

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday 4 December 2018

Present

Councillors McVey (Convener), Day (Vice-Convener), Aldridge, Booth, Jim Campbell, Mary Campbell, Doggart, Macinnes, Rankin, Perry and Whyte.

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee of 3 October 2018 as a correct record.

2. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Work Programme December 2018

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Work Programme for December 2018 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the work programme.
- 2) To request an update report on Redford Barracks Working Group for the next meeting of the Committee on 26 February 2019.

(Reference – Work Programme December 2018, submitted.)

3. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Rolling Actions Log

Details were provided of the outstanding actions arising from decisions taken by the Committee.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:
 - Action 6 – Welfare Reform Update
 - Action 7 – Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2016-2017
 - Action 20 – Council Motion by Councillor Bird – World Suicide Prevention Day
- 2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

4. Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Business Bulletin

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Business Bulletin was presented.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee Business Bulletin, submitted.)

5. Edinburgh Schools Inquiry

An update was provided on progress being made in putting in place appropriate measures in response to the findings and recommendations of the Edinburgh Schools Inquiry Report.

Decision

To note the report and the positive progress being made by the Council.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 5 December 2017 (item 14); report by the Chief Executive, submitted).

6. Colleague Opinion Survey 2018

The results of the Colleague Opinion Survey 2018 were presented together with details of the planned next steps.

Motion

- 1) To note the results of the Colleague Survey 2018.
 - 2) To note the commitment to engage with colleagues to develop a robust action plan to address the issues raised in the New Year.
 - 3) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.
 - 4) To note that an update report would be provided to this Committee in the New Year on actions taken.
- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment 1

To delete the recommendations in the report and replace with the following:

- 1) Committee notes the results of the Colleague Opinion Survey 2018 and expresses concern that the number of staff engaging had dropped significantly and that:
 - a) Overall satisfaction in working for the Council had dropped.
 - b) Colleagues felt they had far less access to the information and skills they need to do their job than they did in 2012 or 2014.
 - c) While colleagues overwhelmingly recognised the need for change, very few, and a falling proportion, felt they had a say in that change or that it was well managed.

- d) Senior management visibility and confidence in their decisions was lowest in Place and Health and Social Care Directorates where the Council was underperforming, where change is most needed and where recruitment could be a serious barrier to delivery.
- 2) Committee notes that these issues flowed directly from the SNP/Labour Administration and its predecessor's implementation of past transformation programmes which had:
 - a) changed staffing structures but had fundamentally failed to change working practices and deliver modernised ICT solutions which allowed staff to deliver for the public.
 - b) involved constraints on change, such as the "no compulsory redundancy policy", which worked against resolving the Council's budgetary and operational issues efficiently or effectively.
 - c) relied too heavily on an engagement programme with the Trade Unions, who had opposed change, when more meaningful direct engagement with staff could have developed better working practices, given staff direct involvement and used their collective knowledge of the service and worked to improve services based on customer need.
 - 3) Committee notes the commitment to engage with colleagues to develop a robust action plan to address the issues raised in the New Year and agrees that the report should develop proposals to address the barriers outlined at (2) above in order that these could be addressed.
 - 4) Committee refers the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for further scrutiny.
 - 5) Committee agrees that an update report will be provided to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee at its February 2019 meeting on the actions developed and taken.
- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Doggart

Amendment 2

In similar terms to the motion, with the addition of:

- 5) Committee agrees that a 26% response rate is very low for an all staff survey and asks officers to bring back an update on works taking place to improve the rate of return among colleagues, as part of the update report in the New Year.
- moved by Councillor Mary Campbell, seconded by Councillor Booth

In terms of Standing Order 21.11, Amendment 2 was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion - 8 votes
For the amendment - 3 votes

(For the motion – Councillors Aldridge, Booth, Mary Campbell, Griffiths, Macinnes, McVey, Perry and Rankin.

For the amendment - Councillors Jim Campbell, Doggart and Whyte.)

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To note the results of the Colleague Survey 2018.
- 2) To note the commitment to engage with colleagues to develop a robust action plan to address the issues raised in the New Year.
- 3) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.
- 4) To note that an update report would be provided to this Committee in the New Year on actions taken.
- 5) To agree that a 26% response rate was very low for an all staff survey and to ask officers to bring back an update on works taking place to improve the rate of return amongst colleagues as part of the update report in the New Year.

(References – Act of Council No 32 of 28 June 2018; report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

7. Implementing the Programme for the Capital - Coalition Commitments Six Monthly Progress Update

The Council, on 24 August 2017, had approved the Council Business Plan (A Programme for the Capital: The City of Edinburgh Council's Business Plan 2017-22).

Progress was reported against the two coalition commitments where the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee had responsibility.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress against coalition commitment 6 (Deliver the City Region Deal) and coalition commitment 48 (Transient Visitor Levy).
- 2) To note that the coalition commitments formed part of the wider Council Performance Framework, which included corporate performance indicators covering corporate performance and council service delivery.

(References – Act of Council No 7 of 24 August 2017; report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

8. World Suicide Prevention Day

A summary was given on suicide prevention activity in Edinburgh. Information was provided specifically on the training available to Council and NHS staff, statutory agencies, third sector and Faith Communities.

Decision

- 1) To note the training provided to key stakeholders.
- 2) To note the activities to de-stigmatise suicide.
- 3) To note the decrease of the suicide rate in the City of Edinburgh.
- 4) To note the support provided to those affected by suicide.

(References – Act of Council No 19 of 23 August 2018; report by the Chief Officer, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, submitted.)

9. Sustainability Audit

An overview of the key messages and recommendations from the independent audit of Council activity on sustainability and climate change was presented.

Motion

- 1) To note the content of the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI) Sustainability Audit.
 - 2) To extend the Council's thanks to ECCI and Professor Kerr for their time and contribution.
 - 3) To note that a proposed response to the findings would be put to the next Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee.
- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

In similar terms to the motion and to add:

- 4) To agree that there was consultation with each political group represented on the Council before the response was returned to Committee.
- moved by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Mary Campbell

In terms of Standing Order 21(11), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To note the content of the ECCI Sustainability Audit.
- 2) To extend the Council's thanks to ECCI and Professor Kerr for their time and contribution.
- 3) To note that a proposed response to the findings would be put to the next Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee.

- 4) To agree that there would be consultation with each political group represented on the Council before the response returned to Committee.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

10. Sustainable Energy Action Plan Update

An update was provided on the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), in particular progress against the target of reducing carbon emissions by 42% by 2020.

Motion

- 1) To note that an update on the SEAP was presented in October 2018 and was continued in order for progress against the SEAP to be reported.
 - 2) To note progress against each of the SEAP actions set out in the report.
 - 3) To note that an Annual Review of progress was due to be presented to Committee in June 2019 and that progress updates would be reported every two months to this Committee.
 - 4) To note that the SEAP was aligned to the Sustainability Audit which had been undertaken by the ECCI.
- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

In similar terms to the motion and to add:

- 5) To recommend the Council Leader proposes to the Edinburgh Partnership Board that it mandates its member organisations to identify and deliver sufficient carbon-saving projects to ensure the city's Sustainable Energy Action Plan achieved its 2020 target.
- moved by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Mary Campbell

In terms of Standing Order 21(11), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

- 1) To note that an update on the SEAP was presented in October 2018 and was continued in order for progress against the SEAP to be reported.
- 2) To note progress against each of the SEAP actions set out in the report.
- 3) To note that an Annual Review of progress was due to be presented to Committee in June 2019 and that progress updates would be reported every two months to this Committee.
- 4) To note that the SEAP was aligned to the Sustainability Audit which had been undertaken by the ECCI.

- 5) To recommend the Council Leader proposes to the Edinburgh Partnership Board that it mandates its member organisations to identify and deliver sufficient carbon-saving projects to ensure the city's Sustainable Energy Action Plan achieved its 2020 target.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 2 October 2018 (item 12); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

11. Local Governance Review

The Council's proposed response to the Local Governance Review was presented. Key proposals included empowerment of both the representative and participatory democracy, a permissive legal framework, removal of barriers and increased responsibilities to collaborate and greater fiscal devolution.

Motion

To approve the proposed response to the Local Governance Review set out in appendix 1 of the report by the Chief Executive.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

In similar terms to the motion and to add the following:

- while giving appropriate emphasis to participative democracy in local decision making it could not be a substitute for representative democracy at a strategic or City wide level and that a consulting representative model should remain paramount for major strategic and budgetary decision making.
- the section on fiscal devolution would be reviewed to re-emphasise a greater focus on the devolution of control of existing taxation to provide a higher proportion of spending being locally funded and greater accountability for both taxation and spending decisions, in line with a similar principle of taxation being devolved from UK to Scottish Governments. This section should remove reference to specific new taxes.
- to give greater emphasis to the necessary outputs from the "decluttering the legislative landscape" section, particularly in regard to the discussion of the large number of "legal obligations placed on councils to draw up individual service specific or policy specific Council Plans.

- moved by Councillor Whyte, seconded by Councillor Jim Campbell

In terms of Standing Order 21.11, the amendment (adjusted to delete the last sentence of ii) "This section should remove reference to specific new taxes") was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McVey:

To approve the proposed response to the Local Governance Review set out at appendix 1 of the report by the Chief Executive subject to the following:

- i) while giving appropriate emphasis to participative democracy in local decision making it could not be a substitute for representative democracy at a strategic or City wide level and that a consulting representative model should remain paramount for major strategic and budgetary decision making.
- ii) the section on fiscal devolution would be reviewed to re-emphasise a greater focus on the devolution of control of existing taxation to provide a higher proportion of spending being locally funded and greater accountability for both taxation and spending decisions, in line with a similar principle of taxation being devolved from UK to Scottish Governments.
- iii) to give greater emphasis to the necessary outputs from the “decluttering the legislative landscape” section, particularly in regard to the discussion of the large number of “legal obligations placed on councils to draw up individual service specific or policy specific Council Plans.

(Reference – report by Chief Executive, submitted.)

12. Conference Invitation – “Our Agenda” – COSLA and Improvement Service

Decision

To note the action taken by the Chief Executive, in terms of paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions to approve the attendance of Councillors Booth and McVey at the COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference & Exhibition held on 11-12 October 2018.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

13. Next Steps for Social Security Reform in Scotland and Policy to Tackle Poverty

Decision

To note the action taken by the Chief Executive, in terms of paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions to approve the attendance of Councillor Gordon attendance at the ‘Next Steps for Social Security Reform in Scotland and Policy to Tackle Poverty’ Conference held in Edinburgh on Thursday 29 November 2018.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

14. Welfare Reform – Update

An update was given on the Council’s ongoing welfare reform activities, including information on Universal Credit and the Social Security Scotland Agency.

Decision

- 1) To note the work to support Universal Credit and Welfare Reform, in Edinburgh.
- 2) To note the spend projections for Discretionary Housing Payments, Council Tax Reduction Scheme and the Scottish Welfare Fund.

(Reference – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 7 August 2018 (item 23); report by the Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

15. Contact Centre Performance: July-September 2018

Contact Centre performance for the period July to September 2018 was presented together with information on associated service improvement activities.

Decision

- 1) To note performance trends within the Contact Centre.
- 2) To note service and performance improvement activities to ensure that Council services were easy to access and citizen queries and complaints were dealt with effectively.

(References – Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee 7 August 2018 (item 22); report by the Executive Director of Resources, submitted.)

16. Year of Young People 2018

The Education, Children and Families Committee had considered a report detailing the updates on the steps required and actions taken to gather young people's ideas on how their voice might influence the decision making processes of the Council and contribute to the deliberations of the Education, Children and Families Committee.

The report had been referred to this Committee for endorsement.

Decision

To endorse the approaches taken by the Education, Children and Families Committee.

(References – Education, Children and Families Committee 9 October 2018 (item 6); report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

17. Committee Reporting

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had considered a report setting out options developed by a short-life officer working group to improve the standard of committee reporting, including revised template options and a supporting workplan.

The Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee was asked to consider three options and agree a preferred option.

Motion

To approve Option 1 set out in paragraph 3.8 and appendix 1 of the Chief Executive's report.

- moved by Councillor McVey, seconded by Councillor Day

Amendment

To agree that any report format would keep Sustainability Impact as a separate line item.

moved by Councillor Mary Campbell, seconded by Councillor Aldridge

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	9 votes
For the amendment	-	1 vote

(For the motion – Councillors Aldridge, Jim Campbell, Doggart, Day, Griffiths, Macinnes, McVey, Perry and Rankin.

For the amendment – Councillor Mary Campbell)

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor McVey.

(References – Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee 27 November 2018 (item 11); report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

18. Eurocities: Cities4Europe Declaration

An update on the Eurocities 2018 Conference which took place between 28-30 November 2018 in Edinburgh was provided. As an outcome of this event, member cities were asked to sign a “Declaration by Eurocities”.

Decision

To note the decision made by the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Convener and Vice Convener, to sign a Declaration on Citizen Engagement during the Eurocities 2018 Conference in Edinburgh.

(Reference - report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)