

Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Friday 27 October 2017

Present

Councillors Rankin (Convener), Donaldson (Vice-Convener), Bridgman, Howie, Hutchison, Johnston, Main (substituting for Councillor Corbett) Miller, Neil Ross, Watt and Whyte.

1. Revenue Budget Framework 2018/23 – Mid Year Review

1.1 Unison – Deputation

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Gerry Stovin on behalf of Unison in relation to a report by the Executive Director of Resources on Revenue Budget Framework 2018/23.

Unison advised that they had grave concerns around the negative impact that the failed austerity agenda was having on services and staff.

Job insecurity, a year on year reduction in wages and a never-ending review culture was impacting negatively on staff's mental health. Elected members were asked to ensure that City of Edinburgh Council Officers were treated with dignity and respect during the budget process. The continuation of the austerity agenda would likely cause even greater pressures within care and related services.

Mr Stovin asked that members end the austerity agenda by investing in meaningful public services, to enable people to work and live in an environment that was not crumbling and cracking at the edges.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the report by the Executive Director of Resources.

1.2 Report by the Executive Director of Resources

Approval was sought to release the draft 2018/19 budget framework for engagement, which included savings linked to a number of medium-term themes, totalling £20.9m.

Motion

- 1) To note the contents of the report by the Executive Director of Resources in the context of considering the Council's revenue budget framework.
- 2) To approve the release for engagement of the draft proposals included in Appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Resources which together provide the basis of an anticipated balanced position for 2018/19 as part of a longer-term framework.
- 3) To authorise Executive Directors to take forward, in conjunction with Conveners and Vice-Conveners, any remaining detailed planning and development of the savings proposals contained within the budget framework including, where appropriate to a savings proposal, staff release and planning, development and consultation in accordance with the Council's Organisational Review procedure.

- moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Donaldson

Amendment

To defer consideration of the report by the Executive Director of Resources to the Finance and Resources Committee on 7 November 2017 to allow for further details to be included.

- moved by Councillor Hutchison, seconded by Councillor Whyte

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion - 5 votes

For the amendment - 6 votes

(For the motion – Councillors Bridgman, Donaldson, Howie, Rankin, Watt)

(For the amendment – Councillors Hutchison, Johnston, Main, Miller, Neil Ross, Whyte)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Hutchison.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Main declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a board member of Festival City Theatres Trust.

Councillor Donaldson declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a member of Unison.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee 28 September 2017 (item 5); report by the Executive Director of Resources, submitted)

2. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Finance and Resources Committee of 28 September 2017 as a correct record.

3. Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Finance and Resources Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for November 2017 to January 2018 was submitted.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for November 2017 to January 2018.

(Reference – Finance and Resources Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan, submitted.)

4. Rolling Actions Log

The Finance and Resources Committee Rolling Actions Log was submitted.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close Action 2, Health and Safety Performance 2016.
- 2) To otherwise note the Rolling Actions Log.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

5. Capital Investment Framework 2018/19-2026/27

Details were provided regarding assumptions underpinning the Council's capital budget framework, the expenditure approved, the funding available and the capital expenditure priorities.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the report by the Executive Director of Resources in the context of considering the Council's capital budget framework.
- 2) To note that there was currently £7m of unallocated capital funding in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

- 3) To note that, in the absence of firm proposals to deliver a balanced position over the period of the 2018/23 revenue budget framework, no additional capital expenditure would be supported at present, where this creates revenue implications.
- 4) To note the priorities for additional capital investment, should additional grant funding become available.
- 5) To note that a further report on the capital investment framework would be considered by Finance and Resources Committee in January 2018.

(References – Finance and Resources Committee, 5 September 2017 (item 7); report by the Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

6. Approach to Citizen Engagement on 2018-2019 Budget and Council Change Themes

Decision

To defer consideration of the report by the Chief Executive until the next meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee on 7 November 2017.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

7. Leith Walk Phase 4 – Appointment of Land Engineering – referral from the Transport and Environment Committee

The Transport and Environment Committee on 5 October 2017 considered a report that outlined the circumstances surrounding the appointment and subsequent collapse of Land Engineering, the company responsible for undertaking the Phase 4 Leith Walk repairs between Pilrig Street and McDonald Road. The report was referred to the Finance and Resources Committee for consideration of improvements that may be introduced across the Councils wider procurement and contract management processes.

Decision

To note the referral report from the Transport and Environment Committee.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee, 5 October 2017 (item 14); referral report from the Transport and Environment Committee, submitted)

8. Internal Audit Quarterly Update Report: 1 January 2017 – 30 June 2017 – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee on 26 September 2017 considered a report which detailed the Internal Audit progress for the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017. The report was referred to the Finance and Resources Committee on the recommendation that high risk findings from audit reports would be submitted to their parent Committee for information.

Decision

To note the audit reports with high risk findings concerning, Leavers Process, Property Maintenance, Health and Safety – Contractor Management, IT Disaster Recovery and Review of External Security.

(Reference – Governance, Risk and Best Committee, 26 September 2017 (item 4); referral report from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, submitted)