

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 4 December 2018

Next steps for social security reform in Scotland and policy to tackle poverty – Conference Attendance

Item number	8.2
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

Executive Summary

This report asks the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee to note the decision by the Chief Executive under urgency provisions, in consultation with the Council Leader, to authorise Councillor Gordon's attendance at the 'Next steps for social security reform in Scotland and policy to tackle poverty' conference in Edinburgh on Thursday 29 November 2018.

Next steps for social security reform in Scotland and policy to tackle poverty – Conference Attendance

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note the decision by the Chief Executive under urgency provision, in consultation with the Council Leader, to authorise Councillor George Gordon's attendance at the 'Next steps for social security reform in Scotland and policy to tackle poverty' conference in Edinburgh on Thursday 29 November 2018; and
- 1.2 To note that Cllr Gordon will provide feedback in the Business Bulletin from his attendance at this conference at the next Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee on 26 February 2019.

2. Background

- 2.1 Provision is made within the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions (paragraph 4.1) for the Chief Executive or appropriate Executive Director, in consultation with the Convenor or Vice Convenor, to take decisions normally made by Committee under urgency provision. The decision has then to be reported to the next meeting.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The 'Next steps for social security reform in Scotland and policy to tackle poverty' conference is taking place in Edinburgh on Thursday 29 November 2018.
- 3.2 Councillor Gordon has been authorised by the Chief Executive under urgency provisions to attend the conference.
- 3.3 This conference will discuss the key issues for [implementing Scotland's Social Security Act](#) including the role for local authorities in tackling poverty and deprivation beyond the Social security system, improving skills and increasing employability, and addressing the impact of high housing costs.
- 3.4 This conference provides an opportunity for key stakeholders and policymakers to consider the way forward for Scotland's social security system, as Scotland's new welfare agency, Social Security Scotland, begins making its first payments and prepares to become fully operational by 2021.

3.5 The agenda for the conference includes:

- Implementing the Social Security Act: the Government vision;
- Creating the Social Security Agency;
- Priorities for Scotland's social security system: ensuring access, value for money and next steps in delivery;
- Poverty in Scotland: scale and policy options;
- Latest thinking on tackling poverty in Scotland: employability, housing and next steps for policy; and
- Priorities for child poverty: early intervention, raising attainment and supporting families.

4. Measures of success

4.1 Councillor Gordon's attendance at the 'Next steps for social security reform in Scotland and policy to tackle poverty' conference will:

- Promote Edinburgh's expertise;
- Learn from other's good practice; and
- Strengthen links with other stakeholders and found new partners.

5. Financial impact

5.1 The cost of attendance is £230. As the event will be held in Edinburgh there will be no travel and accommodation costs incurred. The cost of the conference will be met from the Customer and Digital Services budget.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

6.1 There are no risk, policy, compliance and governance impacts arising from Councillor Gordon's attendance at this event.

7. Equalities impact

7.1 There are no direct equalities impacts as a result of this report.

8. Sustainability impact

8.1 Travel arrangements were made in accordance with the Council's Sustainable Travel Plan.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Consultation has taken place with the Council Leader on this decision.
- 9.2 Attendance at the 'Next steps for social security reform in Scotland and policy to tackle poverty' conference will provide the Council with a channel for engaging with various key stakeholders including local and nationally elected members to discuss the priorities for Scotland's reformed Social Security System and [setting up the Social Security Agency](#), including what is needed to meet Government's ambition of delivering an accessible, joined-up, and person-centered social security system that also provides value for money.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Background reading to the Conference can be found at <http://www.scotlandpolicyconferences.co.uk/conference/social-security-and-tackling-poverty-in-Scotland-18>

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11. Appendices

Not applicable.