

# Culture and Communities Committee

**10.00am, Tuesday, 11 September 2018**

## **Visit to Shanghai – Feedback Report**

<b>Item number</b>	9.1
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Executive/routine</b>	
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Council Commitments</b>	<a href="#">46</a>

### **Executive Summary**

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This report provides details of a visit by the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee to Shanghai in May 2018. The purpose of the visit was to participate in the International Forum for the Shanghai Modern Drama Valley Festival, to develop cultural links between Jing'an and Edinburgh, and to sign a Memorandum of Co-operation between the Culture and Communities Committee and the Culture Bureau of Jing'an District, Shanghai. A copy of the memorandum is appended to this report.

## Visit to Shanghai – Feedback Report

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the outcomes of the visit.

### 2. Background

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- 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.
- 2.2 As a result of an initial visit to Shanghai and the district of Jing'an in September 2017, the Culture Bureau of Jing'an District, Shanghai, 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.
- 2.3 The visit took place between 21 and 24 May 2018 in Shanghai, China.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 The Convener and Vice-Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee were invited by the Culture Bureau of Jing'an District, Shanghai, to participate in the International Forum of the China Modern Drama Valley Festival; to sign a Memorandum of Co-operation between Edinburgh and Jing'an; to meet with key officials from the Jing'an and Shanghai governments; and to participate in the awards and closing ceremony of the China Modern Drama Valley Festival and One Drama Awards.
- 3.2 The International Forum of the China Modern Drama Valley Festival was held on 22 May 2018 and was on the theme of 'Drama and the City: The Future of the Asian Performance Capital'.
- 3.3 The keynote speakers were HU Jinjin, Deputy Director of Communications Ministry of the Shanghai Municipal Government; LU Xiao Dong, Governor of the District of Jing'an; Councillors Wilson and McNeese-Mechan; and LOU Wei, Party Secretary for the Shanghai Theatre Academy.
- 3.4 Councillor Wilson gave a welcome address to the forum before the Memorandum of Co-operation was signed between the two partners. Later in the day Councillor

Wilson gave a keynote speech on the history and spirit of the Edinburgh Festivals and the ability of culture to reach beyond borders; Councillor McNeese-Mechan addressed the forum on how the Council and wider city partners support the festivals and the benefits to the city. Further addresses were given by several of Shanghai's cultural partners.



3.5 In the evening, Governor LU hosted the delegation at an official dinner to welcome his guests to Jing'an.



3.6 Day two included a visit to some of the street festival sites promoting joint activities between Edinburgh festivals and Jing'an, and a tour of Jing'an's key cultural sites.

3.7 The China Modern Drama Valley 'One Drama Awards' took place in the evening at the MeiXin Theatre in front of a large television audience on Chinese state television; Councillors Wilson and McNeese-Mechan were received as guests of

honour. During the awards the Memorandum of Co-operation and spirit of co-operation between Edinburgh and Jing'an were mentioned and applauded by the audience. Councillor McNeese-Mechan was invited on stage to present two awards.



- 3.8 Day three commenced with a tour of Shanghai's cultural sites and a private lunch with ZHANG Yu, Director of the Shanghai Jing'an Tourism Bureau to discuss the opportunities for mutual promotion of Edinburgh and Shanghai.
- 3.9 The Edinburgh International Festival has a Memorandum of Understanding with the China Shanghai International Arts Festival (CSIAF). As members of the Board of the Edinburgh International Festival, Councillors Wilson and McNeese-Mechan met with Catherine WANG, President of CSIAF, and WU Qiong, Director of the Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture, Radio, Film and TV. Councillors Wilson and McNeese-Mechan were updated on the work being delivered by CSIAF and the ongoing links between the Edinburgh International Festival and Shanghai. The Edinburgh Festivals Impact Study was of great interest to Mrs WU and copies have been sent to the Municipal Administration.

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

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- 4.1 Following the visit to Shanghai, a delegation from Jing'an visited Edinburgh in July and were welcomed by Councillor Wilson to the City Chambers to continue to develop the relationship between the two cities.
- 4.2 The Memorandum of Co-operation will allow more acts from the Edinburgh Festivals to be showcased within China and allow a reciprocal opportunity for Chinese acts in Edinburgh. Chinese productions continue to feature prominently within the Edinburgh Festivals programme and as a result of the close work between Scotland and China: the Chinese Culture and Art Festival is now an established part of the Fringe; the National Theatre of China's production of A Life

on the Silk Road at Edinburgh Zoo has been playing to sold out audiences throughout the Fringe.

## **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The visit was funded by AEMI. There was no financial impact on the Council.

## **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 direct equalities impacts arising from this report.
- 7.2 The Council's international work is delivered through the principal of democracy in action, respecting and promoting democratic freedoms both in Edinburgh and abroad. By engaging with international partners and a wide range of organisations across Edinburgh on projects and international visits, the Council both projects and encourages open society and fair government.

## **8. Sustainability impact**

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

## **9. Consultation and engagement**

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- 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

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10.1 Report to Culture and Communities Committee – [19 June 2018](#)

### **Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

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## 11. Appendices

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Appendix 1 – Memorandum of Co-operation between the Culture and Communities Committee and the Culture Bureau of Jing'an District, Shanghai.

# **Appendix 1**

## **Memorandum of Cooperation**

**between**

**Shanghai Jing'an District Government and  
the City of Edinburgh Council Culture and  
Communities Committee**

**Signatory (Party A):**

**Shanghai Jing'an District People's Government**

**Signatory (Party B):**

**Edinburgh Council Culture Committee**

In order to effectively promote the deep exchange between China and UK, the two parties take Shanghai Jing'an Modern Drama Valley and Edinburgh Festivals as cultural exchange platforms to carry out cultural exchange projects focusing on drama and sign the Memorandum of Cooperation:

1. The two parties will make their respective advantages and actively communicate in the areas of culture,

innovation and festival organization to jointly plan a series of activities.

2. The two parties will work together to support the cultural exchanges between Jing'an and Edinburgh, especially the exhibition, promotion of exhibitions and other projects related to the cultural industry.

( 1 ) The Jing'an District will invite the City of Edinburgh Council to visit the Modern Drama Valley in Shanghai and participate in the Edinburgh award-winning theatrical performances and showcases and the international drama forum in Jing'an.

( 2 ) Edinburgh City will support Shanghai Cultural Week in Edinburgh Fringe Festival through its connection with Jing'an District.

( 3 ) Both parties suggest as follow:

- Promote cooperation between independent creative artists between Shanghai Jing'an and Edinburgh.
- Promote artistic exchange between Shanghai Jing'an and Edinburgh.
- Participate in the "Momentum" project in the Edinburgh Festival ; the "Encounters" project in the



Edinburgh International Festival and the “Showcase” project of the British Council in 2019 on the premises of the successful applications.

- Promote exchanges and cooperation in the dramatic part between Edinburgh and Jing'an and fully consider the current state of independent management of Edinburgh-related theaters and Jingan-related theaters.

3. The two parties confirm that the Jing'an District Cultural Bureau designated by the People's Government of Jing'an District is responsible for the implementation of the specific issues of the cultural exchange platform and activities involved in this Memorandum, and will be the agency and channel for the cooperation of the Edinburgh Council Culture Committee and its international team.

The memorandum of cooperation will be signed by both parties in May 2018 and will take effect in Shanghai and Edinburgh. The memorandum includes both English and Chinese versions. Both are true and valid texts.

**Shanghai Jing'an District People's Government  
(Seal)**

**Chief of Jing'an District**

**Edinburgh Council Culture and Communities  
Committee (seal)**

**Chairperson**

2018.05.22