

## Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

2 pm, Wednesday, 24 September 2014

### Present

Councillors Balfour (Convener), Blacklock, Child, Gardner, Howat, Main, Mowat, Munro, Orr, Redpath (substituting for Councillor Keil), Shields and Tymkewycz.

### 1. Minute

---

#### Decision

To approve the minute of the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of 14 August 2014 as a correct record.

### 2. Outstanding Actions – September 2014

---

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

#### Decision

To agree to close actions 8, 14, 18 and 29.

(Reference – Outstanding Actions September 2014, submitted.)

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

---

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

#### Decision

To approve the work programme.

(Reference – Work Programme September 2014, submitted.)

### 4. City of Edinburgh Council – Report to those Charged with Governance on the 2013/14 Audit

---

Committee was updated on the External Auditor's view on matters arising from their audit in compliance with the International Standard on Auditing 260 (ISA 260).

Representatives from Audit Scotland spoke on this item.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the audited financial statements for 2013/14 and that these would be submitted to the Controller of Audit.
- 2) To note that the External Auditor's Annual Report on the 2013/14 Audit would be reported to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee and Council in November/December 2014.
- 3) To refer the report to Council to approve the earmarking of £4million within the contingent risks earmarked balance for costs relating to the legacy statutory repairs service.
- 4) To ask that an update report regarding the resolution of complaints and the billing and conclusion of outstanding debts for the legacy property conservation service be submitted to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on a quarterly basis beginning in December 2014.
- 5) To invite the Convener and Vice Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee to attend Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee when the legacy property conservation service updates were scheduled to be considered.

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

### **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Tymkewycz declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as an owner of a property portfolio affected by the statutory notice investigation.

## **5. The Edinburgh International Conference Centre – Verbal Update**

A verbal update was provided on the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To invite the Edinburgh International Conference Centre's (EICC) newly appointed Chief Executive to attend the Committee in November 2014, when a further report on the EICC is expected.

(Reference – verbal update by the Director of Corporate Governance.)

## **6. Internal Audit – Annual Report and Opinion for the Year ended 31 March 2014**

---

Details were provided of the Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion based on Internal Audit activity undertaken for the financial year ended 31 March 2014.

### **Decision**

To note the internal audit opinion for the year ended 31 March 2014.

(Reference –report by the Chief Internal Audit and Risk Officer, submitted.)

## **7. Revenue Monitoring 2013/14 – Outturn Report**

---

The Finance and Resources Committee had, at their meeting on 28 August 2014, considered a report that set out the provisional 2013/14 revenue outturn position for the Council based on the unaudited statement of accounts. They had referred the report to Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee as part of its workplan.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To ask that information be provided to members on the 2012/13 figures, targets and money gained for all local authorities regarding the business rate incentivisation scheme.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 28 August 2014 (minute item 6); referral report by Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

## **8. Capital Monitoring 2013/14 – Outturn and Receipts**

---

The Finance and Resources Committee had, on 28 August 2014, considered a report detailing the final outturn on the Council's Capital Programme for 2013/14, including details of capital receipts and slippage and acceleration on projects within the Capital Investment Programme.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 28 August 2014 (minute item 8); referral report by Finance and Resources Committee, submitted.)

## 9. Corporate Management Team Risk Register

---

Details were given of the Corporate Management Team's (CMT) risk register as at 1 September 2014, fully updated to reflect the current highest priority risks of the Council, the compensating controls and related action plans to mitigate risks to a tolerable level.

### Decision

- 1) To note the risk register.
- 2) To note that the rating of risk reference CMT17 would be reviewed at the next meeting of the Corporate Management Team Risk Committee.
- 3) To request that a report be submitted to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in November 2014, outlining the number of staff that had accepted Voluntary Early Release Arrangements (VERA) and had subsequently been re-employed by the City of Edinburgh Council.
- 4) To request that information be circulated to members via e-mail outlining the timetable for the completion of conditioned surveys of council owned assets.

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

## 10. Treasury Management – Annual Report 2013/14

---

The Council had, on 21 August 2014, considered a report which detailed Treasury Management activity in 2013/14 and sought approval to change the current Treasury Management governance arrangements so that the Strategy, mid-term and annual reports would be taken to the Finance and Resources Committee before being considered by Council. The changes, including necessary adjustments to the Committee Terms of Reference, were approved and the report was referred to Governance, Risk and Best Value for scrutiny.

### Decision

To note the report.

(References – City of Edinburgh Council 21 August 2014 (minute item 11); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

## 11. Looked After Children Transformation Programme Progress Report

---

Committee considered an update on progress to the end of June 2014 against the targets on the Looked After Children Transformation Programme, as reported to Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on 25 September 2013.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the progress made to date against the targets.
- 2) To note the actions in progress to achieve the targets to March 2018.
- 3) To note that the next update would be provided in March 2015.

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

## **12. Whistleblowing Policy: Update**

---

An overview of the operation of the Whistleblowing hotline for the first quarter since its launch on 12 May 2014 was provided.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

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

## **13. Water of Leith Flood Protection Scheme Phase 2 Project Governance**

---

An update on the governance arrangements for Phase 2 of the Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme, including an outline of the approach to procurement, was provided.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

(Reference – report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

## **14. Resolution to consider in private**

---

The Committee, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting for consideration of item 15 below on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 3, 14 and 15 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

## **15. Whistleblowing - Safecall Quarterly Report**

---

The Council's whistleblowing policy requires that the hotline service provider submits a quarterly overview report and independent investigation reports on disclosures to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee. The report for the period 12 May to 31 July 2014 was considered.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

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