

# Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 5 August 2014

## Eurocities AGM and Conference

<b>Item number</b>	7.12
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Executive/routine</b>	
<b>Wards</b>	City Wide

### Executive summary

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This report proposes Council representation at the Eurocities AGM and Conference in Munich, Germany, on 5-8 November 2014. The theme of the Eurocities 2014 conference is 'Energising Cities' and will focus on managing the demand for energy in growing cities. It is proposed that an elected member attend, accompanied by an officer from External Relations.

### Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	P15, P16, P47, P49 and P50
<b>Council outcomes</b>	CO18, CO22, CO25, and CO26
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	SO1 and SO2

## EUROCITIES AGM and Conference

### Recommendations

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- 1.1 To approve attendance by an elected member representative at the Eurocities AGM and Conference in Munich in November 2014.
- 1.2 To note that further information on the benefits of attendance will be provided after the event.

### Background

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- 2.1 This report proposes Council representation at the Eurocities AGM and Conference in Munich, Germany on 5-8 November 2014.
- 2.2 Eurocities is the network of major European cities, bringing together the local governments of 170 cities that between them govern 130 million citizens across 35 European countries. Edinburgh has been a member since 1991 and a number of Edinburgh's twin and partner cities are also members.

### Main report

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- 3.1 The Eurocities AGM is the key annual decision making meeting of the association. It provides a forum for debate and the formation of future priorities and strategy, as well as electing the President, Vice-President and Executive Committee members of the association. This year's AGM and Conference is taking place in Edinburgh's twin city, Munich, from 5-8 November.
- 3.2 Eurocities provides member cities with a platform to exchange knowledge, experiences and compare different approaches through a variety of policy forums, working groups, projects and events. The network provides a strong voice for cities, allowing dialogue with the European institutions on EU legislation, policies and programmes that impact on their citizens, services and territories. The network is active across a wide range of urban policy issues and challenges including: economic development, provision of public services, environment, knowledge society, transport, employment, education, social affairs and culture.
- 3.3 Membership of Eurocities offers the following benefits:
  - a channel for influencing policies, legislation and funding programmes;

- intelligence on funding opportunities and policy development from the European Commission, particularly on urban policy;
  - an efficient partner search forum for transnational EU funding bids and the design of successful joint projects;
  - opportunities to exchange good practice and improve benchmarking for city government;
  - opportunities to raise the international profile of the city.
- 3.4 The theme of the Eurocities 2014 conference is 'Energising Cities'. There will be a sharing of ideas and best practice on how our cities can make a crucial contribution to reducing CO2 emissions through mobility management, local renewable energy production and new technologies. It will include a private session for Eurocities political representatives.
- 3.5 Council representation at the AGM and Conference will provide opportunities to:
- influence Eurocities' future priorities and work programme;
  - share experience and good practice with other European cities;
  - promote the city and the expertise available in Edinburgh;
  - strengthen links with other European cities for future EU bid development and joint activities.
- 3.6 The City of Edinburgh Council has submitted an application to the EUROCITIES Awards which recognise outstanding achievement by member cities in the delivery of local activities or practices that improve the quality of life for citizens. The Awards ceremony will take place during the Conference on the 5 November. The Council's submission "Auld but not Reekie – Transforming Transport Energy Use in Edinburgh" has been shortlisted for an award.
- 3.7 Given that Munich is a twin city of Edinburgh, a link which this year celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it is anticipated that the conference will provide the opportunity to arrange several bilateral meetings with counterparts in Munich.
- 3.8 It is proposed that an elected member attend this year's annual meeting supported by an officer from the External Relations team.

## Measures of success

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- 4.1 As there are no specific Capital Coalition Pledges and Council Outcomes for External Relations, the team monitors its contribution to a wide range of related pledges and outcomes. Examples for this current report are given in the Links section below.
- 4.2 Further information on the benefits of attendance will be provided after the event.

## Financial impact

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- 5.1 Travel options have been considered and the recommendation is air travel. Travel costs depend on the time of booking and it is estimated that travel and accommodation per person will be in the region of £500.
- 5.2 The conference fee is 280 EUR (approximately £220) per attendee and includes participation in all official sessions, workshops and daytime and evening programmes.
- 5.3 Costs for elected member attendance will be met from the Economic Development budget 2014/15.

## Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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- 6.1 The actions and outputs described in this report adhere to the risk compliance policy and governance arrangements. In addition the recommendations in the report do not impact on any existing policies of the Council.

## Equalities impact

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- 7.1 There are no equalities impacts arising from attendance at this conference. The Council's European and International Strategy and Parliamentary activity supports the Council's commitment to equal opportunities.

## Sustainability impact

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- 8.1 There are adverse impacts on air quality and noise associated with air travel but overland travel to Munich for the entire journey is not considered practical given the distance and excessive travel time. Much of the work done by the External Relations team supports the Council's Sustainability Strategy in terms of drawing on EU funds and sharing international good practice in service delivery and city development. The theme of the Conference relates to the Council's Sustainable Economy Action Plan.
- 8.2 A direct return flight to Munich offers best value, has no additional requirement for overnight accommodation above the minimum requirement, and is the most time effective. The recommended option is therefore a direct return flight from Edinburgh to Munich.

8.3 Modern technology is utilised wherever possible in international liaison and all travel is in accordance with the Council's Sustainable Travel Plan.

## Consultation and engagement

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9.1 Membership of Eurocities provides the Council with a channel for engaging in consultation on EU policy, legislative and funding proposals.

## Background reading / external references

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Eurocities AGM website: [www.eurocities2014.eu](http://www.eurocities2014.eu)

Eurocities website: [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)

Papers held by External Relations Unit

## Greg Ward

Director Economic Development

Contact: Elaine Ballantyne, Head of External Relations

E-mail: [Elaine.ballantyne@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.ballantyne@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 529 3702

## Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	<b>P15</b> - Work with public organisations, the private sector and social enterprise to promote Edinburgh to investors <b>P16</b> - Examine ways to source new funding to support small businesses <b>P47</b> – Set up a city-wide Transport Forum of experts and citizens to consider our modern transport needs <b>P49</b> – Continue to increase recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill <b>P50</b> – Meet greenhouse gas targets, including the national target of 42% by 2020
<b>Council outcomes</b>	<b>CO18</b> – Green – we reduce the local environmental impact of our consumption and production <b>CO22</b> – Moving efficiently – Edinburgh has a transport system that improves connectivity and is green, healthy and accessible <b>CO25</b> – The Council has efficient and effective services that deliver on objectives <b>CO26</b> - The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives
<b>Single Outcome</b>	<b>SO1</b> - Edinburgh's economy delivers increased investment, jobs

**Agreement**

and opportunities for all

**SO2** – Edinburgh’s citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health

**Appendices**