

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 28 February 2017

Dean of Guild Courtroom, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Andrew Burns</p>  <p>Vice Convener: Councillor Frank Ross</p> 	<p>Councillors: Burns (Convener), Ross (Vice Convener), Aldridge, Barrie, Burgess, Child, Day, Ricky Henderson, Hinds, Lewis, Main, Mowat, Rankin, Rose, Rust</p>	<p>Kirsty-Louise Campbell Interim Head of Strategy and Insight Tel: 0131 529 3654</p>

Recent news	Background
<p><u>Conference / Civic Visit</u></p> <p>The Lord Provost attended a Political Summit and civic visit during 2-4 November 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity and Diversity Summit, Florence, Italy. <p>Purpose of attendance: The conference itself was only one of the objectives for this civic visit. The role of the Lord Provost is to sell the City at home and abroad and the profile of this meeting including as it did over 40 Mayors from around the world as well as representatives of the Regional and National Governments of Italy, UN Officials and Ambassadors provided me with an opportunity to do this on a National and International stage.</p>	<p>Contact: charlotte.kedslie@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>

Key areas that were particularly useful:

The content of the conference was interesting and informative, one to one discussions with Mayor Dario Nardella of Florence and Deputy Mayor Nicoletta Mantovani with the responsibility for international relations provided an opportunity for bilateral discussions on such topics as the involvement of Florence with the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the 70th anniversary of the Edinburgh International Festival.

Benefits of attendance for the Council, including relevance to key Council priorities and Pledges:

One important civic objective of the trip was to be recognised by Florence for our support and assistance as a twin city of over 50 years. Edinburgh twinned with Florence in 1964, as an act of post war solidarity and support. In just over a year Florence was struck with the worst flood in its history damaging much of the City's art and cultural heritage. In response to an international appeal, Edinburgh reacted with generosity and speed, sending people and supplies as well as expertise both for the short term disaster recovery and the longer term restoration which got underway. While we were there, it was gratifying to attend the ceremonial unveiling of the completion of the restoration of the last painting damaged in the flood. The importance of the aftermath of the flood of 4 November 1966, goes beyond the boundaries of Florence however, and represented a sea change in the attitudes worldwide of historic and cultural heritage. This ultimately resulted in the creation of UNESCO World Heritage Sites with both Florence and Edinburgh being declared as such. The citizens of Florence presented Edinburgh with a large silver plaque which is now displayed in the City Chambers in gratitude for the City's support.

I participated fully in all the discussions in the Palazzo Vecchio and indeed took up the opportunity at the end of the Summit to give a presentation of the City of Edinburgh covering its strengths as an International Festival City and also the good work that has taken place here in the terms of disaster prevention and indeed conservation. The Summit was televised both nationally and internationally on RAI and Sky, in addition to being widely reported in both local and national press. The constituted good exposure for the City and I am content that the opportunities to fulfil my civic duty were in abundance.

At the conclusion of the conference I added name, along with many other city Mayors and leaders, to the *“Manifesto of Florence on Cities’ resilience to natural and man-made disasters, and on hydraulic and hydrological risk mitigation”*, which is a statement of intent to improve Cities’ resilience to natural and manmade disasters.

In addition to the Summit, the visit also afforded the opportunity to address the British Institute in Florence. This occasion was the first of two events – the launch of the book ‘Perimetri Perduti’ by David Cass who is an artist from Edinburgh – the second of these events will take place in Edinburgh in January 2017. Mr Cass’s book is a dedicated exploration of the devastating impact of the flood of 1966, and I took the opportunity to give a lengthy presentation to the audience at the British Institute on the historic and cultural links between Florence and Edinburgh.

Overall the content of the actual Summit was wide ranging and detailed. The additional events presented opportunities to promote Edinburgh in a very high profile way.

Coalition Pledges:

P15 - Work with public organisations, the private sector and social enterprise to promote Edinburgh to investors.

Council Priorities

CP5 – Business growth and investment

CP6 – A creative, cultural capital

Single Outcome Agreement

SO1 - Edinburgh's economy delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all.

Additional comments:

The trip coincided with earthquakes in central Italy, so needless to say this was the topic of much discussion. The theme of the conference being the protection of culture through disasters whether manmade or natural, the discussion could not have been more relevant. There was great relevance for Edinburgh in terms of readiness to react not just to flooding but any emergency situations.

Conference/Civic Visit

Councillor Gavin Barrie and Councillor Lesley Hinds attended the **EUROCITIES Annual Meeting and Conference 2016 in Milan** from 16-18 November 2016. Below is a summary of key learning points and observations from Council representatives.

Purpose of attending:

To represent the Council at the annual general meeting and conference of the EUROCITIES association. This included:

- Presented Edinburgh's bid to host the EUROCITIES 2018 annual conference at the meeting of the EUROCITIES Executive Committee. Edinburgh's application to host the annual conference was warmly received and accepted by the Committee.
- Participated in the AGM which formally announced the selection of Edinburgh as host city for the EUROCITIES 2018 annual conference. Voted in the elections for the President, Vice-President and executive committee members of the association and approved the EUROCITIES work programme for 2017.
- Contributed to the political discussions, debating the role of cities in building a positive future for Europe, including UK cities' continuing involvement in Eurocities.
- Participated in a roundtable on alternative approaches to welfare and services as a panel member, sharing cities' experiences of the impact of the rapidly developing sharing economy. Discussed how cities are responding and adjusting to the changes and opportunities this new form of economy is bringing, whilst ensuring the benefits stay local and are inclusive.

Key areas that were particularly useful:

- 'Making Cities – Visions for an Urban Future' publication launched by EUROCITIES to mark the 30th anniversary. It gathers together thought-provoking contributions from young professionals who were invited by EUROCITIES to reflect on the future challenges facing cities and present new approaches and solutions.
- Presentation on the 'State of European Cities' report produced by the European Commission and UN Habitat which highlights the contribution of cities both within Europe and in a global context as key actors in promoting jobs and growth, social inclusion, resource efficiency, low carbon mobility and climate action. The report concludes that for cities to fully contribute, they require sufficient funding,

Contact

Anne Campbell,
Principal Officer,
Economic
Development, Tel 469
3554

autonomy and governance.

- Milan's Porta Romana major urban renewal demonstration site, which is part of the EU funded Horizon 2020 'Sharing Cities' project aimed at making cities smarter, more environment friendly and resilient. This brings 6 European cities together to test solutions to improve mobility, housing, energy and economic development.
- Diverse examples of projects in cities around Europe highlighted at the event, including at the Eurocities Awards ceremony, eg:
 - Zaragoza's 'La Colaboradora' co-working space initiative supporting exchange of services, ideas and knowledge. It runs on a time bank system where users, including entrepreneurs, freelancers and creative professionals, exchange talents and skills;
 - Leed's 'Migrant Access Project' which provides local citizens – migrant community networkers - with skills and knowledge (in eg healthcare, employment, housing, budgeting services) to be able to help newcomers settle in the city;
 - Helsinki's 'Climate Street' initiative transforming an historic urban centre street into an energy efficient and climate smart zone with a focus on collaborative solutions;
 - Stuttgart's 'Realworld Laboratory for a Sustainable Mobility Culture', a Futures Lab and platform making the city a space for cooperative experimentation;
 - A range of projects supported by the City of Milan promoting sharing of information, services and tools via digital platforms and co-location (eg co-hubs, co-working spaces and social innovation incubators in mobility, social, environmental and cultural fields).

Benefits of attendance for the Council, including relevance to key Council Priorities and Pledges:

Attendance provided opportunities to:

- Raise the international profile of the city alongside other large European cities, sharing Edinburgh good practices and demonstrating visible commitment to the EURO CITIES network;
- Gain new insights and ideas from learning about good practices in service delivery and city development in European cities, including made contact and exchanged experiences on city visioning exercises and agreed to exchange information with Stockholm.
- Hear about the experience of other cities' models of health

and social care and share Edinburgh's model of health of social care. Also gained knowledge on how other cities deal with issues and problems in this field;

- Connect with peers in other European cities including contact made with Stuttgart (Realworld Laboratories for Collaborate Research) and Strasbourg, details passed on to Transport for Edinburgh; acquired information on Milan transport structure and service; connections made on the cities' food agenda relevant to the work with Edible Edinburgh;
- Renew and consolidate contacts with EUROCITIES, get updates on network activities and strengthen working relations with the organisation, helping to shape delivery of the Council's EUROCITIES engagement plan;
- Secure in excess of 500 delegates from multiple European countries to come to Edinburgh for the EUROCITIES 2018 annual conference. This will strengthen Edinburgh's position as a key member of EUROCITIES and bring economic benefits including hotel occupancy and visitor spend. It will also contribute to Scotland's 2018 Year of Young People, with opportunities for engaging our young people and promoting Edinburgh to an international youth audience;
- Experience at first hand the EUROCITIES annual conference, invaluable for informing forward planning for the EUROCITIES 2018 conference to be hosted in Edinburgh on 28-30 November 2018.

Coalition Pledges Supported

- P15 - Work with public organisations, the private sector and social enterprise to promote Edinburgh to investors
- P50 - Meet greenhouse gas targets, including the national target of 42% by 2020

Council Priorities Supported

- CP5 - Business growth and investment
- CP6 - A creative, cultural capital
- CP7 - Access to work and learning
- CP8 - A vibrant, sustainable local economy

Single Outcome Agreement

- SO1 - Edinburgh's economy delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all
- SO2 - Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health

Additional comments:

Further Information

EUROCITIES 2016 conference website:

<http://www.eurocities2016.eu/index.php>

General Eurocities information: www.eurocities.eu

Making Cities - Visions for an Urban Future:

<http://eurocities.eu/30visionsforcities>

The Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership (EBP)

The Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership (EBP) is chaired by the City of Edinburgh Council. Since 2000 it has delivered a varied and successful programme of biodiversity improvement and strong community engagement across the city through Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP). Delivery of the Edinburgh LBAP helps the Council to meet its statutory duty to further the conservation of biodiversity.

This Business Bulletin highlights the key activities and outcomes delivered in 2016 by the EBP. A full progress report for circulation to stakeholders and the public has been prepared and gives further information

[\[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/biodiversity\]](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/biodiversity). The report also shows how the work of the EBP links with the Open Space Strategy, Edinburgh Adapts, Edinburgh Sustainable Development Partnership, Edinburgh Partnership and helps to meet Scottish and UN targets for biodiversity conservation.

Key achievements of the EBP in 2016:

- **Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2016-18) approved and launched;**
- Contributed to a **Parliamentary event celebrating 20 years of Local Biodiversity Partnerships in Scotland;**
- **Local Biodiversity Sites and Local Geodiversity Sites** included in the **Local Development Plan** adopted in November 2016;
- **1 Local Nature Reserve declared** at Cammo Estate;
- **Edinburgh Living Landscape** initiative created and managed **66 floral and pollinator meadows, and 192 naturalised grasslands** on Council parks and greenspace;
- **Swift bricks** installation requested in **32 developments**

Contact:

Susan Falconer/
Caroline Peacock,
Biodiversity Officer,
Planning Initiatives
Team on 0131 469
3920 or
biodiversity@edinburgh.gov.uk

by the **Council's Planning service**;

- **Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust** have carried out a range of greenspace improvement projects with local communities, including a programme of **biodiversity improvements to cycleways in North Edinburgh**;
- **Three new wildflower meadows created** in Holyrood Park by Historic Environment Scotland as well as an ongoing programme of **monitoring and managing areas which support rare species** and the **important grassland** in the Park;

Some examples of public engagement in wildlife surveying, conservation and events led by partners:

- **116 volunteers** completed **449 hours** of conservation work through CEC Natural Heritage Service;
- **147 butterfly transects** and **50 bee transects** undertaken for CEC Natural Heritage Service;
- **1199 wildlife records** submitted at Duddingston Bioblitz event;
- **21 river clean-ups** organised by the **Water of Leith Conservation Trust**; and
- Public surveys led by **The Wildlife Information Centre** resulted in 1661 records for hedgehogs, 1308 records for birds of prey.

Forthcoming activities:

The Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership

As well as the continuation of the many long-running initiatives and programmes, some new priorities will be taken forward during 2017, including:

- Review the Local Biodiversity Sites network across Edinburgh to prioritise positive management and projects and their implementation, with an initial focus on Council owned sites.
- Co-ordinate meadow monitoring training using a Citizen Science approach to measure the benefits that different meadows offer.
- Establish new populations of rare plants at former historical sites around the city.
- Promote the importance of brownfield sites and green infrastructure for biodiversity and other benefits such as climate change adaptation.

