

Committee Minutes

Policy and Strategy Committee

Edinburgh, 13 May 2008

Present:- Councillors Dawe (Convener), Ewan Aitken, Cardownie (Vice-Convener), Blacklock, Brock, Buchanan, Edie, Hinds, Jackson, Johnstone, Gordon Mackenzie, MacLaren, 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

To approve the minute of the Policy and Strategy Committee of 15 April 2008 as a correct record subject to re-wording Councillor Edie's declaration of financial interest in relation to item 13 Wester Hailes Healthy Living Centre as follows:

"Councillor Edie declared a financial interest in the above item as a non-Executive Director of the Board of NHS Lothian."

3 Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) – Performance Inspection – City of Edinburgh Council 2008

(a) Presentation

The Committee heard a presentation by Alexis Jay, Chief Social Work Inspector and Tom Leckie, Lead Inspector on the Social Work Inspection of Edinburgh City Council.

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The following six key areas had been addressed by the inspection:

- Key outcomes achieved for people who use services
- The impact on people who use services, staff and the wider community
- How good is the delivery of key processes
- How good is management
- How good is leadership
- What is the capacity for improvement

Recommendations were made relating to service delivery, management support of staff, resources and capacity building and planning and performance management. Details were also given of positive findings and the challenges ahead for the Council.

Decision

To note the presentation.

(b) Joint report by the Directors of Health and Social Care and Children and Families

A summary was presented of the key issues relating to social work and social care services in Edinburgh highlighted in the SWIA inspection.

A draft action plan had been prepared to address the recommendations in the report and, following consultation with staff, would be incorporated into the Integrated Social Work Services Improvement Plan.

Decision

- 1) To note the report and the proposed improvement plan.
- 2) To thank all social work staff from Children and Families and Health and Social Care and the SWIA Inspection team for their excellent work during the inspection process.

(Reference – joint report no PS/1/08-09/CF&HSC by the Directors of Health and Social Care and Children and Families, submitted)

4 Action on Alcohol and Drugs

The Committee heard a presentation by Tom Wood, Chair of the Action Team on Alcohol and Drugs.

The presentation focused on the health issues surrounding alcohol and drugs abuse and the barriers that existed to effective management of the problem.

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The National Drug Strategy 2008 aimed to provide better prevention and improved life choices, safer and stronger communities, support for families and protection of children.

Decision

- 1) To note the presentation.
- 2) To thank Tom Wood for his work over the past three years leading the Action Team on Alcohol and Drugs and to acknowledge the positive impact he had made.

5 Inward Migration

In response to a motion by Councillor Whyte, information was provided on the costs incurred by the Council in providing additional services to inward migrants, the economic benefits to the city of inward migration, the direct impact on Council finances and the overall contribution to boosting the city economy.

Motion

- 1) To approve the recommendations in the report by the Director of Corporate Services as follows:
 - i) To note the formation of the new Edinburgh Migration Network as part of the Edinburgh Partnership to improve understanding about inward migration and consequent public service responses.
 - ii) To note the positive benefit brought to the city's and Scotland's economy from inward migration.
 - iii) To note the impact on wider community relations as a result of inward migration and the importance of maintaining and further developing community infrastructures in new migrant communities.
 - 2) To instruct Directors to make appropriate provision for the increased demand, outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report by the Director of Corporate Services, as part of their service plan updates and budget preparations for 2009/2010.
 - 3) That Edinburgh's role as Capital City in attracting inward migration be reflected in the case for the city in the Capital City Supplement.
 - 4) To thank the staff involved in the preparation of the report.
- moved by Councillor Dawe, seconded by Councillor Cardownie

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Amendment

- 1) To approve the recommendations in the report by the Director of Corporate Services as detailed in paragraphs 1 i), ii) and iii) of the motion by Councillor Dawe.
 - 2) To note that the suggested work of the Edinburgh Migration Network and the support activities suggested in the report had been delivered at least in part by the Edinburgh Refugee Centre which closes on 19 June 2008 after four years of successfully supporting refugees and to agree to liaise with those involved in the centre to make sure that experience is not lost.
- moved by Councillor Ewan Aitken, seconded by Councillor Blacklock

Voting

For the motion - 12 votes
For the amendment - 4 votes

Decision

To approve the motion.

(References – Act of Council No 21 of 22 November 2007 and report no PS/2/08-09/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted).

6 Departmental Service Plans 2008-2011

The finalised 2008-2011 Departmental Service Plans were presented. The next review of the Service Plans would consider the Council's Single Outcome Agreement and any necessary adjustments would be carried forward into the service planning cycle for 2009-2012.

Decision

- 1) To note the 2008-2011 Departmental Service Plans.
- 2) To refer the individual Plans to the appropriate Service Committees.

(Reference – report no PS/3/08-09/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted)

7 Scottish Government Poverty, Inequality and Deprivation Consultation Response

The Scottish Government had asked the Council to comment on a discussion paper on tackling poverty, inequality and deprivation in Scotland. The response deadline had been extended to 30 June 2008.

Decision

To continue the report to the next meeting of the Committee on 10 June 2008.

(Reference – report no PS/4/08-09/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted)

8 Proposed Sale of Panmure House

Information was given on two offers which had been received for the purchase of Panmure House.

A letter from Laura Strong, one of the bidders, was also tabled at the meeting.

Decision

- 1) To sell Panmure House to the Edinburgh Business School (EBS) for the sum of £800,000, subject to the agreement of Scottish Ministers to the sale being at less than the market value and such other terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of City Development and the Council Solicitor.
- 2) That the Director of City Development ensure that the terms and conditions of the sale reflected the commitment to the future use of the building by EBS as indicated in the offer.
- 3) That an appropriate clause be inserted in the contract to ensure that the Council would have first offer on the property at market value should EBS decide to sell on the property.
- 4) To note that this would be subject to negotiations and that the Director of City Development would report back to this Committee if this was not acceptable to EBS.
- 5) To note the letter from Laura Strong.

(References – report no PS/5/08-09/CD by the Director of City Development and letter from Laura Strong 25 April 2008, submitted)

9 Council Carbon Management Plan

The Council had participated in the UK Local Authority Carbon Management Programme run by the Carbon Trust which was designed to assist Councils to reduce carbon emissions from their own activities.

A five-year carbon management plan was presented. It was proposed to establish a Project Board and Carbon Management Team to oversee implementation of the Plan, review projects and report on progress.

Decision

- 1) To approve the Carbon Management Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To approve the funding of the Plan through Spend To Save.
- 3) To approve the establishment of the corporate structure needed to deliver the Plan including a Carbon Management Officer.
- 4) To receive annual reports on progress.
- 5) To call for a report on how the Planning Committee could apply similar principles to the sustainable building policy through monitoring and enforcements.
- 6) That the Director of Corporate Services establish carbon emissions from the Council's housing stock and emissions from waste to be included in the plan for next year.
- 7) To commend the staff involved for their work in preparing the Plan.

(Reference – report no PS/6/08-09/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted)

10 Edinburgh Community Newspapers Trust – Council Disinvestment Package

The Council had previously agreed, as part of grant aid to third parties for 2008-2009, a disinvestment package of £18,821 to the Edinburgh Community Newspapers Trust (ECNT) towards rationalisation or wind up costs and that the Director of Services for Communities report back on how ECNT would receive sufficient funding to provide for any compulsory redundancies (should these prove necessary).

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Details were given of a proposed final settlement for ECNT in keeping with the third party grants process.

Decision

To continue the matter to the Council on 29 May 2008 for a further report by the Director of Services for Communities to include details of final redundancy costs and information on other sources of funding received by ECNT.

(References – Act of Council No 4 of 13 March 2008; report no PS/7/08-09/SfC by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

11 Edinburgh Tram – Financial Close and Notification of Contract Award

The Committee, under Section 40(4)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 excluded the public from the meeting for this item of business on the grounds that it involved disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

The Convener ruled that this item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow an immediate financial close of the contracts for the Edinburgh Tram Network.

The Council, on 1 May 2008, had made various decisions relating to the financial close of contracts for the Edinburgh Tram Network.

The Convener ruled, in terms of Standing Order 22, that a changed commercial position in procurement negotiations for the Edinburgh Tram Network constituted a material change in circumstances and accordingly that the matter be reconsidered at this meeting.

Approval was sought for the Chief Executive to instruct **tie** Ltd to enter into contracts with the Infraco and Tramco bidders for the Edinburgh Tram Network subject to the satisfactory final conclusion of negotiations.

Decision

- 1) To approve the final estimated cost for phase 1a of the Edinburgh Tram Network of £512m, with a further contingent payment of £3.2m due if phase 1b was not built, all of which was within the funding envelope of £545m.
- 2) To authorise the Chief Executive to instruct **tie** Ltd to enter into contracts with the Infraco and Tramco bidders in the context of recent changes detailed in the report by the Chief Executive.

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- 3) To refresh the delegated powers already given to the Chief Executive to make any final, minor amendments in respect of the contracts.
- 4) That the Final Business Case v2, which was modified by the Council on 20 December 2007, be further modified to reflect the above position.
- 5) To note that, following contract close, a report would be submitted to the Tram Sub-Committee.

(References – Act of Council No 12 of 1 May 2008; report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Buchanan declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Board Member of TEL.

Councillors Jackson and Wheeler declared a non-financial interest in the above item as non-Executive Directors of TEL.

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