

Committee Minutes

Policy and Strategy Committee

Edinburgh, 9 June 2009

Present:- Councillors Dawe (Convener), Cardownie (Vice-Convener), Blacklock, Brock, Buchanan, Burgess, Burns, Edie, Hinds, Jackson, Gordon Mackenzie, MacLaren, Mowat, Munn, Murray, Wheeler and Whyte.

1 Appointment of Convener and Vice-Convener

Decision

- 1) To appoint Councillor Dawe as Convener.
- 2) To appoint Councillor Cardownie as Vice-Convener.

2 Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Policy and Strategy Committee of 12 May 2009 as a correct record.

3 Alternative Business Models – Competitive Dialogue

An update was provided on the review of alternative business models. Reference was also made to the policy and service implications for public finance resulting from the current economic situation.

Motion

- 1) To agree that the Council must provide maximum value for taxpayers' money whilst delivering excellent public services that people in Edinburgh wanted, efficiently and cost-effectively.
- 2) To give sustained and proper consideration to all methods of service delivery for providing the quality of services that residents expected.

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- 3) To note that early discussions had commenced with Trade Unions and to reaffirm the Council's commitment to working constructively with Trade Unions to explore and evaluate all options.
- 4) To undertake to operate openly and consultatively, communicating regularly with staff to ensure that they remained fully informed.
- 5) To endorse the objectives and scope of the Alternative Business Models Review project as set out in section 3 of the report by the Chief Executive.
- 6) To note the outline procurement timetable and plan as set out in section 4 of the report.
- 7) To instruct that the further report to the Policy and Strategy Committee on 4 August 2009, following completion of preparatory activity for the dialogue process:
 - a) provided further information on how alternative business models had progressed at other local authorities and how cost savings had been achieved;
 - b) identified possible benefits from retaining services in-house and disadvantages to adopting alternative business models; and
 - c) provided an update on the staff consultation outlined in section 6 of the report.

- moved by Councillor Dawe, seconded by Councillor Wheeler.

Amendment

- 1) Not to endorse the objectives and scope of the 'Alternative Business Models review project' as set out within section 3 of the report by the Chief Executive.
- 2) To note that no detailed financial costs had been identified to progress the 'competitive dialogue' process.
- 3) To note that the current report contained no detailed analysis of how staff 'terms and conditions' would be affected by the 'competitive dialogue' process.

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- 4) Therefore, to instruct that a report be brought back to the Committee, within one cycle, that provided a full analysis of the points raised in paragraphs 2) and 3) above – including a comparative assessment with the ‘competitive dialogue’ process – and of providing the services listed within paragraph 4.8 of the report on a more efficient in-house basis.

- moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Murray.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	13 votes
For the amendment	-	4 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Dawe.

(References – Acts of Council No 3 of 12 February 2009 and No 16 of 28 May 2009; report no PS/10/09-10/CE by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

4 Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto: The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links – Progress Report

Details were given of progress on the draft events manifesto for the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links and of arrangements for events in the Meadows in 2009 and 2010.

Decision

- 1) To note progress on the draft Parks Events Manifesto for the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links.
- 2) To note that the finalised version of the Manifesto would be submitted to the Policy and Strategy Committee on 4 August 2009 which would form the basis of the city-wide Parks Events Manifesto to be presented to the Committee by October 2009.
- 3) To ensure that the established rights of the Royal Company of Archers as the Queen’s Body Guard in Scotland to shoot annually in the Meadows for the Edinburgh Arrow would continue to be protected.

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- 4) To make arrangements for the Lord Provost to formally present a scroll reflecting these rights to the Royal Company of Archers to mark the 300th Anniversary of the Presentation of the Arrow by the Magistrates of the City of Edinburgh to the Royal Company.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 12 May 2009 (item 3); Act of Council No 2 of 28 May 2009; report no PS/01/09-10/SfC by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

5 Edinburgh Tram – Princes Street Roadworks Embargo

Mitigation measures and a communications plan around tram construction works in Princes Street during the period leading up to Christmas 2009 were proposed.

The outcome of consultation with local stakeholders on lifting the August roadworks embargo in the Haymarket area was also detailed.

Decision

- 1) To agree the principle of the package of mitigation measures and the associated draft communications plan outlined in the report by the Director of City Development.
- 2) To cancel the roadworks embargo for Haymarket to allow tram related construction work to continue through August to maximise the opportunity for the work being completed before the critical Christmas period.
- 3) To instruct the Director of City Development to report to future meetings of the Tram Sub-Committee with a 'lessons learned' exercise, details about the progress of tram construction work and the financial implications of the mitigation measures.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 12 May 2009 (item 2); report no PS/13/09-10/CD by the Director of City Development, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Jackson, Gordon Mackenzie and Wheeler declared a non-financial interest in the above item as non-Executive Directors of **tie ltd**.

6 Neighbourhood Partnership Review – Progress Report

An update was provided on the review of Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs). The Committee was asked to re-affirm the Council's commitment to neighbourhood planning and NPs.

Decision

- 1) To re-affirm the Council's commitment to the neighbourhood approach across the city as a means of delivering community plans and improved local services.
- 2) To note the progress within Services for Communities of devolving service budgets and decision making to Neighbourhood Managers and the increasing ability of Neighbourhood Partnerships to influence how budgets were used to support local priorities and community plans.
- 3) To instruct the Director of Services for Communities to report to the Neighbourhood Partnership Conveners' meeting on budgets devolved to Neighbourhood Managers.
- 4) To endorse the actions identified in Section 8 of the report by the Director of Services for Communities as key areas for the development of Neighbourhood Partnerships over the next phase of the neighbourhood approach.
- 5) To re-iterate the accountability of all Council departments in progressing the Neighbourhood Partnership approach and to request departments to identify ways in which they could maximise their input and commitment to Neighbourhood Partnerships.
- 6) To circulate and commend the report to partner boards: Lothian and Borders Police Board, Edinburgh Community Health Partnership, EVOC, Edinburgh Association of Community Councils, the Executive Board of the Edinburgh Partnership and Neighbourhood Partnerships.

(References – Act of Council No 11 of 16 October 2008; report no PS/02/09-10/SfC by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

7 Annual Neighbourhood and Edinburgh Resident Survey – Follow-up Report

Further work had been carried out on the findings of the 2008 Annual Neighbourhood and Edinburgh Residents Survey. Details were provided of additional analysis of the survey findings and of proposed communications plans, improvement actions and further follow-up research.

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Decision

- 1) To note the additional analysis of the survey findings.
- 2) To note the improvement and follow-up actions.
- 3) To receive further reports on both improvement actions and future survey results.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 24 February 2009 (item 6); joint report no PS/03/09-10/SfC&CS by the Director of Finance, submitted.)

8 International Links – Interim Report

An overview was provided of the Council's formal and informal international links with cities across the EU and globally and of related activities undertaken.

Decision

- 1) To note:
 - a) the Council's role and engagement in international links and activities.
 - b) the efforts to maximise the potential benefits to the city from international opportunities.
 - c) the strengthened corporate approach in international relations.
- 2) To recognise that the report by the Director of Corporate Services provided a broad overview of the benefits of the Council's international links.
- 3) To call for a detailed analysis of the economic, inward investment, cultural, educational and sustainability benefits and opportunities that international relationships and activities provided.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 24 March 2009 (item 6); report no PS/61/08-09/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

9 Departmental Service Plans 2009-2012

The finalised 2009-2012 Departmental Service Plans were presented. The next review of the Service Plans would consider ways to improve links between the new Single Outcome Agreement and the Council's new 'Achieving Excellence' programme. Any necessary adjustments would be carried forward into the service planning cycle for 2010-2013.

Decision

- 1) To note the preparation of the Departmental Service Plans for 2009-12.
- 2) To refer individual plans to the appropriate service committees.

(Reference – report no PS/11/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

10 Achieving Our Potential: A Framework to Tackle Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland

The new National Framework sought to tackle poverty and income inequality, and bring about tangible increases in the fairness of wealth distribution and security for the poorest households in Scotland.

The city and local responses to the Framework were outlined and details were given of work under way to ensure the achievement of relevant city outcomes in the Single Outcome Agreement through a strategic partnership approach.

Decision

- 1) To welcome the National Framework to Tackle Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland to indicate the Council's determination to develop a local response to *Achieving Our Potential*.
- 2) To agree the further work with city partners outlined in the report by the Director of Corporate Services to develop the framework approach across the city, and to note the corporate and partnership links already in place.
- 3) To consider further reports on the Framework and its coverage in the Single Outcome Agreement in due course.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 10 June 2008 (item 10); Act of Council No 3 of 16 October 2008; report no PS/05/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

11 Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Framework

A response was proposed to the second Scottish Government consultation on climate change adaptation. This phase of consultation sought to further develop the framework and outline an action plan. The deadline for responses was 20 July 2009.

Decision

- 1) To approve the response for submission to the Scottish Government as set out in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To approve the principle of preparing a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the City of Edinburgh in partnership with appropriate agencies, and to receive further reports on the approach, integrated with the emerging Sustainable Development Strategy, in due course.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 30 September 2008 (item 17); report no PS/06/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

12 A City for All Ages – Edinburgh's Joint Plan for Older People: Progress Report

A progress update was provided on Edinburgh's Joint Plan for Older People 2007-2010.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made on the implementation of the Joint Plan.
- 2) To note that the strategy evaluation findings would be reported by November 2010.
- 3) To refer the report by the Director of Corporate Services to the Edinburgh Partnership, the Edinburgh Community Health Partnership, Health and Social Care Joint Board of Governance, Lothian NHS Board and Neighbourhood Partnerships.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 10 June 2008 (item 16); report no PS/08/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

13 Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan – Progress Report 2008

The Planning Committee had referred details of progress made with the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan for which the Council was a lead partner.

Decision

To note the report.

(Referencsw – Planning Committee 14 May 2009 (item 21); report no PS/07/09-10/CSEC by the Council Secretary, submitted.)

14 Corporate Management Performance Report – December 2008/ January 2009**Decision**

- 1) To note the performance information and project updates relating to the Corporate Management of the Council for the February/March 2009 period.
- 2) To review a further report for the April/May 2009 period.

(Reference – report no PS/09/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

15 Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Committee was asked to nominate members to outside bodies following a number of resignations.

Decision

To nominate:

- 1) Councillor Gordon Mackenzie to Access – Eurocities for a New Mobility Culture in place of Councillor Wheeler.
- 2) Councillor Wheeler to the Association for Public Service Excellence in place of Councillor Gordon Mackenzie.
- 3) Councillor Wheeler to CEC Holdings Limited in place of Councillor Gordon Mackenzie.

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- 4) Councillor Elliott-Cannon to the Audience Business Trust in place of Councillor Dawe.
- 5) Councillor Wheeler to the EDI Group Ltd in place of Councillor Gordon Mackenzie.
- 6) Councillor Gordon Mackenzie to Handicabs (Lothian) Ltd in place of Councillor Wheeler.
- 7) Councillor Dundas to Imagine in place of Councillor Cardownie.
- 8) Councillor Gordon Mackenzie to the Joint Concessionary Bus Travel Scheme Steering Group in place of Councillor Wheeler.
- 9) Councillor Gordon Mackenzie to Marine and Coastal Issues – Liaison with Fife Council in place of Councillor Wheeler.
- 10) Councillor Wheeler to Projects Edinburgh Ltd in place of Councillor Gordon Mackenzie.
- 11) Councillor Snowden to the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty in place of Councillor Dawe.
- 12) Councillor Gordon Mackenzie to Transform Scotland in place of Councillor Wheeler.
- 13) Councillor Gordon Mackenzie to The Waverley Railway Project – Joint Committee in place of Councillor Wheeler.

(Reference – report no PS/12/09-10/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

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