

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 19 June 2018

Invitation to Shanghai

Item number	9.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
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Executive Summary

This report provides details of an invitation received by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee from cultural production company AEMI to return to Shanghai in May 2018. The report asks the Committee to note the action taken under urgency provisions to allow the acceptance of the invitation for the Convener to return to Shanghai and be accompanied by the Vice-Convener.

Invitation to Shanghai

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the action taken by the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Convener and with the support of the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, in approving acceptance of the invitation by Councillor Wilson, Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee and Councillor McNeese-Mechan, Vice-Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee. This is under the urgency provisions set out at paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference.

2. Background

- 2.1 Production company AEMI draws performances from China to Edinburgh during the Festival period and promotes connections between producers and artists in Edinburgh and China. Working with the Edinburgh Magic Festival, AEMI is co-producing a new festival in Shanghai in June 2018, which will showcase productions from Edinburgh.
- 2.2 As a result of the first visit to Shanghai and the district of Jing'an in September 2017, AEMI and the Culture Bureau of Jing'an District, Shanghai have issued an invitation to the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee to lead and participate in a Culture Forum in Jing'an and to sign a Memorandum of Co-operation between this Committee and the Culture Bureau of Jing'an District, Shanghai.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee attended the pre-launch of a new festival in Shanghai in September 2017 which showcased cultural productions from Edinburgh. The visit and programme was arranged by AEMI.
- 3.2 AEMI produces a range of Chinese cultural activities and productions during the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and will build on these connections to present them in Shanghai.
- 3.3 The current invitation is for the Convener and Vice-Convener to attend a Culture Forum in Jing'an to discuss the history of the Edinburgh Festivals and how the City supports the Festivals.

- 3.4 A Memorandum of Co-operation between this Committee and the Culture Bureau of Jing'an District, Shanghai, will be signed promoting cultural exchange between Edinburgh and Jing'an.
- 3.5 A series of meetings with key officials from the Shanghai Municipal Government and the Jing'an District Government have been arranged to discuss mutual exchange of cultural productions to promote Edinburgh in Jing'an and vice versa.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 A feedback report on the visit and a copy of the Memorandum of Co-operation will be provided to the next meeting of this Committee in accordance with Council procedures.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The visit will be funded by AEMI.

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 direct equalities impacts arising from this report.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Travel arrangements will be made by AEMI and will be 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 not considered to be practical given the time implications.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The Council has engaged with Festivals Edinburgh and Festival partners. Festivals Edinburgh has a Memorandum of Understanding with the China Shanghai International Arts Festival.

10. Background reading/external references

10.1 None.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Elaine Ballantyne, Service Manager, Investment and International Relations

E-mail: elaine.ballantyne@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3854

Contact: David Waddell, Senior Events Officer

E-mail: david.waddell@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4929

11. Appendices

None.