

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 4 November 2014

Present

Councillors Burns (Convener), Cardownie (Vice-Convener), Balfour (substituting for Rose), Barrie (substituting for Ross), Burgess, Child, Nick Cook, Edie, Godzik, Ricky Henderson, Hinds, Lewis, Main (substituting for Chapman), Mowat and Rankin.

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 30 September 2014 as a correct record.

2. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan December 2014 to February 2015

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for December 2014 to February 2015 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for December 2014 to February 2015.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan for December 2014 to February 2015, submitted.)

3. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Rolling Actions Log

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

Decision

- 1) To note the Rolling Actions Log.
- 2) To agree to close the following actions:
 - Action 4 - Review of Community and Accessible Transport Programme Update
 - Action 6 - Energy Services Companies
 - Action 8 - Riddle's Court and 4-6 Victoria Terrace

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4 Corporate Policy and Strategy Business Bulletin 4 November 2014

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Business Bulletin for 4 November 2014 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin 4 November 2014, submitted.)

5 Mortonhall Action Plan - Update

An update was provided on progress made on actions from the report from the Mortonhall Investigation undertaken by Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC, and the action plan by the Chief Executive's Multi-Agency Working Group.

Details were also provided on the published Report of the Infant Cremation Commission which had examined current practice regarding the cremation of infants and making recommendations for improvement for the future.

Decision

- 1) To approve the update on actions from the Report from Mortonhall Investigation undertaken by Dame Elish Angiolini DBE QC and action plan by the Multi Agency Working Group.
- 2) To note and accept the findings of the Lord Bonyon Infant Cremation Commission and endorse the policy statement to be adopted by the Council on the definition of ashes as outlined in Section 3.2 of the report by the Chief Executive, in anticipation of the outcome from the National Committee on Infant Cremation.
- 3) To request a further progress report in 3 months to ensure continued delivery of improvement actions within the service.
- 4) To thank the Scottish Rugby Union, Murrayfield, for their support in facilitating space for meeting with affected parents in August 2014.

(References – Act of Council No 1 of 26 June 2014; report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

6 Memorial to Nelson Mandela

Arising from a motion by the Lord Provost, an update was provided on progress to date on how Edinburgh could create a lasting tribute to Nelson Mandela. Approval was sought for a preferred location for the siting of a lasting memorial.

Motion

To agree that the lasting memorial should be sited at Edinburgh St James.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Cardownie

Amendment

To agree that the lasting memorial should be sited at New Waverley.

- moved by Councillor Mowat, seconded by Councillor Balfour

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	12 votes
For the amendment	-	3 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Burns

(References – Act of Council No 14 of 12 December 2013; report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted.)

7 Corporate Resilience: Annual Report (1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014)

Details were provided of corporate resilience activities and initiatives undertaken during the period 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014.

Decision

- 1) To note the resilience activities undertaken during the period 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014.
- 2) To note the reporting structure as set out in Appendix 4 to the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 3) To approve the proposed forward Corporate Resilience Workplan as set out in Appendix 5 to the report.

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

8 Corporate Policy for Managing Asbestos – Revised Document

Details were provided of a revised Corporate Policy for Managing Asbestos which had been written to take account of current legislative requirements and would be applied to all Council owned or occupied premises in one set of documents.

Decision

To approve the Revised Corporate Policy for Managing Asbestos including the Strategy Statement and the Roles and Responsibilities document.

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

9 Scotland's Climate Change Declaration: 6th Annual Report

The Council were required to report annually to COSLA under Scotland's Climate Change Declaration.

Details were provided on the progress made across a wide range of carbon, climate and sustainability projects managed by the Council.

Decision

- 1) To approve the submission of the proposed Scottish Climate Change declaration response to COSLA as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 2) To note that to achieve the Council target of 42% reduction in the Council's own climate-changing pollution by 2020, pollution needed to be reduced by about 25% over the next 6 years and therefore agree that the Director report back to this Committee on whether or not increasing the Council's annual target for climate-changing pollution from 2% per annum to 4% would be achievable.
- 3) To note that establishment of a high-level officer Corporate Sustainability Group was agreed in June 2014 and therefore request that the group be established and meet as soon as possible and that it include senior officer membership at Director level.
- 4) To note that the forthcoming Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP) was the main driver for city-wide reduction of climate-changing pollution of 42% by 2020 and note that it would contain a detailed plan of specific and quantifiable actions that would strive to achieve this target.
- 5) To note that under the 'Reducing Corporate Emissions' section of the Climate Change Declaration, the Council did not currently report on corporate waste tonnage, emissions or costs, and therefore agree to investigate the inclusion of this information in future annual reports in order to support the reduction of the Council's own waste in future years.

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

10 Managing Retirement Policy – Additional Report

The Committee had continued consideration of part of a report on the Council's Managing Retirement Policy to enable responses to queries raised by members to be provided.

Details were provided responding to the issues raised by members.

Decision

To continue consideration of the report by the Director of Corporate Governance to the next meeting of the Committee on 2 December 2014.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 2 September 2014 (item 1); report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

11 Edinburgh Biodiversity Duty Report 2012-2014

Details were provided on the activities across the Council to support and conserve biodiversity which demonstrated the great variety and range of work being carried out during the period January 2012 to December 2014.

Motion

- 1) To approve the Edinburgh Biodiversity Duty Report 2012-14 for submission to Scottish Government and publication on the Council's website.
- 2) To note the contributions and achievements made across the Council to meet Edinburgh's biodiversity duty.
- 3) To agree that the Council sign up as a member of the Scottish Forum on Natural Capital.

- moved by Councillor Hinds, seconded by Councillor Child

Amendment

- 1) To approve the Edinburgh Biodiversity Duty Report 2012-14 for submission to Scottish Government and publication on the Council's website.
- 2) To note the contributions and achievements made across the Council to meet Edinburgh's biodiversity duty.
- 3) To note the ongoing controversy about the concept of 'Natural Capital' and therefore agree to continue the decision on joining the Natural Capital Forum pending a more detailed report.

- moved by Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Main

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	10 votes
For the amendment	-	5 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Hinds

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

12 Review of Community and Accessible Transport: Phase One Report

Details were provided on the findings of the Review of Community and Accessible Transport together with a proposed solution.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress with the Review, the engagement undertaken and the rights and equalities considerations developed to date.
- 2) To note that a further report would be submitted to Committee in spring 2015 detailing the outcomes of the next stage of the review.

- 3) To continue consideration of the report to enable the Working Group to consider the report and refer any comments back to this Committee in one cycle if possible

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 5 November 2013 (item 12); joint report by the Director of Health and Social Care and the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

13 Local Development Action Plan – Action Programme Update – referral from the Planning Committee

The Planning Committee had referred a report on the progress made on the Local Development Plan Action Programme Update.

Decision

To note the report by the Planning Committee.

(References – Planning Committee 2 October 2014 (item 3); referral report from the Planning Committee, submitted.)

14 Corporate and Operational Governance – Update – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had referred a report providing an update on progress made and outlining the planned approach to continue to strengthen corporate and operational governance.

Decision

To note the report by the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.

(References – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 9 October 2014 (item 8); referral report from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, submitted.)

15 Corporate Performance Framework: Performance Report February to July 2014

The Council had approved a revised Corporate Performance Framework aligned to political, partnership and operational outcomes.

An update was provided on the Corporate Performance Framework.

Decision

To note the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.

(References – Act of Council No 12 of 24 October 2014; report by the Director of Corporate Governance, submitted.)

16. Housing Benefit – Risk Based Verification Policy

The Committee, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

Details were provided on the implementation of the Risk Based Verification for new Housing Benefit claims and proposals to extend its application to include change in circumstances for housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Scheme cases

Decision

- 1) To adopt the process of Risk Based Verification for verifying Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Scheme change of circumstances as outlined in the report by the Director of Corporate Governance.
- 2) To implement Risk Based Verification in accordance with the policy described in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.10 of the report by the Director of corporate Governance.
- 3) To note that, as required by the Department of Work and Pensions, this policy had been agreed with the Council's Section 95 Officer.