

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10.00 am, Thursday, 30 January 2014

Present

Councillors Balfour (Convener), Blacklock, Child, Howat, Keil, Lunn, Main, Munro, Orr, Tymkewycz, and Whyte.

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of 19 December 2013 as a correct record.

2. Outstanding Actions – January 2014

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

Decision

- 1) To agree to close actions 4, 6 and 19.
- 2) To ask the Director of Corporate Governance to circulate a new press release on the matter of property conservation, emphasising the scrutiny role of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.

(Reference – Outstanding Actions January 2014, submitted.)

3. Governance, Risk and Best Value Work Programme January 2014

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

Decision

- 1) To approve the Work Programme for January 2014.
- 2) To ask the Director of Corporate Governance to report in May 2014 on the process of the dissemination and implementation of Committee decisions, and new methods to inform all councillors of committee decisions.

(Reference – Work Programme January 2014, submitted.)

4. Welfare Reform – Governance

An update was provided on actions taken following the internal audit in June 2013 of the Council's Welfare Reform activities, which had identified examples of good practice as well as areas for development. The report outlined revised governance and engagement structures, including the establishment of Welfare Reform Working and Core groups and a Partners Forum. Details were also given of the newly developed Risk Register, designed as part of the Council's overall risk management strategy.

Decision

- 1) To note that the Council's Welfare Reform activity was being managed as a multi-disciplinary operational project.
- 2) To note the revised governance structure, with three cross section working groups.
- 3) To note the roles and responsibilities of the Welfare Reform Team.
- 4) To note the content of the Welfare Reform Risk Register.
- 5) To note that further audit reviews would be carried out.
- 6) To note that updates were presented bi-monthly to Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee (with a separate mid-cycle briefing), with financial updates to the Finance and Resources Committee.
- 7) To note that a further update would be reported to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in 12 months.

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

5. Revenue Budget 2013/14 – Nine Month Position – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

Details were given of the projected current year revenue monitoring position for the Council at the nine-month position.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

6. Capital Monitoring 2013/14 – Nine Month Position– referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

Committee considered a report which set out the overall position of the Council's capital budget at the nine month stage based on analysis of data from periods seven and eight and detailed the projected outturn for the year.

Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

7. Risk Management Policy and Framework – referral from the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

Details were given of the Risk Management Policy and Framework, developed to improve the effectiveness, alignment and ownership of risk management across the Council. Approved by the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 3 December 2013, the report had been referred to Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for scrutiny as part of its workplan.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 3 December 2013 (minute item 7), report from the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee, submitted.)

8. New Boroughmuir High School – referral from the City of Edinburgh Council

Committee considered a report referred from The City of Edinburgh Council advising of progress made to deliver the new Boroughmuir High School at a site in Fountainbridge. The Council had approved a total budget of £35,030,597 for the project, and also agreed to refer the report and associated briefing note to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for further scrutiny.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – City of Edinburgh Council 12 December 2013 (minute item 12), report from the City of Edinburgh Council, submitted.)

9. Governance of Major Projects: Water of Leith and Braid Burn Flood Prevention Scheme

Details were given of progress made against recommendations resultant of an assurance review undertaken by the Corporate Programme Office to determine lessons learnt from Phase 1 of the Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme and the state of readiness for Phase 2. The issues encountered on the Braid Burn Flood Prevention Scheme were also detailed.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To ask that the Director of Services for Communities report on this item in April 2014 addressing the following areas:
 - a) The proportion of the final costs of the Braid Burn Flood Prevention Scheme paid for by the Scottish Government, and the breakdown of exposure to risk for the Council and Scottish Government.

- b) The breakdown of the £10m increase in main contract costs (not including work on utilities) of the Braid Burn Flood prevention Scheme and the reasons for the increase.
- c) Details of the decision process, including any committee involvement surrounding the change in scope for the Braid Burn Flood Prevention Scheme and the associated costs of this change.
- d) The expected date for the settlement of compensation claims in regard to the Braid Burn Flood Prevention Scheme.
- e) The key 4 reasons for the increased costs and delay to the Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme.
- f) The lessons learnt from the Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme, including in regard to contracts and how these were being implemented to ensure they were not repeated in future projects.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 14 January 2014 (minute item 6), referral from the Transport and Environment Committee, submitted.)