

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 27 February 2018

Eurocities Conference and Cities4Europe Initiative

Item number	8.3
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All
Council Commitments	C2 , C29 , C31 , C46

Executive summary

The Eurocities network has invited all member cities to engage with its new 'Cities4Europe' programme. The Committee is asked to consider and endorse Edinburgh's engagement in the programme and to note ongoing preparations for Edinburgh's hosting of the Eurocities 2018 conference on 28-30 November 2018.

Eurocities Conference and ‘Cities4Europe’ Initiative

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Consider and agree a commitment to engage with the Eurocities’ ‘Cities4Europe’ initiative, recognising the opportunity to link activities to those outlined for Scotland’s Year of Young People, and to the Eurocities 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and conference which will be hosted in Edinburgh in November, where the conclusions of the initiative will be presented;
 - 1.1.2 Note that the Lord Provost will represent Edinburgh at the Eurocities Mayors’ Summit on 7 May 2018 in Brussels, as part of the preparation of the programme and agenda for the Eurocities AGM and conference 2018;
 - 1.1.3 Note that, under the terms set out in Paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions, the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Council Leader has nominated the Convener of Housing and Economy to attend the Eurocities Executive Committee in Vienna on 27 and 28 February 2018;
 - 1.1.4 Note that follow up reports for both visits will be reported back to Committee as part of the Council’s process for international visits; and
 - 1.1.5 Refer this report to the Housing and Economy Committee, to update members on the progress made with the Eurocities AGM and conference.

2. Background

Eurocities Network and Annual Conference

- 2.1 Eurocities is the primary membership network of European Cities and Edinburgh has been a member for almost 30 years. At the meeting of the Council on 29 June 2017, the Lord Provost and the Convener of the Housing and Economy Committee were appointed as the Council’s representatives to the network.
- 2.2 Eurocities membership comprises both EU and non-EU member countries. As previously reported to Committee, the result of the UK referendum on membership of the European Union does not affect the status of Edinburgh’s membership of the network, nor its role as host. In fact, it offers an opportunity to help shape the future of Eurocities to ensure ongoing engagement and value for non-EU cities.

- 2.3 Last year the Council successfully bid to host the 2018 Eurocities AGM and conference which will take place in Edinburgh from 28 – 30 November 2018, on the theme of ‘Creative Competitive Cities’, with an agreed youth ambassador programme linked to Scotland’s Year of Young People 2018.

Cities4Europe

- 2.4 The Eurocities conference and AGM in Ljubljana in November 2017 agreed to launch a new initiative on 7 May 2018 called ‘Cities4Europe’ aimed at citizen outreach and citizen engagement across Europe, delivered through cities’ local democratic processes and participatory decision-making.
- 2.5 The purpose of the ‘Cities4Europe’ initiative is to address growing divisions and hostility in Europe and global challenges faced by cities.
- 2.6 The initiative will use the Eurocities platform of over 140 EU and non-EU cities to redefine, secure and deliver effective urban policies which respond to meeting the aspirations and expectations of citizens. This will include, for example, shared global understanding and leadership on issues such as equal opportunities, quality of life, and innovative delivery of high quality public services.
- 2.7 The conclusions of the initiative will form a significant part of the agenda of the political meetings during the Eurocities conference in November.
- 2.7 On 12 December 2017 the Education, Children and Families Committee considered a report on Scotland's [Year of Young People 2018](#) and opportunities for Schools and Lifelong Learning. This report referenced the opportunity to include the Council’s engagement with Eurocities and the Eurocities conference in November as part of the planned activities.

3. Main report

Eurocities AGM and Conference November 2018

- 3.1 Eurocities’ agenda for the AGM and conference will be influenced by a number of key developments, including the Eurocities response to the [Future of Europe](#) consultation, which, given the local and global themes and challenges addressed, remain relevant to both EU and non-EU member cities.
- 3.2 In addition, Eurocities new initiative, ‘[Cities4Europe](#)’ invites all member cities to deepen and build on local citizen engagement, and to share and promote opportunities for member cities to work with, and learn from, each other through joint projects. Eurocities has consistently campaigned for wider recognition of the fact that cities are closest to citizens in terms of understanding citizens’ needs and enabling and demonstrating participative democracy. Eurocities member cities have a long tradition of international cooperation and joint projects, and, through this initiative, are once again encouraged to bring forward

tested and new ways of engaging with citizens to deliver successful urban policies.

- 3.3 The conference theme is 'Creative Competitive Cities' and provides an excellent setting, within the world's first Festival City, to highlight culture and creative industries as clear opportunities for local engagement and inclusion and international outreach. The conference is a high profile and prestigious platform from which to showcase best practice in Edinburgh, and to share knowledge and ideas which address the key urban challenges faced by cities in Europe.
- 3.5 The event will take place at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre and will be attended by over 500 delegates including city mayors, leaders, elected members and officers from Eurocities member cities. Preparations for the conference are well underway through the Eurocities conference planning taskforce, with support from a professional conference organiser on logistics, website, delegate registration and engaging with key partners on programme development. There are a number of opportunities for sponsorship and outreach underway.

Eurocities Executive Committee and Mayors' Summit 2018

- 3.6 As the future conference host city, the Council is expected to play a significant role in ensuring the delivery of Eurocities political agenda in the run up to, and during the conference.
- 3.7 Edinburgh is being represented at the Eurocities Executive Committee in Vienna on 27 and 28 February 2018 by the Convener of Housing and Economy, Councillor Gavin Barrie.
- 3.8 The Housing and Economy Committee on [7 September 2017](#) approved the Lord Provost's attendance at the Mayors' Summit in Brussels on 7 May 2018, which will be hosted by Eurocities as part of the 'Cities4Europe' initiative.
- 3.9 The host city of the conference is exempt from paying a membership fee during the host year. This money will be used to meet the cost of attendance at these events.

'Cities4Europe' and Youth Theme

- 3.8 In recognition of the Scottish Year of Young People 2018 and through consultation with the Scottish Government and other partner agencies, there will be a sub-theme focus on young people during the Eurocities conference in 2018. A youth ambassador from Edinburgh was selected to travel to Ljubljana to attend the 2017 Eurocities conference as a learning and development opportunity as well as to advocate and support the promotion of youth legacy projects the 2018 conference. The report to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 12 December 2017 highlighted potential youth activities for 2018, some of which could possibly be aligned to the Cities4Europe initiative.

Cities4Europe – type of activities

- 3.9 Eurocities invites member cities to work together, for example as twin and partner cities, or groups of cities to share experience and undertake joint activities to engage citizens in the initiative. Examples from the Eurocities Brussels team which might be considered relevant for Edinburgh, and could draw on the youth theme of 2018 and the conference include:
- Creative art - 'My Europe 2050' in images;
 - Higher Education - exhibition with former Erasmus students 'Erasmus 10 years on';
 - Performance and entertainment - concerts/festival/street shows coordinated with sister cities and/or other Eurocities members;
 - Place making - guided cycle tours on European influence on the city;
 - Showcase - mobile exhibition in city libraries or public space featuring local citizens' initiatives;
 - Social media - young people sharing their experiences of being European, hopes for the future; and
 - Assemblies and debates - 'our future in Europe'.
- 3.10 Meetings are now taking place to advance ideas and projects on both the Creative Competitive Cities and young people themes.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 The hosting of the Eurocities conference and AGM is a significant undertaking for Edinburgh. The value from the event to the city will be maximised by the Council's and partners' input to the technical and political content during the planning of the conference. This will ensure that the city is showcased, that a relevant platform is created for international exchange of good practice and partnership, and that legacy projects are identified and secured, particularly for young people.
- 4.2 Feedback reports are provided on all international travel commitments made by elected members.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Funding for the hosting of the conference comes from delegate fees, partner contributions and sponsorship opportunities.
- 5.2 Funding for activities aligned to the 'Cities4Europe' initiative will be met from existing Council budgets and/or partner contributions.
- 5.3 The anticipated costs of travel to Vienna for the February 2018 meeting of the Eurocities ExCom meeting is £600 per person, dependent on the time of booking, to be met by the Eurocities membership fee set aside for 2018. The

cost of the visit to Brussels is still to be costed but will also be met from the Eurocities membership fee provision.

6. 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.

7. Equalities Impact

- 7.1 There are no equalities impacts arising from the above activities. The Council's International Strategy and Eurocities engagement plan supports the Council's commitment to equal opportunities.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Travel arrangements are made in accordance with the Council's Sustainable Travel Plan. While there are adverse impacts on air quality and noise associated with air travel, overland travel is often not considered to be practical given the time implications and cost savings on overnight accommodation.

9. Consultation and Engagement

- 9.1 The Council undertakes international activity in partnership with a wide range of partners in the city on a consultative basis. This includes a Team Edinburgh/Team Scotland approach linking closely to the Consular Corps, the Scottish Government, the Parliament, the city's investor and business base, the Higher Education Sectors, Festivals Edinburgh and Marketing Edinburgh.
- 9.2 Membership of Eurocities provides the Council with a channel for engaging across a range of service areas.

10. Background reading / external references

- 10.1 Background information held by Investment and International Relations Team
- 10.2 [Eurocities](#) website
- 10.3 [Future of Europe Consultation](#)

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