

Minutes

Economy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 22 November 2016

Present:

Councillors Barrie (Convener), Munro (Vice Convener), Corbett, Gardner, Keil, Lunn (substitute for Rankin), McVey, Milligan, Mowat, Ritchie and Paterson.

1. Deputation - Save Granton Castle Walled Garden

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Kirsty Sutherland, Linda Garcia and Gillean Paterson, on behalf of Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden, in relation to a referral report from the Petitions Committee on Granton Castle Walled Garden.

The deputation outlined the aims of the group and the benefits of community gardening and regeneration of neglected space.

The Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden had presented some suggestions to EDI for events and workshops that could take place within the garden. The group advised that EDI had provided a statement saying they were keen to work with the Friends of but as yet there had been no firm commitment to this effect.

The Committee was asked to follow the recommendations made by the Petitions Committee and pass a motion of support for the aims and objectives of the group in order to ensure that the walled garden was protected, accessible and well maintained.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to remain for the Committee's consideration of the report by the Interim Head of Strategy and Insight at item 2 below.

2. Referral Report from the Petitions Committee

The Petitions Committee on 9 September 2016 considered a report by the Chief Executive outlining the petition 'Save Granton Castle Walled Garden'. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Economy Committee for consideration with a recommendation that the Economy Committee pass a motion of support regarding the aims and objectives of the Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden

Decision

- 1) To recognise EDI's ethos of strong community engagement and in the case of the walled garden to note that EDI had listened to the concerns expressed by community groups with an interest in the walled garden and found a way in which the community's desires would be included in its overall development plans.

- 2) The Committee understands that EDI continued to be open to working with local groups to make sure matters of social inclusion and responsibilities were maintained as the area developed.
- 3) To welcome a soon to be publicly announced social inclusion project to develop a village with associated facilities to tackle homelessness in this area and the projects commitment to working with all community groups with an interest in the walled garden to ensure fair access for all.
- 4) To encourage all interested parties to work with EDI and Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden to ensure the walled garden was protected, accessible and well maintained, and that all interested community groups had the option to be involved.

(References – minute of the Petitions Committee 8 September 2016 (item 4); report by the Interim Head of Strategy and Insight)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Barrie and Munro declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as Directors of EDI.

3. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Economy Committee of 20 September 2016 as a correct record.

4. Economy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Economy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period to the end of June 2017 was submitted.

Decision

To note the Economy Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan.

(Reference – Economy Committee Forward Plan, submitted.)

5. Economy Committee Rolling Actions Log

The Economy Committee Rolling Actions Log for 22 November 2016 was submitted.

Decision

- 1) To approve the closure of actions 1, 2, 3 and 7.
- 2) To otherwise note the outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log 22 November 2016, submitted.)

6. Economy Committee Decisions Report – July 2015 – July 2016

An update was provided on decisions taken by the Economy Committee not included on the Rolling Actions Log for the period covering July 2015 to July 2016.

Decision

- 1) To note the position on the implementation of Economy Committee decisions as detailed in the appendix to the report by the Chief Executive.
- 2) To note that the next summary report would be presented to the Committee in April 2017.

(References – minute of Economy Committee 15 September 2015 (item 4); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

7. Economy Committee Business Bulletin

The Economy Committee Business Bulletin for 22 November 2016 was submitted.

Motion

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin 22 November 2016, submitted.)

8. Office Space in Edinburgh

An update on the city's office market and available office was submitted. The report projected a shortfall of office space for future years to meet the estimated 325,000 sq ft of demand per annum.

Motion

- 1) To note the findings of the report and the analysis provided in Appendix 1 to the Executive Director's report.
- 2) To refer the Executive Director's report and appendix to the Planning Committee for information.
- 3) To ask officers to work with the private sector and other partners to identify plots in the city centre with strong potential for office development and consider how these would be brought forward for office use.
- 4) To request that a report setting out potential options for Council action in relation to the office sector be prepared and reported back to the Committee in one cycle.
- Moved by Councillor Barrie, seconded by Councillor Munro

Amendment

- 1) To note the findings of the report and the analysis provided in Appendix 1.
- 2) To refer the report and appendix to the Planning Committee for information
- 3) To note that office space is one of a number of competing land uses where there are potential shortages – others including housing, light industrial workplace and creative workspace – and that these competing demands have to be addressed as a whole.

- 4) To note current and projected availability of 3.7m square feet of office space plus additional small scale development (as acknowledged in 5.2 of the paper) plus the unquantified supply coming from existing turnover, net of demolitions and conversions.
 - 5) To note a further 3.8m square feet of office space which was consented.
 - 6) To note the statement in the paper that “it is highly challenging to forecast whether and to what extent Edinburgh would experience a shortage of office space”.
 - 7) To note that the comparison of supply and demand in the paper is not comparing like with like; and that several areas in which data and analysis could be strengthened.
 - 8) To note the need to take into account changing patterns of flexible and remote working which impact on future demands for office space.
 - 9) To invite the Development Forum to collaborate with the City Council in commissioning an independent and comprehensive assessment of office supply and demand.
- Moved by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Mowat

Voting

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

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Barrie.

(References – minute of the Economy Committee 28 June 2016 (item 12); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Barrie and Munro declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as Directors of EDI.

9. Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) Annual Update

Marshall Dallas (CEO) and Les Florence (Head of Finance/Company Secretary) provided an update on the performance of the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC). The following areas were covered:

- Financial Results;
- Key Performance Indicators;
- Key Business Developments;
- Awards and Recognitions;
- Creation of Proposed Hotel School; and

- Focus and Strategic Vision.

Decision

- 1) To note the presentation and the annual update provided in appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To congratulate the staff at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre on the turnaround in figures relating to occupancy, delegates and financial performance.

(References – minute of the Economy Committee 17 November 2015 (item 5); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Munro declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as a Director of the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

10. Capital City Partnership Annual Update - Presentation

The Committee heard a presentation on the Capital City partnership's (CCP) Annual Report from Jim Rafferty (CEO, CCP) and Rona Hunter (CCP). The presentation covered the following areas:

- Core Programme;
- Forward Plan for 2016/17;
- Costs and outcomes;
- Partnership arrangements; and
- Skills components in relation to the City Deal.

Decision

To note the presentation.

(References – minute of the Economy Committee 17 November 2015 (item 7); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Paterson declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as a Director of the Capital City Partnership.

11. Employability and Talent Development Annual Report

An update was provided on the work of the Employability and Talent Team over the past year, including its contribution to the Council's Strategy for Jobs.

Decision

- 1) To acknowledge the achievements made by the Employability and Talent Development team over the last year.
- 2) To note the areas of future development.

- 3) To recognise the contribution of Jim Rafferty to the development of “Joined Up for Jobs” over the last 16 years.

(References – minute of the Economy Committee 17 November 2015 (item 8); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

12. Investing in Jobs: Economy Service Performance Update

An update was provided on the performance of the Economic Development Service (EDS) in delivering the key performance indicators (KPIs) for the period July to September 2016. It was reported that EDS was currently ahead of target on all three of the headline KPIs as measured by a range of inputs on jobs, investment and helping people into work and learning.

Decision

To note the progress being made against the three KPIs between July to September 2016.

(References – minute of the Economy Committee 20 September 2016 (item 9); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

13. Creative Workspace in Edinburgh: Update Report

An update on creative workspace in the city, including the work of the cultural workspaces working group, was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note that engagement with key stakeholders had continued.
- 2) To note that officers continued to explore options for supporting the delivery of additional industrial units in Edinburgh and to encourage development of flexible spaces which could potentially be used by creative businesses and artists.
- 3) To note that the creation of an online directory was being progressed by the Culture Service.
- 4) To refer the report by the Executive Director of Place to the Culture and Sport Business Bulletin for information.

(References – minute of the Economy Committee 20 January 2016 (item 10); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

14. Sophie Unwin - Congratulations

The following motion by Councillor Corbett was submitted in terms of Standing Order 16.1

“Committee congratulates Sophie Unwin of repair and re-use social enterprise Remade in Edinburgh on being awarded the accolade of UK Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2016; and recognises that the award confers prestige on Sophie, on Remade and on the expanding social enterprise sector in the city.”

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Corbett.