

# Minutes

## Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10.00 am, Thursday, 6 March 2014

### Present

Councillors Balfour (Convener), Blacklock, Gardner, Keil, Lunn, Main, McVey (substituting for Councillor Howat), Munro, Robson (substituting for Councillor Child) Shields, Tymkewycz, and Whyte.

### 1. Minute

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#### Decision

To approve the minute of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of 30 January 2014 as a correct record.

### 2. Outstanding Actions – February 2014

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Details were provided of the outstanding actions arising from decisions taken by the Committee.

#### Decision

- 1) To close action 4.
- 2) To agree that action 14 (financial figures for the Summer school maintenance 2012/13 programme) be brought to the April meeting of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.

(Reference – Outstanding Actions February 2014, submitted.)

### 3. Governance, Risk and Best Value Work Programme February 2014

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Approval was sought for the Governance, Risk and Best Value Work Programme for February 2014.

#### Decision

- 1) To agree that the Children and Families Revenue Asset Management Priorities 2014-19 report which went to the Education, Children and Families Committee of 4 March 2014 be brought to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for further scrutiny following its consideration by Finance and Resources Committee.

- 2) To agree that the process and progress of resolution of Statutory Repairs complaints be scrutinised at the 19 June meeting, with Councillors Rankin and Cook, Mark Turley, Cathy King and Alastair Maclean invited to attend.
- 3) To otherwise approve the work programme.

(Reference – Work Programme February 2014, submitted.)

#### **4. Pride in Our People - Presentation**

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The Chief Communications Officer gave a presentation on Pride in our People, one of the mechanisms used by the Council leadership team to inform staff of changes faced by the organisation and involve them in the generation of ideas for enhanced engagement and efficiencies. Engagement events had taken place in a variety of venues throughout the city to cover as many different service areas as possible, and the session format had been revised according to attendee feedback. The next phase of the programme would begin in April 2014.

In response to questions by the Committee, the following was indicated:

- Staff feedback was being continually monitored and was not just a one off exercise.
- A significant amount of staff feedback would be implemented by the next phase of Pride in Our People.
- Pride in Our People was launched with 1500 staff in April 2013.
- Smaller staff groups appeared to have more impact and the number of events in 2014 would increase from the number in 2013.
- Staff shadowing colleagues had been a staff suggestion and this had been implemented in a number of areas across the Council.

#### **Decision**

- 1) To note the presentation.
- 2) To ask that either a written or verbal update, in particular focusing on the outcomes of the initiative, be presented to Committee in October 2014.

(Reference – presentation by the Chief Communications Officer, submitted.)

#### **5. SANDS Lothian Funding Support Update**

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A financial update in respect of SANDS (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society) Lothians was presented. The report detailed the organisation's accounts for the last financial year and also provided explanatory information about funding pressures caused by increased workload.

#### **Decision**

To note the report.

(Reference – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 7 March 2013 (item 7); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

## 6. Risk Management – Risk Appetite

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An update was provided on the new Risk Appetite Statement, to be applied throughout the Council to strengthen governance and accountability in relation to key risks.

### Decision

To note the report.

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

## 7. Looked After Children: Transformation Programme Progress Report

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Details were given of progress made against targets drawn up to shift investment to early intervention initiatives to support families, with a view to reducing the need for more costly services and delivering savings from 2015/16.

### Decision

- 1) To note the progress made to date against targets.
- 2) To note the actions in progress to achieve the future targets to 2018.
- 3) To note that the next update will be provided in September 2014.
- 4) To ask that the update report scheduled to come to Committee in September includes a risk analysis of current targets and performance and the estimated impact of the Children and Young People's Bill on the current Looked After Children targets.
- 5) To request information on support arrangements for children moving on from care be provided to Committee in September.

(References – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 25 September 2013 (item 4); report by the Director of Children and Families, submitted.)