

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 12 May 2015

Edinburgh World Justice Festival request for support

Item number	7.6
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive summary

This report responds to a motion approved by the Committee on 24 March. Following an initial discussion with the Edinburgh World Justice Festival, the Culture and Sport service is coordinating an exploratory meeting between the Festival and relevant Council services.

Links

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Edinburgh World Justice Festival request for support

Recommendations

- 1.1 Notes that at the time of writing, a meeting is being arranged between relevant Council services and the Edinburgh World Justice Festival to explore the latter's proposal for an annual Edinburgh World Justice lecture.

Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 24 March 2015, the Committee approved the following motion:
- 2.1.1 "Committee notes that the tenth anniversary of the Make Poverty History march in Edinburgh, at the time of the G8 summit in Gleneagles, will be on 2 July 2015;
 - 2.1.2 "that the Edinburgh World Justice Festival (EWJF), set up to keep alive the spirit of those events, plans to take this opportunity to reflect on global developments over those ten years and to extend the audience and impact of the Festival, scheduled from 2 – 11 October 2015;
 - 2.1.3 "that the Festival has made proposals for an annual 'Edinburgh World Justice Lecture' by an individual who has made a significant contribution to world justice, to be known as the 'Edinburgh World Justice Champion';
 - 2.1.4 "that the Festival's organising committee is requesting the Council for its support for this proposal, including by covering the costs of the lecture including those of travel and a civic reception; and
 - 2.1.5 "Committee therefore agrees to request a report – to come back to Corporate Policy and Strategy within one cycle – from the Director of Corporate Governance, on the proposal that the Council sponsors the 'Edinburgh World Justice Lecture' and on other possible ways of co-operating with the Festival, including the option of outreach with schools."
- 2.2 There are several Council services whose remits have a bearing on this topic and which may have potential involvement in exploring this proposal. Within Corporate Governance, Culture and Sport manages the corporate Events budget and the Corporate Policy and Strategy service provides guidance and leadership on equalities and human rights across the Council; and of course, schools sit within Children and Families.

Main report

- 3.1 The Chair of the Edinburgh World Justice Festival has provided some further details of the proposal to Culture and Sport. The EWJF, currently an unincorporated body staffed by volunteers, has some experience of securing international experts to take part in its one-day annual conference in October. A keynote speaker in 2014 was Philippine Congressman Walden Bello.
- 3.2 The EWJF is seeking to raise the profile of world justice in Edinburgh, and proposes to do this partly through instituting an annual lecture (within the Festival's conference programme), to be given by a recognised international leader in the field. As noted in the motion, the current proposal is that each year's speaker be given the title of Edinburgh World Justice Champion. The EWJF is interested in developing an outreach programme for schools, which could include adapting Festival content to be presented in schools, and may also ask the annual speaker to engage with schools to add value to their study of current affairs, sustainability and equalities.
- 3.3 The core programme of events supported by the Events budget in 2015 was approved by the Culture and Sport Committee on 16 December 2014. The Events budget is fully committed for this calendar year. At the time of writing, the Culture and Sport service intends to coordinate a meeting with the EWJF and relevant Council colleagues to explore this proposal in more detail. This may lead to a formal application for a modest grant for the lecture in 2016. Other city partners may also be contacted to gauge their interest in this concept.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Engagement with the EWJF to explore this proposal further.

Financial impact

- 5.1 It is likely that support for a lecture by an international speaker would include travel from abroad, accommodation, subsistence, potentially a speaker's fee, venue hire, and a civic reception. The proposal is at too early a stage for figures to be available at the time of writing. Previous experience suggests that the elements listed above could range from a total of £10,000 (for example, if a separate venue is not required and audience numbers are modest) to around £20,000 (for example, if the speaker is very high profile and therefore attracts a significant audience and consequently higher venue costs and other costs).
- 5.2 If a formal application for funding is submitted to the Council following further discussions, this would be reported to the appropriate Committee in due course.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 There are no direct risk, policy, compliance or governance impacts arising from this report.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are no direct equalities impacts arising from this report. Should this proposal proceed, an annual lecture on world justice would contribute to greater public understanding of human rights and equalities.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There are no direct sustainability impacts arising from this report.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 If a formal application for Council funding is submitted, this would be considered by relevant Council services and could include consultation with the Events Management Group and potential city partners.

Background reading/external references

Report to the [Culture and Sport Committee of 16 December 2014](#): Core Festival and Events Programme 2015

Edinburgh World Justice Festival [website](#)

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Links

Coalition pledges	P24 Maintain and embrace support for our world-famous festivals and events
Council outcomes	CO2 Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens, making a positive contribution to their communities
Single Outcome Agreement	
Appendices	None