

Item 4.1 - Minutes

Culture and Sport Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday 20 October 2015

Present

Councillors Lewis (Convener), Austin Hart (Vice-Convener), Booth, Cardownie, Fullerton, Gardner, Heslop, Keil (substituting for Councillor Doran), Milligan, Munro, Shields and Paterson.

Also present: Councillor Jim Orr for consideration of item 7.3

1. Deputation - Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links - A Public Parks Event Space

The Committee agreed to hear a deputation from Heather Goodare, Convener of the Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

The deputation expressed support for the Transport and Environment Committee's decision to maintain the recently installed drainage to the Meadows to reduce flooding and raised the following additional points:

- There had been a general public consultation on the proposals but no specific consultation with the Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links or Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Advisory Groups.
- The installation of a permanent hard surface would contradict the Edinburgh Parks Manifesto
- The grass had recovered well after it was used by Underbelly for 33 days during the Festival period. Installation of a hard surface would therefore be unnecessary and render the park unsuitable for sporting activities.
- Change from grass to a reinforced surface was outwith development rights of local authorities and would therefore require planning permission.

The Convener thanked the deputation for their presentation and invited them to stay for the debate on the matter.

2. Public Parks Events Space

The Transport and Environment Committee on 25 August 2015 considered a report which identified suitable locations to create an events space for both high impact and recreational events. The report was referred to the Culture and Sport Committee for information.

Decision

To note the report.

(References – Transport and Environment Committee 25 August 2015 (item 10); report by the Acting Director of Services for Communities, submitted)

3. Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival Update

Information was given on the successes and governance procedures of the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival.

Councillor Jim Orr was heard in respect of overall governance issues relating to arts organisations in the City.

Decision

- 1) To note the success of the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival.
- 2) To note the governance procedures this organisation has in place.
- 3) To refer the report to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for information.

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Cardownie, Lewis and Milligan declared a non-financial interest in the above item as members of the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival.

(References – Culture and Sport Committee 18 August 2015 (item 10); report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted)

4. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Culture and Sport Committee of 18 August 2015 as a correct record.

5. Business Bulletin

The Culture and Sport Committee Business Bulletin for 20 October 2015 was presented.

Decision

To note the information set out in the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, 20 October 2015, submitted)

6. Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Culture and Sport Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for 20 October – 30 November 2015 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for 20 October - 30 November 2015.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan 20 October 2015 - 30 November 2015, submitted.)

7. Rolling Actions Log

The Culture and Sport Committee Rolling Actions Log for the period 20 August 2013 to 20 October 2015 was presented.

Decision

To note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Culture and Sport Committee Rolling Actions Log, submitted.)

8. Council Companies – Edinburgh Leisure Annual Report 2014/15

The Convener welcomed June Peebles, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Leisure, to the meeting. Ms Peebles provided an overview of the performance of Edinburgh Leisure for the year 2014/15.

The results for the year represented a £1m turnaround in the financial performance for the organisation, total customer visits were at just over 4.5million which was 2% behind target for the year. Funding was secured to continue to develop partnership working alongside Communities and Families.

Decision

- 1) To note the performance of Edinburgh Leisure during 2014/15.
- 2) To record the Committee's thanks and appreciation to the Edinburgh Leisure team and Board Members for their work and efforts in achieving excellent performance outcomes over the year.

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Booth, Lewis and Milligan declared a non-financial interest in the above item as Directors of Edinburgh Leisure.

(Reference – report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

9. Encouraging Live Music in Edinburgh: Update

The Convener welcomed Dr Adam Behr and Dr Matt Brennan of the University of Edinburgh to the meeting to present an overview of the key findings and recommendations of the Edinburgh Live Music Census.

The Committee considered an update on the progress of the Music is Audible Working Group and the work of the Live Music Matters Working Group. Details were provided on the current Council process for resolution of noise complaints about licensed premises

Decision

- 1) To note that the Music is Audible Working Group had begun consulting the Licensing Board and Forum on the Working Group's proposed changes to current licensing policy, and accompanying guidance for venues and Licensing Standards Officers, with the intention that the results should inform the Council's Cultural Policy review and the formal review of licensing policy anticipated in 2016, which would include consultation with the public.

- 2) To note that the remaining recommendations made in an independent report by the Music Venue Trust, commissioned by the MIA Working Group, would be assessed and taken forward as appropriate by Council officers and representatives of the MIA working group and that an action plan would be presented to Committee in Spring 2016.
- 3) To note the substantial economic contribution made by live music to Edinburgh, as established by a census of live music undertaken by the University of Edinburgh on 6 June 2015.
- 4) To note that this census provided a point of reference for monitoring the success of the Council's live music project.
- 5) To note that the Edinburgh Licensing Board required publication of its new Statement of Licensing Policy by 30 November 2016 and the Scottish Government was currently agreeing arrangements for commencement of parts of the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015.
- 6) To note that actions arising from this project would be included in the cultural policy work which would be reported to Committee in November 2015 and that a further update would be provided in Spring 2016.
- 7) To refer the report to the Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee for information.
(References – Culture and Sport Committee 16 December 2014 (item 8); report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted)

10. Evaluation of Free Swimming Programme

Details were provided on the funds allocated for the delivery of mixed swimming initiatives which included a free swimming programme for primary school children.

Decision

- 1) To note that £125,000 of allocated funds had been expended in the delivery of a mixed programme of swimming initiatives.
- 2) To note that Edinburgh Leisure had contributed a further £10,000 to allow the free swimming programme to be extended to include Easter 2015.

(References – Act of Council No 12 of 28 May 2015; report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

11. Sports Grants and Coach Education

Information was given on the financial support offered to sport and physical activity event providers which helped to achieve the important strategic outcomes of the Council's Physical Activity and Sport Strategy.

Decision

- 1) To note the Physical Activity and Sport Grants paid under delegated authority in 2015/16.
- 2) To note the Active Edinburgh events funding paid under delegated authority in 2015/16.
- 3) To note the coaching scholarship payments made to sport coaches from August 2014/2015.
- 4) To note the development of Positive Coaching Scotland and Coaching Edinburgh.

(References – Culture and Sport Committee 10 March 2015 (item 8); report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

12. Corporate Performance Framework: Performance to August 2015

Information was provided on the performance of the Council against the Culture and Sport strategic outcomes.

Decision

To note the performance for the period to August 2015.

(References – Culture and Sport Committee 9 June 2015 (item 7); report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)

13. Update on the Review of Council grants to Third Parties 2015/16: Cultural Funded Organisations

An update was given on the review of the Council's cultural grants together with an outline of the cultural strategic direction of the council.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress to date on reviewing grants and payments made by the Culture and Sport service within the scope of the wider corporate review.
- 2) To note the 10% savings set against this grants programme in relation to the Council Transformation programme.
- 3) To note that the Culture and Sport Committee's consideration of the Cultural Policy review's outcome in November 2015 would further inform the strategic priorities for the cultural grants budget from 2017/18.
- 4) To note the interim approach to improving the revenue funding application processes developed through co-production workshops with funded organisations, which took place in September 2015.
- 5) To note that detailed financial health assessments for those currently in receipt of funding had been carried out and were summarised within the report.
- 6) To approve the approach to exploring whether new co-production partnerships could be established, for example between existing funded organisations and the

Council's Museums and Galleries, Usher Hall and other Council services with a culture focus.

- 7) To approve the approach to developing a new open fund to support emerging performing arts individuals and organisations, and the planned co-production consultation for this fund, subject to the availability of sufficient funding (from the Council, complemented by other funders and partners), and all Council Transformation savings being achieved.

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Booth, Lewis and Munro declared a non-financial interest in the above item as Directors of the Edinburgh International Festival.

Councillor Lewis declared a non-financial interest as a non-executive Director of the Royal Lyceum Theatre Company, Traverse Theatre Observer and Director of Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

(References – Culture and Sport Committee 26 May 2015 (item 5); report by the Deputy Chief Executive, submitted.)