Minutes

Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 25 November 2014

Present

Councillors Child (Convener), Lunn (Vice-Convener), Bagshaw, Bridgman, Edie, Gardner, Griffiths (substituting for Councillor Walker), Bill Henderson, Jackson, Keil, McInnes and Robson.

1.   Minutes

Decision

1)   To approve the minute of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee of 23 September 2014 as a correct record.

2)   To approve the minute of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee of 23 September 2014 as a correct record.

2   Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Key Decisions Forward Plan to February 2015 was presented.

Decision

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

(Reference - Key Decisions Forward Plan November 2014 to February 2015, submitted.)

3.   Rolling Actions Log

Outstanding actions for the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee to November 2014 were presented.

Decision

1) To agree that actions 4, 6, 16 and 22 on the Rolling Actions Log be closed.

2) To note that future actions agreed by Committee calling for further reports or information would be added to the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Communities and Neighbourhoods Rolling Actions Log November 2014, submitted.)

4.   Business Bulletin

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Business Bulletin for November 2014 was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Communities and Neighbourhoods Business Bulletin November 2014, submitted.)

5.   Establishment of Colinton Community Council

A petition with the required number of signatures had been received from local electors in the Colinton area requesting that a Community Council be established. Approval was sought for the proposed electoral arrangements.

A letter had been received from the Chair of the Colinton Amenity Association requesting that the Committee take into consideration the role and work of the Association when considering the establishment of Colinton Community Council.

Decision

1) To approve the process of combined online, postal and polling place voting, should an election be required for the establishment of Colinton Community Council.

2) To approve the timetable for the election of Colinton Community Council.

3) To appoint Councillor Rust as Returning Officer.

4) To note that Colinton Amenity Association (CAA), a voluntary association with around 500 members and an Executive Committee, had served the community of Colinton since1927, and had in recent years effectively performed the role of a Community Council.

5) To recognise the importance of any newly formed Community Council in Colinton engaging constructively with CAA in the best interests of Colinton.

6) To welcome and expect continued partnership working between the City of Edinburgh Council and CAA, whether or not a Community Council was ultimately formed in Colinton, specifically a continued positive engagement and dialogue between the South and West Neighbourhood Team and CAA.

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

6.   Neighbourhood Partnerships – Performance Framework

Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs) had developed a refreshed performance framework to provide a range of tools to support NPs in measuring their progress, enabling areas for improvement to be identified, and successes to be demonstrated. The new

performance framework would also complement and support the delivery of Local Community Plans which set out the vision, priorities and actions for each NP.

Decision

1) To note and promote the refreshed approach to performance management across the Neighbourhood Partnerships.

2) To note the progress made to date in embedding this approach.

3) To note the alignment of Neighbourhood Partnerships and Edinburgh Partnership performance reporting.

4) To refer the report to the twelve Neighbourhood Partnerships for consideration.

(References – report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted; report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities on Neighbourhood Partnerships Local Community Plans (see item 7 below))

7. Neighbourhood Partnerships – Local Community Plans

Edinburgh's third set of twelve Local Community Plans (LCPs) had been finalised following extensive engagement and consultation. The LCPs set out the key priorities that local communities wished to tackle. During 2014-17, LCPs would be delivered through local partnership activity and would increasingly contribute to Edinburgh's strategic level community planning.

Decision

1) To note the report and the strategies in place to promote the Local Community Plans and Neighbourhood Partnership activities.

2) To receive ongoing updates on the delivery of the Local Community Plans in the context of wider and strategic community planning activity.

3) To refer the report to Strategic Partnerships in Edinburgh via the Edinburgh Partnership for noting.

(References – report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted; report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities on Neighbourhood Partnerships Performance Framework (see item 6 above))

8. Tackling Poverty and Inequality in Edinburgh – Strategic Framework and Action Planning

(a) Deputation – Edinburgh Students Coalition Against Poverty (ESCAPE)

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Amie Robertson, Livi Massie, Hugh McGrade and Chloe Torrance on behalf of Edinburgh Students Coalition Against Poverty (ESCAPE).

The deputation outlined the work currently undertaken by ESCAPE seeking to engage with the City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Government. Initiatives they had been involved with included reducing the stigma attached to poverty through positive

poster campaigning and reaching out to marginalised groups. ESCAPE welcomed future opportunities to engage with the Council and gather information on existing structures within the Council and other agencies involved in tackling poverty.

Decision

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the related report by the Director of Health and Social Care below.

(b)   Report by the Director of Health and Social Care

Details were provided of progress towards strategic outcomes to tackle poverty and inequality through practical action, using the Council's community planning roles and mainstream service planning and delivery. A new Poverty and Inequality Partnership had been created and a range of partnership actions set out contributions from each partnership to the poverty and inequality outcomes. Further consideration of strategic overview and service planning roles by other committees was sought.

Decision

1) To endorse the strategic outcomes against poverty and inequality and the six principles for action towards these outcomes defined through Community Planning.

2) To note the complementary nature of these outcomes with the Council pledges and Co-operative Council principles, and agree these should be reflected in mainstream service planning and delivery.

3) To note the examples of practical action towards the agreed outcomes noted in the report.

4) To note that the updated evidence in the poverty profiles confirmed the priority of tackling poverty and inequality in the Community Plan and in the Council's Strategic Plan to achieve the key outcomes for the city.

5) To agree to consider further reports on action to tackle community and neighbourhood issues supporting the poverty and inequality outcomes.

6) To note that the regular reports from Neighbourhood Partnerships would also include action towards the poverty and inequality outcomes.

7) To refer the report to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee to consider strategic aspects of the poverty and inequality outcomes.

8) To note the work of the Poverty and Inequality Partnership and the good practice across a wide range of partners in the City to address the impact of poverty and inequality.

9) To welcome the commitment of the Edinburgh Partnership Board to place poverty and inequality at the heart of the new community plan.

10) To note concern that the proposed new action plan did not contain enough clarity on detailed actions, nor did it make sufficient connection to equality, rights and employability.

11) To request that further work be undertaken:

   (i) to identify practical actions more clearly and succinctly.

   (ii) to include these actions within the report on the Equality and Rights Framework 2012/2017 in May 2015.

   (iii) to better integrate strategies and plans to tackle poverty and inequality with strategies and plans to advance equality and rights.

12) That the report on the Equality and Rights Framework 2012-2017 scheduled for presentation to Committee in May 2015 include details of the work of the Edinburgh Students Coalition Against Poverty (ESCAPE).

References – Communities and Neighbourhoods Policy Development and Review Sub-Committee 11 February 2014 (item 4); Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 25 February 2014 (item 15); report by the Director of Health and Social Care, submitted)

9. Motion by Councillor Lunn - Foodbanks

The following motion by Councillor Lunn was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16.1:

1. Committee asks that we acknowledge the continuing worsening situation for a large proportion of the public and highlights the growing need for foodbanks due to the austerity policies implemented by the current Westminster Government and applauds the work by Edinburgh organisations.

2. Committee seeks a report back to Communities and Neighbourhoods in two cycles with recommendations on how to liaise with the organisations currently delivering foodbanks to coordinate activity through the City.

3. Committee instructs officers to investigate possible sources of innovative funding such as the Scottish Government's Emergency Food Fund.

Motion

To approve the above motion and to request a report back on ways in which the Council could engage with the newly appointed Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights to address issues around foodbanks.

- moved by Councillor Lunn, seconded by Councillor Child

Amendment

In similar terms to the motion subject to:

1) the deletion of paragraph 1.

2) that the report called for in paragraph 2 of the motion include details of what information/advice is made available at foodbanks to support users.

- moved by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor McInnes

In accordance with Standing Order 20(7), paragraph 2 of the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Voting

For the motion (as adjusted)   -   10 votes
For the amendment   -   2 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Lunn (as adjusted) as follows:

Committee asks that we acknowledge the continuing worsening situation for a large proportion of the public and highlights the growing need for foodbanks due to the austerity policies implemented by the current Westminster Government and applauds the work by Edinburgh organisations.

Committee seeks a report back to Communities and Neighbourhoods in two cycles with recommendations on how to liaise with the organisations currently delivering foodbanks to coordinate activity through the City; the report to include details of what information/ advice is made available at foodbanks to support users.

Committee instructs officers to investigate possible sources of innovative funding such as the Scottish Government's Emergency Food Fund and to request a report back on ways in which the Council could engage with the newly appointed Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights to address issues around foodbanks.