

6 Urban Broadband Fund Bid – Update

The Council had approved the use of £1.9m to support the Council's proposed programme in response to Edinburgh's "Connected Capital" Programme bid to the Urban Broadband Fund as part of the UK Government's Super-Connected Cities Initiative.

An update was provided on Edinburgh's bid to the Urban Broadband Fund. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) had confirmed that the City of Edinburgh Council had been awarded £10.7m of capital funding towards the city's Connected Capital Programme.

Authority was sought to progress with the Programme subject to the terms set out in the report.

Decision

- 1) To authorise the Chief Executive to enter into an agreement with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to draw down the funds awarded to the city of Edinburgh.
- 2) To note the strategic outcomes for Edinburgh's residents, businesses and visitors which the Programme would enable as detailed in the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 3) To agree that a briefing note be provided to members on the approach taken by the Council to monitoring the potential health issues associated with wireless and Wi-Fi telephony.

(References – Act of Council No 6 of 26 April 2012; report no PS/28/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

7 Abu Dhabi Science Festival 2012

Details were provided on the action taken in terms of Standing Order 63 on the Council representation at the Abu Dhabi Science Festival from 9-13 October 2012.

Decision

To note the action taken in terms of Standing Order 63 in authorising the attendance by the Lord Provost, supported by the City Officer, at the Abu Dhabi Science Festival in October 2012.

(Reference – report no PS/29/12-13/CG by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

8 Transient Visitor Levy

An update was provided on the Capital Coalition's recent thinking in relation to a Transient Visitor Levy (TVL).

Motion

- 1) To note the report by the Head of Economic Development.
- 2) To agree to further consultation with relevant sectors and stakeholders with a view to developing a preferred model by early 2013.
- 3) To agree as a principle that no business in a current BID scheme would be asked to contribute to any other BID project.
- 4) To agree to a further report on progress within two cycles.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Cardownie

Amendment

- 1) To note the report by the Head of Economic Development.
- 2) To agree to further consultation with relevant sectors and stakeholders with a view to developing a preferred model by early 2013.
- 3) To agree as a principle that no business in a current BID scheme would be asked to contribute to any other BID project.
- 4) To agree to a further report on progress within two cycles.
- 5) To agree to request a cross-party delegation to meet with Scottish Ministers to discuss the principle of Transient Visitor Levy and the potential for enabling legislation.

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Chapman

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	11 votes
For the amendment	-	2 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns.

(Reference – report no PS/30/12-13/CD by the Head of Economic Development, submitted.)

9 Edinburgh Waterfront Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) Pilot Project – Progress Update

An update was provided on the planning context and implications for the Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) project for Edinburgh Waterfront.

Decision

- 1) To note the recent developments in relation to the future development of the Port of Leith and potential changes to the portfolio of infrastructure projects currently included within the TIF Business Case.
- 2) To note the importance of improved access to support new development including renewable energy investors and any related supply chain.
- 3) To note the proposed financial arrangements to allow the appointment of the Project Manager to design the initial road infrastructure project.
- 4) To agree that local Ward members be fully briefed on associated design features.

(Reference – report no PS/32/12-13/H&SC by the Director of Health and Social Care, submitted.)

10 Integration of Health and Social Care – Proposals for Interim Governance Arrangements

Details were provided on a joint governance arrangement for the creation of a shadow Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) which was in response to the Scottish Government's proposals for the integration of health and social care services.

Decision

- 1) To approve the proposed interim governance arrangements for the shadow HSCP.

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- 2) To note that regular update reports would be presented to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee as proposals developed.
- 3) To note that the final arrangement for HSCP governance would require joint approval by the Edinburgh Community Health Partnership, NHS Lothian and City of Edinburgh Council.

(Reference – report no PS/32/12-13/H&SC by the Director of Health and Social Care, submitted.)

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ricky Henderson declared a financial interest (with dispensation) in the above as a non-executive member on the Board of NHS Lothian.

11 Quality Assurance – Motion by Councillor Ricky Henderson

The Convener ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency in order that it be considered timeously.

The following motion by Councillor Ricky Henderson was submitted in terms of Standing Order 27:

“That Policy and Strategy Committee:

- (a) notes with deep regret the admission of Mr Gibson and Miss Gibson to hospital, and Mr Gibson’s subsequent death.
- (b) notes that an investigation is being undertaken into this case with findings to be reported at the earliest opportunity.
- (c) calls for the Chief Social Work Officer to present a report to the next meeting of the Health, Wellbeing and Housing Committee (13 November 2012) on care at home / home care service standards and quality assurance mechanisms. This report to include information on monitoring requirements, risk assessment, review procedures and complaints processes.”

Decision

To agree the terms of the motion on the basis that the report called for be submitted to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee and include information on all purchased adult social care services.