

# Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 28 February 2017

## EUROCITIES Mayors' Summit

Item number	7.7
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	City Wide

### Executive summary

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This report outlines attendance by the Convener of Economy Committee Councillor Gavin Barrie at a Mayors' Summit in Brussels on 7 March 2017. The Summit will be held on the subject of "The Future of Europe" and will focus on exploring the specifically urban challenges and opportunities that cities are facing in the current European context.

Due to the need to confirm arrangements for attendance at the Mayors' Summit, the Chief Executive in consultation with the Council Leader approved attendance by Councillor Barrie under the urgency provisions set out at paragraph 3.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference.

### Links

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Coalition pledges	<a href="#">P15</a>
Council outcomes	<a href="#">CP5, CP6</a>
Single Outcome Agreement	<a href="#">SO1</a>

## EUROCITIES Mayors' Summit

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 For Committee to note the action taken by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council Leader, in approving attendance by Councillor Barrie at the Mayors' Summit in Brussels on 7 March 2017 under the urgency provisions set out at paragraph 3.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference.
- 1.2 To note that a post-visit report will be provided after the event.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 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 of the network since 1991 and a number of Edinburgh's twin and partner cities are also members. The result of the UK referendum on membership of the European Union does not affect the status of Edinburgh's membership of the network.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Edinburgh's engagement strategy for EUROCITIES highlights areas for strategic collaboration with cities across Europe on a wide range of subjects and includes opportunities to exchange examples of best practice, learn from policy developments, peer learning and benchmarking.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 In November 2016 during the EUROCITIES Conference and AGM in Milan, Edinburgh successfully bid to become the host of the 2018 Conference and AGM. This high profile and prestigious event is expected to bring 400 to 500 delegates to Edinburgh, comprised of city mayors, leaders, elected members and officers from EUROCITIES member cities from across Europe.

### **3. Main report**

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- 3.1 The EUROCITIES Mayors' Summit is a meeting of the political representatives of member cities. It provides an opportunity for cities to have an audience with key EU decision makers across different European institutions to discuss urban policy issues.
- 3.2 The theme of the Mayors' Summit is 'The Future of Europe', looking at the opportunities and challenges present in the current European situation. This follows the political debate during the annual EUROCITIES Conference and AGM in Milan, November 2016, which the Convener also took part in.
- 3.3 Council representation at the Summit will provide opportunities to:
- Inform and influence key decision makers at the European level. Those present will include the EUROCITIES President and Vice President, European Commission Vice President, MEPs, European Commissioners, the Mayors of many European cities, and the President of the Committee of the Regions.
  - Maintain a strong presence at a high level by the city ahead of the EUROCITIES 2018 Conference and AGM which will be hosted by Edinburgh, as confirmed in Milan, November 2016.
  - Reinforce Edinburgh's commitment to the EUROCITIES network, implementation of the EUROCITIES engagement plan and a participation in transnational and European cooperation more generally.

### **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 As there are no specific Capital Coalition Pledges and Council Outcomes for International 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.

### **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The cost of attendance is around £350 for same day return travel by air from Edinburgh. Costs for attendance have been met from the Economic Development budget 2016/17.

## **6. 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.

## **7. Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 There are no equalities impacts arising from attendance at this conference. The Council's Investment and International Plan, EUROCITIES engagement plan and Parliamentary activity supports the Council's commitment to equal opportunities.

## **8. Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 Travel arrangements are made in accordance with the Council's Sustainable Travel Plan. Travel options were considered and direct same-day return flights from Edinburgh to Brussels were agreed as the most suitable method of transport.
- 8.2 While there are adverse impacts on air quality and noise associated with air travel, overland travel was not considered to be practical given the time implications and based on cost savings on overnight accommodation. CO2 emissions were calculated at 230Kg for the return journey.

## **9. Consultation and engagement**

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

## **10. Background reading / external references**

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- 10.1 Eurocities website: [www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)
- 10.2 Papers held by Investment and International Relations Team

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## 11. Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	P15 - Work with public organisations, the private sector and social enterprise to promote Edinburgh to investors.
<b>Council outcomes</b>	CP5 – Business growth and investment CP6 – A creative, cultural capital
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	SO1 - Edinburgh's economy delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all
<b>Appendices</b>	