

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday 9 August 2016

EUROCITIES AGM and Conference

Item number	7.5
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive summary

This report proposes Council representation at the EUROCITIES AGM and Conference in Milan on 16-18 November 2016. The theme of the EUROCITIES 2016 Conference is 'Sharing Cities' and will focus on exploring the challenges and impacts that cities face in terms of new ways of producing and sharing goods and services within a sharing economy. It is proposed that up to two Elected Members attend, with officer support.

Links

Coalition pledges	P15, P16
Council Priorities	CP5, CP6, CP7, CP8
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1

EUROCITIES AGM and Conference

Recommendations

- 1.1 To agree elected member representation at the EUROCITIES AGM and Conference in Milan in November 2016 and to pitch Edinburgh's bid to host the 2018 EUROCITIES AGM and Conference.
- 1.2 To note that further information on the benefits of attendance and the decision regarding the 2018 bid will be provided following the event.

Background

- 2.1 This report proposes Council representation at the EUROCITIES AGM and Conference in Milan on 16-18 November 2016.
- 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. Membership includes cities across Europe, from both EU and non-EU countries.
- 2.3 The network is active across a wide range of urban policy issues and challenges of fundamental importance to cities including: economic development, provision of public services, environment, energy, knowledge society, transport, employment, social affairs, culture, housing and education.
- 2.4 Edinburgh's engagement strategy for EUROCITIES highlights areas for strategic collaboration with cities across Europe on a wide range of subjects across service areas and includes opportunities to exchange examples of best practice, learn from policy developments, undertake peer learning and benchmarking.

Main report

- 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 Milan from 16-18 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.
- 3.3 Membership of EUROCITIES offers the following benefits:
- Opportunities to raise the international profile of Edinburgh;
 - A channel for developing policies based on common experience and lessons learned;
 - Opportunities to exchange good practice and improve benchmarking for city government;
 - An efficient partner search forum for the design of successful joint projects.
- 3.4 The theme of the EUROCITIES 2016 Conference is 'Sharing Cities', looking at the opportunities and challenges presented by the phenomenon of the sharing economy. It will include a private political session and roundtable debates for EUROCITIES political representatives to discuss key challenges and opportunities facing city administrations including the role of cities in designing urban policies that can regulate and foster the sharing economy.
- 3.5 Politicians, decision makers and professionals from approximately 100 major European cities will attend the annual conference. This year's annual conference will also be an opportunity to celebrate 30 years of EUROCITIES in one of the founding cities, Milan.
- 3.6 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;
 - Connect with other European cities for future joint activities.
- 3.7 During the Executive Committee meeting at this year's AGM, Edinburgh will pitch its bid to host the 2018 EUROCITIES AGM, offering the opportunity for an elected member to present the bid to the member cities of the Executive Committee and highlight Edinburgh's commitment to the network. It is proposed that (up to) two Elected Members attend.
- 3.8 In previous years Edinburgh has submitted applications to the EUROCITIES Awards which are held every year at the Conference. However, this year Edinburgh is ineligible to apply having successfully won the award for Participation last year with the "Edinburgh in Bloom" project. It is therefore the intention to identify an opportunity for the city to be showcased within, most likely in one of the themed sessions or during the political meetings. Officers will

explore appropriate Edinburgh-led projects and activity which can be shared as exemplar with other EUROCIITIES members.

- 3.9 The theme encompasses elements of the ‘sharing economy’. This is an umbrella term covering a range of global trends in the way we produce and consume goods and services, including; crowdsourcing; crowdfunding; cooperative use of public space and resources, and working with partners to achieve solutions e.g. digitalization, social media, and sustainability.
- 3.10 Officer support will be provided and participation will be based on both the Council’s EUROCIITIES engagement plan, and support for Edinburgh’s bid for the 2018 EUROCIITIES AGM and Conference.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Information on the benefits of attendance is specific to each event. The benefits and the result of the 2018 Conference bid will be provided after the event.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The costs of attendance depend on the time of booking. Estimated costs per person are in the region of £500 for travel and accommodation plus 280 EUR conference registration fee (approximately £200).
- 5.2 Costs for attendance will be met from the City Strategy and Economy budget 2016/17.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 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

- 7.1 There are no equalities impacts arising from attendance at this conference. The Council’s EUROCIITIES engagement plan supports the Council’s commitment to equal opportunities.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Travel arrangements are made in accordance with the Council’s Sustainable Travel Plan. Travel options have been considered and the recommendation is a

direct return flight from Edinburgh to Milan. While there are adverse impacts on air quality and noise associated with air travel, overland travel is not considered practical given the distance and excessive travel time. A direct return flight to Milan offers best value, has no additional requirement for overnight accommodation above the minimum requirement, and is the most time effective.

Consultation and engagement

9.1 Membership of EUROCITIES provides the Council with a channel for engaging across a range of areas across service.

Background reading / external references

Eurocities AGM website: <http://eurocities2016.eu/intro.php>

Eurocities website: www.eurocities.eu

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Links

Coalition pledges	P15 - Work with public organisations, the private sector and social enterprise to promote Edinburgh to investors
Council Priorities	P16 - Examine ways to source new funding to support small businesses CP5 - Business growth and investment CP6 - A creative, cultural capital CP7 - Access to work and learning
Single Outcome Agreement	CP8 - A vibrant, sustainable local economy SO1 - Edinburgh's economy delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all