

Corporate Policy & Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 10 June 2014

Krakov Partnership Agreement Re-signing

Item number	7.9
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive summary

This report proposes the re-signing of the Krakow Partnership Agreement between Edinburgh and Krakow for another five years. Beginning in 1995, the cities of Edinburgh and Krakow have co-operated via a Partnership Agreement that has since been extended and re-signed on a five year basis. The Partnership Agreement was last renewed in 2009 for a further five years to 2014. As reported to the Economy Committee on 19th November 2013 and 6 March 2014, Krakow has been identified as a city for focus for 2014, with a number of project proposals being considered through the Partner Cities Anniversary Working Group. It is proposed that the Lord Provost travel to Krakow in October 2014 to formally re-sign the Partnership Agreement.

Links

Coalition pledges	P30 and P31
Council outcomes	CO7, CO25 and CO26
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1

Krakow Partnership Agreement Re-signing

Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve the re-signing of the Partnership Agreement between Edinburgh and Krakow for a further five years to 2019.
- 1.2 To approve travel for the Lord Provost in October 2014 to formally re-sign the Agreement and launch a range of activities, including welcoming Krakow to the UNESCO City of Literature network, founded by Edinburgh.

Background

History of the Partnership Agreement

- 2.1 In 1995, a Partnership Agreement was signed between the City Councils of Edinburgh and Krakow to promote co-operation in the areas of architecture and design, culture and education. In recognition of the progress achieved between the two cities, further Agreements were negotiated in May 1998, August 2004 and March 2009, to broaden relations.
- 2.2 Throughout the years, the city partnership has grown to include areas of social inclusion, economic development and literature. The city partnership has also been underscored by a number of reciprocal civic visits. The Deputy Mayor of Krakow visited Edinburgh in May 2009 to re-sign the Partnership Agreement for the third time.
- 2.3 The Edinburgh – Krakow partnership agreement has the support of the Polish Consul General in Edinburgh as well as the Polish Cultural Festival, The Polish-Scottish Heritage project, the Edinburgh UNESCO World Heritage Office and the Scottish-Polish Society in Edinburgh.
- 2.4 There exist various opportunities to work with Krakow on EU funded projects in the areas of shared interest. Krakow was a key partner in the EU-funded DEMOS project which brought together a consortium of 8 European cities and research organisations to address innovation in citizen participation in local government. There have also been EU funded activities between Krakow and the Edinburgh Science Triangle in a life science cluster project which was led by the Jagiellonian Center of Innovation in Krakow.
- 2.5 The Scottish Polish Cultural Association in Edinburgh is proposing a photographic exhibition in 2014 which will be shown in both cities for a week at a

time, with a launch event at the start of each week and a selection of cultural offerings to celebrate the similarities between the two cities.

- 2.6 In 2013, Krakow was named the latest city to be given the status of UNESCO City of Literature and join the network which was established by Edinburgh.
- 2.7 The Mayor of Krakow has invited the Lord Provost to visit Krakow in October 2014 to be the Guest of Honour at the 18th Annual Book Fair in Krakow as well as the Joseph Conrad Festival, both widely-renowned and celebrated literary events in Central Europe. It is during this week in October that Krakow will be celebrating the 1st anniversary of its membership in the prestigious UNESCO City of Literature network. The Mayor of Krakow wishes to express sincere thanks to Edinburgh for introducing Krakow to the UNESCO Creative Cities and for supporting their progress achievement of the title gained last year.
- 2.8 The Partnership Agreement between Edinburgh and Krakow is due for renewal in 2014. The Lord Provost's visit will offer an opportunity to formally re-sign the Partnership Agreement in Krakow for a further five years.

Main report

- 3.1 In 1995, a Partnership Agreement was signed between the City Councils of Edinburgh and Krakow to promote co-operation in the areas of architecture, urban development and design, culture and education. Other and newer areas of shared interest include the management of World Heritage areas, regeneration and retrofit within World Heritage areas, sustainability and mobility, community engagement and the use of digital technology in information sharing as well as literature.
- 3.2 As reported to the Economy Committee on 19 November 2013 and 6 March 2014, Krakow has been identified as a city for focus for Edinburgh in 2014. In recognition of the potential to further strengthen the links and to deliver on the City of Edinburgh Strategy for Jobs, Investment Agenda and Coalition pledges, a Partner City Anniversary Working group was established in late 2013 with a number of Edinburgh-Krakow bilateral project proposals being considered by the group.
- 3.3 In 2013, Krakow was the most recent city to be granted UNESCO City of Literature status. Krakow received help and advice from Edinburgh City of Literature Trust in submitting its application and this allows scope for the two cities to further collaborate in this area e.g. through mutual learning programmes or exchanges.
- 3.4 Edinburgh, which was the founding member of the UNESCO City of Literature network, will engage in a number of joint literary activities with Krakow during 2014 to welcome its partner city into the network. This includes representation at

the Edinburgh International Book Festival and at the Conrad Book Festival in Krakow in October 2014.

3.5 The Partnership Agreement between Edinburgh and Krakow is due for renewal in 2014. The Lord Provost's visit will offer an opportunity to:

- formally re-sign the Agreement for a further five years;
- strengthen city relations between Edinburgh and Krakow for future development and joint activities;
- promote both cities as partners for investment, business and tourism;
- recognise the importance of mutual UNESCO City of Literature status and membership of the network and to celebrate this new common interest by re-signing the partnership agreement during the Conrad Literary Festival, thereby boosting joint literary activities planned in 2014 and beyond.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Raise the city's international profile
- 4.2 Promote Edinburgh's expertise
- 4.3 Learn from European good practice
- 4.4 Strengthen links with European cities

Financial impact

- 5.1 The cost of attendance depends on the time of booking. Travel options have been considered and the recommendation is air travel due to time commitments. It is estimated that travel and accommodation per person will be in the region of £300. Costs for the Lord Provost and accompanying officer travel will be met from the External Relations budget 2014/15.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 There are no risks arising from this report.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are no equalities impacts arising from the visit

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Travel arrangements will be made in accordance with the Council's Sustainable Travel Plan.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 External Relations have ongoing interaction with Krakow as a Partner City to Edinburgh and continue to work closely with the Municipality of Krakow as well as the Polish cultural and historical societies and diaspora in Edinburgh in delivering Partner City projects in 2014.

Background reading / external references

Papers held by External Relations team.

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Links

Coalition pledges	P30 and P31
Council outcomes	CO7, CO25 and CO26
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1
Appendices	None