

# Item 4.1 - Minutes

## Economy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 23 June 2015

### Present:

Councillors Ross (Convener), Munro (Vice Convener), Barrie, Blacklock, Corbett, Edie, Griffiths, McVey, Mowat, Paterson, Rankin and Robson (Substituting for Councillor Gardner).

### 1. Deputation – Granton Improvement Society

---

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Ross McEwan (Administrator) and Michael Borland (Chairman) on behalf of the Granton Improvement Society (GIS).

The GIS wanted to rejuvenate the Granton waterfront area by the acquisition of land from EDI Waterfront for the purpose of a community led project. The land identified for asset transfer or sale included the walled garden and adjacent plot of land. This would be used to establish an international garden festival within the walled garden, 100 artisan work spaces and an outdoor swimming facility - including leisure and triathlete training elements. The whole project was expected to be green, energy efficient and off-grid. A business plan, outline of proposals and an economic impact assessment had been circulated to the Committee by the deputation in advance of the meeting.

The deputation requested that the Committee assess the project and the associated economic merits, and support the proposal that ownership of the site comes into the hands of the community.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and noted the points made.

### Declarations of Interest

Councillors Ross and Munro declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as Directors of EDI.

### 2. Minutes

---

#### Decision

To approve the minute of the Economy Committee of 28 April 2015 as a correct record.

### 3. Key Decisions Forward Plan

---

The Economy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period August 2015 to June 2016 was submitted.

#### **Decision**

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan.

(Reference – Economy Key Decisions Forward Plan, submitted.)

### 4. Rolling Actions Log

---

The Economy Committee Rolling Actions Log for 23 June 2015 was submitted.

#### **Decision**

To approve the closure of actions 3 and 5.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log 23 June 2015, submitted.)

### 5. Business Bulletin

---

The Economy Committee Business Bulletin for 23 June 2015 was presented.

#### **Decision**

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin 23 June 2015, submitted.)

### 6. Smart Cities - Presentation

---

Lucille Brown and Colin Birchenhall (Glasgow City Council) gave a presentation on the 'Future City' initiative, a United Kingdom Government funded scheme with the remit of exploring innovative ways to use technology and data to make life in the city safer, smarter and more sustainable. The presentation outlined the experiences gained by Glasgow, the Future Cities Demonstrator Programme and covered the following areas:

- Funding of the project by Innovate UK;
- The 18 month implementation phase;
- The structure of the ongoing demonstrator programme including:
  - The application of smart technology to public transport;
  - Energy efficiency projects;
  - Intelligent street lighting; and

- Active travel smartphone applications.
- The Glasgow Operations Centre; and
- The sharing of existing data and the creation of open data sources.

### **Decision**

- 1) To thank Colin Birchenhall and Lucille Brown for their presentation.
- 2) That a copy of the presentation slides be circulated to Committee members.

## **7. Edinburgh Academy Entrepreneurial Project**

---

The Committee heard a presentation from Dundas Links, a young enterprise company from Edinburgh Academy. The presentation outlined the students' success at a regional and national level in the Young Enterprise Scotland competition by creating and marketing cufflinks from locally sourced components. The presentation covered the following areas:

- Founding principles of the team - passion, creativity and teamwork;
- Sourcing of materials;
- Primary research and resulting design;
- Workload and rota of production;
- Sales technique and marketing;
- Online media presence;
- Challenges encountered; and
- Future plans for the company.

### **Decision**

To thank Dundas Links for their presentation and to congratulate them on their regional and national success in the Young Enterprise Scotland competition.

## **8. EDI Annual Report**

---

The EDI Business Plan 2015-2017, including overarching objectives for 2015, was presented to the Committee.

Eric Adair (Chief Executive, EDI) gave a presentation on the 'EDI Annual Performance Review and Business Plan 2015-2017'. The presentation covered the following areas:

- Remit and structure of EDI.

- Achievements and financial results during 2014; and
- Development projects for 2015 including:
  - Craigmillar Town Centre and Greendykes,
  - Granton Waterfront,
  - India Quay,
  - Market Street, and
  - Brunstane

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the content of the EDI Business Plan 2015-17 as outlined in the report by the Director of Economic Development.
- 2) To thank Eric Adair (EDI) for his presentation.
- 3) To refer the report by the Director of Economic Development to the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee for information.

(Reference - report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted.)

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Ross and Munro declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as Directors of EDI.

## **9. Scottish Cities Alliance – Progress Update**

---

An update on the work of the Scottish Cities Alliance (SCA) was presented.

### **Decision**

To note the work of the SCA and the considerable progress made over recent months.

(References – minute of the Economy Committee 6 March 2014 (item 14); report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted.)

## **10. Low Carbon and Resilient Cities**

---

The findings of work undertaken by the Scottish Cities Alliance (SCA) on economic development opportunities in the low carbon and climate change areas for Scottish cities was presented. Impacts and priority actions for Edinburgh to be taken forward through the Council's Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) were outlined.

## **Decision**

- 1) To note the findings from the “Low Carbon and Resilient Cities” as outlined in the report by the Director of Economic Development and the opportunities and implications for the economy in Edinburgh.
- 2) To note the work being developed by the SEAP.
- 3) To approve the scope of the new Low Carbon Jobs and Investment Framework which would be submitted to the Committee in September 2015.

(References – minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 24 February 2015 (item 1); report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted.)

## **11. The Future of the Strategic Investment Fund**

---

The Council had previously approved the development of a city Strategic Investment Fund to help support business innovation and promote economic growth in Edinburgh.

A discussion paper on future opportunities for leveraging the Strategic Investment Fund through co-operation with other city partners with similar aspirations for the purpose of raising new funds was submitted.

## **Decision**

- 1) To instruct the Director of Economic Development to explore in detail the potential for aligning and leveraging the Strategic investment Fund with the resources of other city partners.
- 2) To instruct the Director of Economic Development to return with a detailed conclusion and set of recommendations including partnership working with city partners for the future of the Strategic Investment fund in two cycles.

(References - minute of the Economy Committee 28 April 2015 (item 8); report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted.)

## **12. 10-28 Dewar Place/44-50 Torphican Street Proposed Disposal Strategy**

---

## **Decision**

To continue consideration of the report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities to allow a late bid for the site to be considered.

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

### 13. Register Lanes Update

---

An update on the Register Lanes project, including a Public Realm Plan to help guide proposed development of the area, was submitted.

#### Decision

- 1) To note the Public Realm Plan for the Register Lanes.
- 2) To recommend to the Transport and Environment Committee that the Public Realm Plan be approved.

(References – minute of the Economy Committee 18 December 2014 (item 11); report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted.)

### 14. Impact of the Open Innovation Project

---

Details were provided of the work of the Open Innovation Project. The project aimed to encourage open innovation to take place between businesses, universities and the public sector by promoting new techniques; increasing the commercial exploitation of Edinburgh's world-class knowledge base and developing a more outward looking entrepreneurial culture.

#### Decision

- 1) To note the achievements of the Open Innovation Project in meeting its aims and objectives.
- 2) To note that the winners of the Citrus Saturday Project 2015 would be invited to give a presentation to the Committee in January 2016.

(Reference – report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted.)

### 15. Investing in Jobs: Economic Development Service Key Performance Indicators – January to March 2015

---

An update was provided on the performance of the Economic Development Service (EDS) in delivering the key performance indicators (KPIs) for the period January to March 2015.

The EDS was currently ahead of target on all three KPIs as measured by a range of inputs on jobs, investment and helping people into work and learning.

#### Decision

- 1) To note the progress being made against the three KPIs between January and March 2015.

- 2) To congratulate the Employability Team on the success of the Edinburgh Guarantee in helping young people into positive destinations.

(References – minute of the Economy Committee 13 February 2015 (item 8); report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted.)

## **16. Economic Development Service – Annual Performance Review 2014/15**

---

Details were provided of the Annual Review of the Economic Development Service 2014/15 performance against the Council's Economic Strategy – A Strategy for Jobs 2012-2017.

The EDS was ahead of target on all three key performance indicators for the period 2012 – 2015 and had met or exceeded 49 of the 61 targets set in the Operational Plan 2014-15.

The Committee was also asked to approve new targets for the three KPIs that the EDS monitored their performance against.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the findings of the annual performance review up to 2014/15.
- 2) To approve the new KPI targets for the creation and safeguarding of jobs and support for movement into work and learning, for the period 2015-17.
- 3) That the Director of Economic Development report on a revised target for physical investment for 2015-17 to the next meeting of the Committee.

(References – minute of the Economy Committee 7 October 2014 (item 7); report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted.)

## **17. Unemployment, Trends and Correlated Factors**

---

As previously requested by the Committee, a follow up paper on unemployment trends and correlated factors, indicating the level of detail available at a local level, was submitted. Analysis of Job Seekers Allowance claimants showed significant discrepancies between, and within, council wards. This research would be used by the Poverty and Inequality Partnership to develop an action plan.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the research outlined in the report by the Director of Economic Development.
- 2) To note that monthly monitoring of the key measures discussed in the report by the Director of Economic Development was provided through Edinburgh

Economy Watch and the Corporate Business Insight Dashboard. Analysis of these measures and trends was available from Business Intelligence on request.

- 3) To note that the submitted research, together with further available data on low income and poverty trends, would be considered by the Poverty and Inequality Partnership in developing their action plan and future interventions.
- 4) To note that the Economic Development Service had already targeted employability interventions in areas of the city highlighted within the presented research.
- 5) To refer the report by the Director of Economic Development to Neighbourhood Partnerships for information.
- 6) That the action plan being developed by the Poverty and Inequality Partnership be presented to the Economy Committee once completed.

(References – minute of the Economy Committee 28 April 2015 (item 6); report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted.)

## 18. External Relations Update

---

An update was provided on the work of the External Relations Team, including the activity of the External Funding Team. This included information on recent and forthcoming projects and activities in relation to the European and International Strategy, the new External Funding Initiative and Parliamentary briefings.

### Decision

- 1) To note the progress being made by the External Relations Team in delivering on the Council's European and International Strategy and in promoting the city's international profile and programme of visits, partner city projects, events and international agreements.
- 2) To note the response to the Scottish Parliament's European and External Relations Committee inquiry 'Connecting Scotland: how Scottish organisations engage internationally' (second stage).
- 3) To note the travel undertaken by Economic Development Officers in 2014/15 and to implement the EDS strategy and projects. Further to approve the proposed international and London travel by the Economic Development Service for 2015/16.

(References – minute of the Economy Committee 13 February 2015 (item 14); report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted.)

## 19. Investor Support Update

---

An update was provided on the activity of the Investor Support Team to attract investment into Edinburgh and create jobs in line with the Council's Economic Strategy for Jobs 2012-2017.

### Decision

- 1) To note the progress being made by the Investor Support Team and the contribution the team was making to deliver the Council's Economic Strategy "A Strategy for Jobs 2012-2017".
- 2) That a report on the Shenzhen Creative Incubator be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

(References – minute of the Economy Committee 13 February 2015 (item 15); report by the Director of Economic Development, submitted.)