

## Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee

10.00 am Tuesday 10 May 2016

### Present

Councillors Child (Convener), Ritchie (Vice-Convener), Bagshaw, Bridgman, Edie, Gardner, Griffiths, Jackson, Keil, Walker, Whyte (substituting for Councillor Jackson) and Work (substituting for Councillor Lunn).

### 1. Deputation Request - Niddrie NIPS

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A deputation request had been received from Niddrie NIPS unrelated to any item on the agenda for this meeting.

### Decision

- 1) To note that the deputation was unable to be present.
- 2) To note that senior council officers had offered to meet with the deputation to discuss their concerns.
- 3) To re-iterate the offer to Niddrie NIPS to meet with senior council officers and the three local ward members.

### 2. Lothian Buses to Continue to Accept Adult City Single Tickets

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#### (a) Deputation Request

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Paul Stevenson as the principal petitioner and Ewan Walker of Edinburgh Foodbanks in relation to item 7.7 - Lothian Buses to Continue to Accept Adult City Single Tickets

The deputation raised the following key issues:

- Since the meeting of the Petitions Committee, the petitioner had had no further communication from or dialogue with Lothian Buses
- Lothian Buses had offered charities a discounted day-saver ticket; however, this did not allow any flexibility and resulted in organisations only being able to purchase half the amount of tickets.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the matter.

(b) Referral from the Petitions Committee

The Petitions Committee on 14 April 2016 considered a report by the Chief Executive providing details of a petition “Lothian Buses to Continue to Accept Adult City Single Tickets”.

The report was referred to the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee with a request that they consider the impact that the issues raised within the petition might have on some charities.

Nigel Serafini, Commercial Director, Lothian Buses and Richard Hall, Managing Director, Lothian Buses explained the challenges around trying to identify an alternative solution to minimise the impact of the decision not to continue with adult city single tickets. From a financially sustainable and commercial position, every opportunity and alternative investigated was not viable.

Mobile ticketing and city smart multi journey tickets had been developed for adults but at this time there was no viable alternative for the books of adult city singles. Lothian Buses, had however, offered a discounted scratch card which was now being purchased by the majority of charities and vulnerable groups.

**Decision**

- 1) To request Lothian Buses to meet with the petitioner and relevant Council officers to explore all options towards identifying an alternative resolution to the decision by Lothian Buses not to continue to accept adult city single tickets.
- 2) To request that a report on the outcome of these discussions be submitted to a future meeting of the Transport and Environment Committee for consideration.
- 3) To agree that a record of the discussions on this item be circulated at the next Transport for Edinburgh Board.

(Reference – referral report from the Petitions Committee 14 April 2015)

**Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Walker declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a former Hardship Co-ordinator.

**3. Minutes**

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**Decision**

To approve the minute of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee of 9 February 2016 as a correct record.

**4. Key Decisions Forward Plan**

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The Communities and Neighbourhoods Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period to May 2016 was submitted.

## **Decision**

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee to May 2016.

(Reference - Key Decisions Forward Plan to May 2016, submitted.)

## **5. Rolling Actions Log**

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The Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee Rolling Actions Log for 10 May was submitted.

### **Decision**

- 1) To agree to close actions 4, 5 and 7.
- 2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log May 2016, submitted)

## **6. Business Bulletin**

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The Communities and Neighbourhoods Business Bulletin for 10 May 2016 was presented.

### **Decision**

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin May 2016, submitted.)

## **7. Volunteering in Edinburgh - Presentation**

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Paul Wilson, Volunteer Edinburgh gave an overview of the numbers of people in Edinburgh who undertook voluntary work across the third sector and statutory sector across the city. Volunteer Edinburgh had carried out some research work which showed that a 54% increase in organisations engaging with volunteers compared to the previous year. This was indicative of the huge financial and other pressures being placed on individual organisations.

Other challenges which had been identified included how to maintain strong connections with volunteer involving organisations. There was increasing competition amongst organisations in terms of advertising volunteering opportunities to the public in addition to using their local volunteer centre which was indicative of new ways of reaching out to people.

On 20 May 2016, Volunteering Edinburgh's proposed way forward would be presented to the Edinburgh Compact Board seeking approval for a new Volunteering and Active Citizens Strategy. A Task Group comprising all stakeholders would be established in Q2 and Q3 of the financial year with a view to reporting back to the Compact Board in February 2017 on progress.

The Convener thanked Paul for his extremely informative presentation.

## **Decision**

To note the presentation.

### **8. Payments to Third Parties – Equalities and Rights Network (EaRN) Service Provider Continuing Investment 2016-2017**

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Details were given of the annual performance for 2015/16 by Volunteer Edinburgh to develop and deliver the new Equality and Rights Network for the City. Targets for 2016/17 were set out and approval sought to continue to invest in Volunteer Edinburgh for this work.

#### **Decision**

- 1) To note the annual performance for 2015/16 as set out in the report.
- 2) To approve the second tranche of grant for 2016/17.
- 3) To note the targets for 2016/17 to be considered by the EaRN Board in May 2016.
- 4) To note that the EaRN Board might introduce key performance indicators connected with their work objectives for 2016/17 as outlined in the report.

(References – Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee 10 February 2015 (item 11); report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

### **9. Tackling Poverty and Inequality and Advancing Equality and Rights - Update**

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On 10 May 2016, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee considered an update report by the Chief Executive on the joint work being undertaken by the Edinburgh Partnership and the Council to tackle poverty and inequality and to advance equality and rights.

Poverty rates and trends in Edinburgh remained close to the Scottish average but were notably higher for families with children. There were significant variations between communities in Edinburgh. Child poverty rates ranged from as low as 11% in some wards to well over 30% of all children in parts of Forth and Sighthill/Gorgie and ranked among the top ten highest concentrations of child poverty in Scotland. Such variation in income was mirrored in significant inequality of experience across a range of other outcome areas including health, education, experience of crime and others.

At the Edinburgh Partnership Board meeting in March 2016, in response to this assessment, proposed new partnership and working group arrangements were agreed as set out in paragraphs 3.25 to 3.29 of the Chief Executive's report.

The primary purpose of the new consolidated partnership would be to shape the vision for tackling poverty and inequality and advancing equality and rights across the City and across the Edinburgh Partnership through the delivery of the Community Plan and related strategies and plans.

These new arrangements would be sustained until March 2018 and would be reviewed, along with other partnership arrangements, as a result of the development of the new Community Plan (or Local Outcome Improvement Plan).

#### **Decision**

- 1) To record support for the proposed new partnership working arrangements set out in paragraphs 3.25 to 3.29 of the report by the Chief Executive.
- 2) To refer the report to the Economy Committee with a specific request that future work in this area is focused on stimulating growth in areas of deprivation.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

### **10. Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme**

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The Syrian Resettlement Programme (SRP) was a UK Government programme through which twenty thousand Syrian refugees would be resettled in the UK over the life of the current Parliament.

At its meeting on 22 September 2015, Committee agreed to resettle in the region of one hundred refugees in the first year of Edinburgh's participation in the scheme. Either directly, or via COSLA, the Council had subsequently been approached to consider involvement in other refugee resettlement schemes.

An update was given of refugee resettlement work being undertaken across the City.

#### **Decision**

- 1) To note progress on resettling refugees under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (SVPRS) in the city since November 2015.
- 2) To note that planning for future arrivals had started.
- 3) To agree to extend the city's involvement in the SVPRS with a view to resettling similar numbers of refugees in each of the remaining four years of the scheme.
- 4) To note discussions were underway on involvement in additional refugee resettlement schemes and that detailed proposals would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.

(References – Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee 22 September 2015 (item 9); report by the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities, submitted)

#### **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Ritchie declared a non-financial interest in the above item as an employee of Children in Scotland and a former Director of the Welcoming Association.

### **11. Participatory Budgeting Process**

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An update was provided on the development and implementation of Participatory Budgeting (PB) across Edinburgh. PB has been successfully delivered across the city since 2010 and involved citizens directly in decision-making on spending priorities for public funds.

Information was detailed on the activities underway to develop both new and existing approaches to PB. Work was also ongoing to create a standardised evaluation framework to allow the measure of success of PB across the city.

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To refer the report to the Finance and Resources Committee for information.
- 3) To agree to receive a further report on progress on participatory budgeting initiatives and development activity at a future meeting.

(Reference – report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted)

## **12. Governance Protocol for Community Council Elections**

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The City of Edinburgh Council on 10 March 2016 considered a report on the protocol developed jointly by the Local Community Planning and Elections Team which provided a framework for community council elections and was complementary to the Scheme for Community Councils.

The Council agreed the governance protocol for Community Council elections and referred the report to the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee for information.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

(References – Act of Council No 12 of 10 March 2016; referral report from the City of Edinburgh Council, submitted)