

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10am, Tuesday, 4 October 2016

Unity in Diversity Summit

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| Item number | 7.4 |
| Report number | |
| Executive/routine | |
| Wards | City wide |

Executive summary

It is proposed that the Lord Provost travels to Florence from 2 to 4 November 2016 to attend the second edition of the Unity in Diversity summit hosted by the Mayor of Florence. The second edition of Unity in Diversity, the mayors' summit which gathered mayors from all over the world for the first time in November 2015, will focus on Cities' Resilience in 2016. This is the 50th anniversary year of the flooding of the river Arno in Florence. Beginning in 1965, Florence and Edinburgh have co-operated as twin cities along a broad range of areas.

Links

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| Coalition pledges | P40 |
| Council Priorities | CP12 |
| Single Outcome Agreement | SO4 |

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

Unity in Diversity Summit

Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve acceptance of the invitation extended to the Lord Provost from the Mayor of Florence to visit Florence in November 2016 to attend the second edition of the “Unity in Diversity” summit of Mayors from around the world.
- 1.2 To note that a post-visit report will be provided after the event.

Background

- 2.1 November 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the flood which destroyed the city of Florence in 1966.
- 2.2 The first edition of Unity in Diversity took place in Florence in November 2015 with the aim that Mayors from all over the world would together foster dialogue between communities, united in their diversity. The summit culminated in the signing of the Charter of Florence (see Appendix 1).
- 2.3 The second edition of the Unity in Diversity summit in 2016 will be dedicated to issues related to urban areas coexisting with water and rivers, as well as additional themes of climate change, cultural and natural heritage protection, and energy and natural resources. Additionally, a special focus will be dedicated to endangered cultural and natural heritage in conflict areas.
- 2.4 During the first two days of the programme mayors will have the opportunity to share ideas and governance best practices about natural disasters prevention, resilience, climate change and sustainable development policies. On the final day the conference will close with special commemorations in memory of the 1966 flood.
- 2.5 Panels and conferences will be held by high profile experts in the field. Scientists, UN representatives, international government and economic world representatives will be present to share expertise.
- 2.6 Cities present at the first Unity in Diversity summit in 2015 were: Florence Arad, Beit Fajjar, Birgu, Bled, Bruxelles, Bogor, Birzeit, Bogotà, Craiova, Diyarbakir, Durres, Eger, Estoril, Fier, Gostivar, Heart, Idrija, Istanbul, Kotor, Kuldiga, Korydallos, Kobane, Kutaisi, Kyoto, Lussemburgo, Milano, Mitrovica, Mogadiscio, Mbarara, Nairobi, Nazareth, Nuevo Cuscatlan, Ohrid, Oswiecim, Pecs, Pozzallo, Pristina, Qalqilia, Reims, Rijeka, Rimac, Sabac, San Vincente del Caguan, Aliena, Sintra, Tbilisi, Tetova, Tirana, Torino, Turku, Ulyanovsk,

Main report

- 3.1 The Mayor of Florence has extended an invitation to the Lord Provost to attend the international Mayors' summit Unity in Diversity in Florence from 2 to 4 November 2016.
- 3.2 Throughout the years, the twinning relationship between Edinburgh and Florence has been underscored by a number of reciprocal civic visits. The most recent civic visit to Florence was in June 2015 when the Lord Provost travelled to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the twinning relationship at the Mayor's invitation. Prior to that, Councillor Richard Lewis was invited to Florence in October 2013 to speak about Edinburgh's festivals.
- 3.3 The Lord Provost hosted the Deputy Mayor of Florence as his guest at the opening of the Edinburgh International Festival and Military Tattoo in August this year following the 50th Anniversary of the Twinning in 2015.
- 3.4 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the flooding of Florence and therefore the chosen focus for the Summit is on the theme of Resilience. The Lord Provost's visit will offer the opportunity to:
 - a. Show solidarity with Florence on behalf of Edinburgh.
 - b. Learn from examples of best practice regarding flooding and natural resource management.
 - c. Offer the opportunity to exchange case studies and examples from Edinburgh with cities from all over the world.
 - d. Develop strategies for the preservation and enhancement of cultural assets both tangible and intangible.
- 3.5 The Lord Provost would be accompanied in Florence by a City Officer.

Measures of success

- 4.1 As there are no specific Capital Coalition Pledges and Council Outcomes for Investment and International Relations, the team monitors its contribution to a wide range of related pledges and outcomes.
- 4.2 Further information on the conference will be provided after the event.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The costs of attendance depend on the time of booking. Costs estimated by Horncastle are in the region of £300pp for travel by air (same day arrival). Costs

for travel by rail are estimated to be £500pp, as well as a night spent in London or Paris on either side of the return journey making the total cost £800pp and requiring two working days spent travelling. Rail travel including overnight sleeper journeys as a third alternative would cost approximately £600pp.

- 5.2 The city of Florence will cover the cost of accommodation in the city for the duration of the conference. Transport costs will be met from the Economic Development 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.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are no equalities impacts arising from the programme proposed in this report. The Council's European and International Strategy supports the Council's commitment to equal opportunities.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Travel arrangements have been made in accordance with the Council's Sustainable Travel Plan. Travel options have been considered and the recommended mode of travel is return flights from Edinburgh to Florence. While there are adverse impacts on air quality and noise associated with air travel, rail travel is not considered practical given the cost and time requirement.
- 8.2 According to the International Civil Aviation Organisation the journey will create approximately 291kg of CO₂, per person, travelling by air.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Attendance by the Lord Provost at this summit provides the Council with a channel for engaging and consulting on Edinburgh's policies regarding flood prevention, natural and energy resources, natural heritage protection and climate change.

Background reading / external references

www.unityindiversity.it

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Links

Coalition pledges

P40 - Work with Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and other stakeholders to conserve the city's built heritage

Council Priorities

CP 12

Single Outcome Agreement

SO4



THE CHARTER OF FLORENCE

"UNITY IN DIVERSITY" NOVEMBER 5-8, 2015

We, the Cities Reunited in Florence, for the Global Mayors Summit "Unity in Diversity" (November 5-8, 2015), sixty years after the Conference of Mayors of the Capital Cities convened by the then Mayor of Florence, Giorgio La Pira,

recognize

- heritage as the totality of natural, environmental, tangible and intangible cultural values that contribute to make the different identities of communities, groups and individuals living in our Cities;
- our different traditions, our natural, environmental and cultural heritage present in our cities, not only as a local or national heritage, but also as the heritage of the whole humanity which unite peoples and past present and future generations;
- the diversity and plurality of our heritage as a source of exchange, innovation and creativity necessary for the spiritual, intellectual, emotional and material development of humankind;
- the key role of heritage to improve the quality of life in our communities and build a process of peace and development based on an intercultural dialogue;
- the key role of cities in the promotion of a sustainable development based on the diversity of cultural expressions and creativity as drivers of economic and social development.

Given the above, we acknowledge the following needs:

- to recognize equal dignity and worth to every expression of cultural heritage;
- to create an environment in our cities which can allow the promotion and protection of human rights for all, recognizing the access to heritage as a right of every human being and ensuring a more extensive awareness and fruition by our citizens and visitors;
- to protect and enhance, for future generations, the heritage of our cities, whose loss and destruction must be considered a crime against humanity;
- to strengthen intercultural relations, cooperation and exchanges among our cities, increasing solidarity among citizens, who are different in language, cultures and religious belief but equal in dignity right of freedom of movement, justice and peace;
- educate present and future generations to a greater understanding and acceptance of the diversity of cultural expressions, as well as increase in individuals of all ages, social status and in the civil society the awareness of the role of culture as a pattern for the construction of peace.



Therefore, we will:

- raise awareness and involve the citizens of our cities in the active protection of our heritage, even through the establishment of fund-raising activities aimed at protecting the local or international heritage, with particular regard to the heritage of the developing countries and the heritage at risk, in a context of cooperation among Cities and of global, integrated heritage;
- support, as "Unite for Heritage", UNESCO's campaigns regarding the defense of heritage; foster the establishment of scientific committees to help the "Blue Helmets of Culture" - promoted by the Italian Government - and support programs of international cooperation for the preservation and protection of heritage;
- make available to UNESCO, its National Commissions, Governments and City Administrations a network of specialists, particularly in the field of conservation and heritage management, in order to activate a network of protection for the cultural and natural heritage in danger because of wars and natural disasters;
- make an appeal to UNESCO for the establishment of a Standing Committee for the consultation of Mayors, which promotes a new role of the City in the protection and enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage, of the diversity in cultural and linguistic expressions and of promoting peace.

Florence

Dario Belotti

Arad

Sen Falciú .

Beit Fajjar

AKRAM TAQATQA X

Birgu

Jann Fajjha

Bled

Jean Fajt

Bruxelles

Jean Fajt

Bočići

Jean Fajt



Birzeit Municipality Hail Hail alway

Bogotà

Estoril

Craiova

Durazzo

Diyarbakir

Durres

Eger

Fier

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Gostivar

Herat

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Oswiecim

Janusz Gnierek

Pecs

d. Szabolcs

Pozzallo

dr. J. Daulay

Pristina

Spendath

Qalqilia

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Reims

Bern Dally

Rijeka

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Sabac

Osijek

San Vincente del Caguan

Opis

Sintra

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Tbilisi

N. Khatiskatsi

Tetova

TEUTA ARIFI

Tirana

Jelindo Shume

Shume



Tommy

Turku

Elouel

Ulyanovsk

Paul He 2015

Xi'an

2015.11.4

Hans Agostin

Vienna

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Torino

Florence - Palazzo Vecchio, November 5 – 8, 2015