

The City of Edinburgh Council

10am, Tuesday 30 June 2020

Office of Lord Provost: Year Three Report 2019/20

Item number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All wards
Council Commitments	2, 6, 7, 9, 15, 18, 31, 46, 47, 51, 52

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1.1 notes this report from the Office of the Lord Provost and recognises the range and variation of the work undertaken in Year Three of the current administration;
- 1.2 welcomes the positive contribution of the Civic Role and Office in addressing the agreed priorities of the Council;
- 1.3 notes the very negative effect of COVID-19 on the civic life of the city;
- 1.4 endorses the way forward in terms of morale boosting and reinstatement of the civic life of the city, as set out in paragraphs 4.32 to 4.34 of the report; and
- 1.5 welcomes the opportunity to shape the future programme of Royal Visits to the Edinburgh community by Senior Members of the Household.

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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Office of Lord Provost: Year Three Report 2019/2020

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report analyses the activity and outputs of the Office of the Lord Provost in 2019/20, in the context of the Council's Change Strategy themes.
- 2.2 The impact of the Corona Virus on the civic life of the city is also considered.
- 2.3 The way forward is then set out in broad terms with a strong emphasis on the need to boost morale in the city and to recognise the key contribution of so many people in the community.

3 Background

- 3.1 At its meeting on 27 June 2019, the Council welcomed the Year 2 Report from the Office of Lord Provost and endorsed the proposed direction of travel for 2019/20.

4 Main report

- 4.1 This report provides information on both the breadth and reach of the work of the Office of the Lord Provost (OLP) in the third year of the current administration.
- 4.2 These undertakings flow from the responsibilities of the Lord Provost as:
 - first citizen of the City of Edinburgh, leading key city projects, and the city's international ambassador;
 - Convener of the Council;
 - Armed Forces and Veterans Champion;
 - the City's Volunteering Ambassador; and
 - Lord Lieutenant of Edinburgh.
- 4.3 The role of Lord Provost is actively supported by the Depute Lord Provost and Bailies and, for Royal duty, the Lord Lieutenant is assisted by Deputy Lieutenants. For this combined effort, the actions and output of the Lord Provostship are presented in the context of the priorities set out by the Council.

The Council's Change Strategy

4.4 The Council's Change Strategy 2020/23 focuses upon tackling poverty, improving the wellbeing of our citizens and becoming a carbon neutral city by 2030. These principles are underpinned by six developed programmes (as reported to the Finance and Resources Committee on 14 February 2020). Key examples of the civic contribution to each of these themes over the last year are outlined below.

Building an Inclusive City

4.5 As Armed Forces and Veterans Champion, the Lord Provost has established a Commission on 'The Strategy for our Ex-Forces Personnel'. This is to support Ex Forces personnel and their families in making smooth transitions back into the civilian workforce and civic life.

4.6 Within this overall context of support, partners have:

- achieved the Gold Standard under the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme, collected by the Depute Lord Provost on 12 December 2019;
- developed a Covenant with Business;
- made commitments at Armed Forces Day in the city 2019;
- published a Service Leavers Guide to Edinburgh;
- launched a series of workshops to better understanding the housing, employment and other issues facing ex forces personnel; and
- planned to launch a Veterans Alliance in 2020.

4.7 The Depute Lord Provost and Bailies have provided a strong civic presence and support for new citizens at the Citizenship Ceremonies, held in the City Chambers throughout the year. In the financial year 2019/20, a total of 24 Group Ceremonies were held, attended by more than 1,000 newly confirmed Citizens in Edinburgh.

4.8 Facilities were also provided so that European Union Consuls could meet with their citizens regarding the impact of Brexit.

Poverty and Wellbeing

4.9 The City's Poverty Commission recently announced long-term priority actions for tackling, mitigating and reducing the profile and experiences of poverty and inequality across Edinburgh. As President of the OneCity Trust, the Lord Provost has actively promoted this agenda together with the other Trustees.

4.10 Measures to mitigate poverty and inequality are undertaken mostly through investment in community projects and in 2019/20, £189,000 was distributed to 37 organisations tackling poverty and inequality locally. A donation was also made to My Name's Daddie Foundation, a charity raising funds for research into Motor Neurone Disease.

4.11 In 2019/20 the Trust received additional income from community benefits contained within council procurement contracts with Travis Perkins Managed Services, ENGIE and CGI UK Ltd. Funds were also raised from:

- A Dinner with Ian Rankin in November 2019;
- OCT's status as Charity Partner of Underbelly for 2019 Summer, Christmas and Hogmanay Celebrations and DF Concerts for Summer Sessions 2019;
- The Lord Provost's Burns Supper in January 2020; and
- Donations made from organisations throughout the year.

4.12 In supporting improved services for people experiencing poor mental health and wellbeing, the Lord Provost also agreed to Chair the Edinburgh Thrive Assembly. The first Edinburgh Thrive Conference was held in November 2019 and meetings of the Assembly have been held quarterly. Actions have been agreed for the first 100 days of action with delivery by the NHS.

Being an Efficient and Modern Council

4.13 The Lord Provost and Partners have made significant progress in developing the Edinburgh 2050 City Vision through the largest ever public consultation in the City. This has resulted in the finalisation of a 2050 City Vision Strategy, capturing 50,000 visions on the Edinburgh of the future, intended for public launch in March 2020.

4.14 As with many work streams, including public consultation exercises, the launch has been delayed due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Further commentary on the impact of the Coronavirus is contained in a later section in this report.

4.15 In line with the Edinburgh International Activity Report (approved by the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 6 August 2019) the Lord Provost represented the City at the Eurocities conference in Prague in November 2019. Activity related to the Eurocities Network is identified as a key area of international external engagement, which commits the Lord Provost to promoting Edinburgh both at home and abroad.

4.16 Edinburgh is a full member of Eurocities which has strategic goals including green, free flowing and healthy cities, and Smart Cities. Following the 2018 'Creative Competitive Cities' conference held at the EICC, the 2019 event examined Cities at a Cross Road. A key topic was the impact of tourism across Europe and Edinburgh's presentation shared the draft 2030 tourism strategy and the rationale for the Transient Visitor Levy. The TVL was identified as a key requirement in managing the benefits that tourism brings and the problems it creates.

2030 Net Zero Carbon

4.17 Comprehensive approaches to climate change include measures to improve the sustainability of food production and distribution systems. As Vice Chair of the Edinburgh Fair Trade Steering Group, the Lord Provost has actively participated in

Fairtrade Fortnight and presented the Fairtrade Certificate to the Community of Balerno in December 2019.

- 4.18 Delegates from “Edible Edinburgh” (a partnership formed to promote the local production and trade of healthy food) have also been welcomed by the Lord Provost to Business Breakfasts at the EICC in November 2019 and March 2020. An overall objective is to support the development of Edinburgh as a Sustainable Food City, moving from Bronze to Silver Award accreditation.
- 4.19 For Edinburgh 2050 City Vision, sustainability was a key priority across all age groups and has been captured under the ‘Thriving’ theme, along with green and clean.

Empowered Citizens, Empowered Colleagues

- 4.20 As Volunteer Ambassador, the Lord Provost hosted the Annual Inspiring Volunteering Awards Ceremony on 5 June 2019. Over 120 awards were made to individuals and teams and Jason, a Peer Support Volunteer at Rowan Alba was announced the winner of the Inspiring Volunteer of the Year Award.
- 4.21 Other key events in 2019/20 to recognise and reward the achievements of individuals and organisations included:
- the presentation of the [Edinburgh Award and Loving Cup to Anne Budge](#) on 3 December 2019 for her services to the City, the Hearts Foundation and her continuing efforts to champion the role of women in enterprise; and
 - the award of the [Edinburgh Medal \(as part of the Science Festival 2020\)](#) to Sunita Narain, Director General of the Centre for Science and Environment.
- 4.22 Some 25 Civic Receptions have taken place at the City Chambers, hosted by either the Lord Provost, Depute Lord Provost or a Bailie to mark citizens’ commitments, for example:
- the 30th anniversary of [Sikh Sanjog](#);
 - 30 years of the [Edinburgh Interfaith Association](#);
 - [Hibernian Ladies FC](#) winning the Scottish League and Women’s League Cup;
 - the 30th Anniversary of [Imagine](#), celebrating the organisation’s annual International Children’s Festival and year-round schools programme;
 - the Centenary of [Boroughmuir Rugby Club](#);
 - the 80th Anniversary of [Hutchison Vale FC](#); and
 - the [Edinburgh Competition Festival Centenary](#).

- 4.23 Through the Lieutenancy, three city charities received the prestigious 2019 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. [Kids Love Clothes](#), [It's Good 2 Give](#), and [PF Counselling](#) were the winners of this MBE equivalent civil award.
- 4.24 On 12 February 2020, the Lord Lieutenant paid tribute to the late Tom Gilzean when his family collected his MBE award. This was in full recognition of Tom Gilzean's status as a remarkable man, War Veteran, recipient of The Edinburgh Award 2014 and British Empire Medal winner.

A 21st Century Estate

- 4.25 The transformation of Saughton Park Walled Garden was achieved with a £5 million package of support provided by the Council and its partners. This major development was celebrated when the Lord Lieutenant welcomed HRH The Princess Royal to the Garden on 6 June 2019 for the formal opening. This followed a successful bid from the Council to the Office of The Princess Royal.
- 4.26 On 6 September 2019 the Lord Provost performed the ground breaking ceremony for the new HB Village's Heron Court in Leith. The accommodation provides the opportunity for local adults with disabilities to have their own assisted apartment from early 2021.
- 4.27 The Wester Hailes Housing Estate reached a key stage in its development in 2019 when Council decided to mark the 'golden anniversary' of one of its key housing estates in the city. Designated at one time as one of four peripheral housing areas included in the 'New Life for Urban Scotland' initiative, the strength and determination of the local community is to be marked at a Civic Reception hosted by the Lord Provost.

Summary of Activity 2019/20

- 4.28 Across the year:
- 364 civic events took place;
 - 197 speeches were delivered;
 - 34 lieutenancy events were scheduled to take place; and
 - 159 voluntary organisations were visited.
- 4.29 Overall, and including business support activity, civic engagements totalled 690, averaging 58 per month. A more detailed analysis of activity of the Office of the Lord Provost for the period June-May 2019/20 inclusive is provided in Appendix 1.

Impact of COVID 19

- 4.30 The impact of COVID19 has been to shrink the civic diary almost completely since the lockdown was implemented in mid-March 2020. Virtually every civic engagement involving both the Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant has been cancelled or postponed at least until the end of May 2020 and beyond. This has included major events such as the Commemoration of VE Day which was to take

place in the city on 8 May 2020. Also cancelled this May was the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland when The Duke of Cambridge was to be Lord High Commissioner.

- 4.31 This means that the output of the civic office cannot be compared with the scale of activity undertaken in the previous year 2018/19. The period of lockdown has, however, provided the opportunity to focus on other key areas of work such as the succession planning for the Monarchy. In addition, other commitments have been covered through alternative means such as the recording of key messages by the Lord Provost for broadcast through the media.

Next Steps

- 4.32 The key challenge for the year ahead is to determine the best and most appropriate ways of reinstating the civic life of the city, including “virtual” events, in line with government guidelines on social distancing and other safety requirements. There is a strong underlying theme here of morale boosting and recognition of all those who have made such a strong contribution to the health and wellbeing of the city during the pandemic.
- 4.33 These priorities have also been established for the Lieutenancy with The Royal Household looking for a co-ordinated response to COVID-19. Accordingly, the city has been asked to assist with the identification of those parts of the public, private and voluntary sectors that have been particularly affected by the Coronavirus, “for good or ill, and for those who have done particularly good things during it”. (Association of Lord Lieutenants April 2020)
- 4.34 The Deputy Lieutenants of the city have been asked to participate in this exercise and the Council may also wish to identify service providers and sections of the community that would benefit from a Royal visit.

5 Financial impact

- 5.1 The Office of the Lord Provost operates within the budget allocated in the Council's previous Financial Plan 2017-21. This amounted to a total budget of £500,702 in 2019/20.

6 Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 6.1 The Office of the Lord Provost routinely undertakes engagement and co-production with a broad range of stakeholders, leading community representatives and business organisations.
- 6.2 Speeches and other inputs for events are developed in consultation with the organisers.
- 6.3 The Office of the Lord Provost assists both the Council and city partners to deliver key equality and rights outcomes, and to meet the Equality Act 2010 public sector

equality duties to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation, (ii) advance equality of opportunity, and (iii) foster good relations.

- 6.4 The Lord Provost's stewardship of the One City Trust is also an important lever in helping to mitigate the negative impacts of poverty and inequality across the Capital.
- 6.5 The Office of the Lord Provost endeavours to mitigate carbon impacts by utilising public transport where and when appropriate, where any long-distance travelling is required.
- 6.6 The Office of the Lord Provost contributes to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 public sector duties and contributes to the delivery of Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 objectives, the advancement of vibrant flourishing communities, social and economic wellbeing and an efficient and effectively managed city.

7 Background reading/external references

- 7.1.1 The Role of the Lord Provost/Lord Lieutenant and Representatives is described on www.edinburghlordprovost.com

8 Appendices

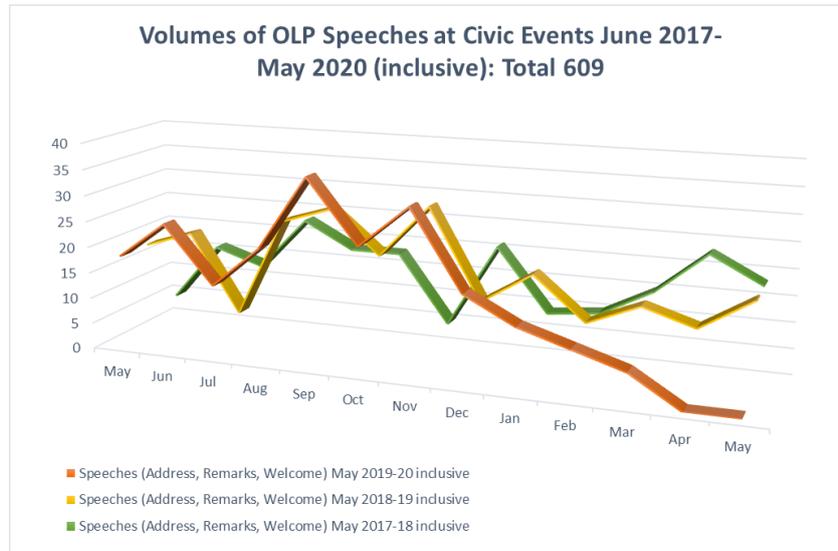
Appendix One Analysis of Activity 2019/20

Office of the Lord Provost

Summary and Analysis of Activity 2019/20

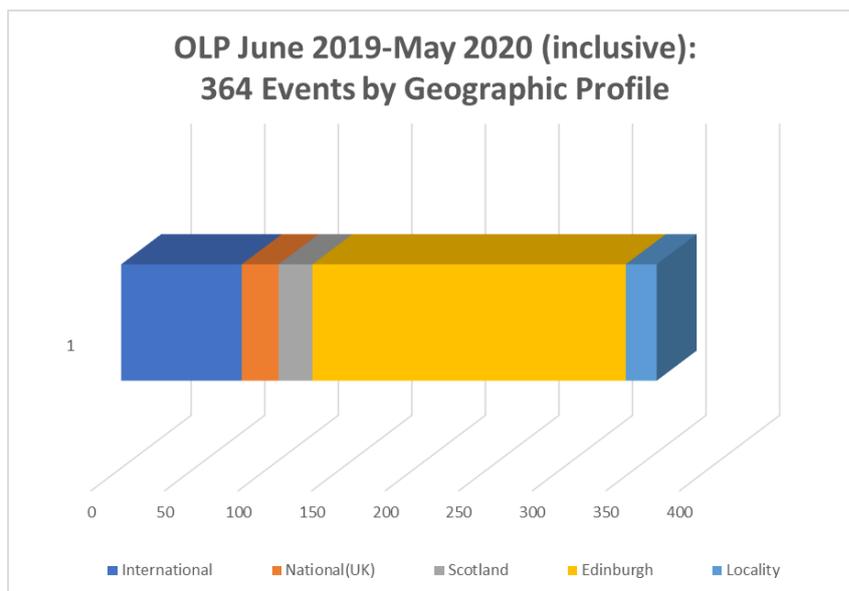
- 1 Over the 12 months June 2019 to May 2020 (excluding those events that were cancelled or postponed due to COVID – 19):
 - 1.1 364 civic events have taken place, including more than 100 standing Lord Provost annual events, with an average of around 30 per month;
 - 1.2 197 speeches were provided for civic events, with requisite preparations and briefing material provided;
 - 1.3 the City has continued to be represented at local, Scottish, UK and international level;
 - 1.4 major themes across the events have comprised (i) visits to locality-based groups and (ii) seeing the work and representation of diversity groups;
 - 1.5 34 visits by senior members of the Royal Family were supported through the Lieutenancy;
 - 1.6 in support of these events, 348 related routine business and pre-planning meetings also took place during this period; and
 - 1.7 total engagements (combining civic events and routine business) totalled 712, with an average of 59 per month.
- 2 Across the 364 civic events:
 - 287 (79%) were of a formal civic nature with a requirement to wear the Civic Chains of Office;
 - 73 (20%) comprised award/recognition activity, lieutenancy duties, and civic receptions;
 - 4 (1%) of activity constituted overseas visits; and
 - 197 (54%) included speeches.
- 3 Speech making is a key element of the civic role of the Lord Provost, Depute Lord Provost and Bailies at these events. The graph that follows shows that over the three-year period June 2017 to May 2020, 609 speeches have been delivered, an annual average of 203 per year.
- 4 The very recent reduction in 2019/20 is due to COVID-19 related cancellations but, as with all cancelled engagements, a significant amount of preparatory work had already been carried out in anticipation.

Summary and Analysis of Activity 2019/20 cont.



5 In terms of the geographic profile of the 364 civic events that have taken place, the chart below indicates that:

- 213 (58.5%) focused upon the City;
- 82 (22.5%) were of an international dimension, including meetings with foreign dignitaries, and visiting groups from other countries;
- 48 (13%) celebrated the City’s capital role in Scotland and as a leading city within the UK, including military, memorial and charitable causes; and
- 21 (6%) are locality activity, consisting of visits to schools, care-centres and community groups.



6. With regard to recipients of the civic events programme, across the last 12 months (June-May 2019/20), the voluntary sector received 159 visits, with 72 visits to public organisations, and 42 events involving businesses.