

# Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Friday 1 February 2019

## **Petition – Edinburgh Central Library v Virgin Hotel - referral from the Education, Children and Families Committee**

<b>Item number</b>	8.10
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Wards</b>	All

### **Executive summary**

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The Education, Children and Families Committee on 11 December 2018 considered the attached report by the Chief Executive providing details of a petition which had been submitted in respect of the Edinburgh Central Library.

The report has been referred to the Finance and Resources Committee for consideration of that part of the petition relating to subject matter not within the remit of the Education, Children and Families Committee.

# Terms of Referral

## Petition – Edinburgh Central Library v Virgin Hotel

### Terms of referral

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- 1.1 On 11 December 2018, the Education, Children and Families Committee considered the attached report by the Chief Executive setting out details of a petition which had been submitted in respect of the Edinburgh Central Library.
- 1.2 The petition called on the Council to:
  - 1.2.1 request a detailed report on Edinburgh Central Library as a flagship cultural project of national and international significance commensurate with existing professional advice to the Council and the Council's own reports.
  - 1.2.2 request a detailed report on purchasing back land and buildings which formed part of the India Buildings hotel-led development, sold by the Council without a full consultation on the implications for the Central Library.
- 1.3 Neil Simpson, the principal petitioner, was heard in relation to the detail of the petition and stressed the importance of safeguarding the Category A listed Central Library as a key resource in the literary and cultural landscape of Edinburgh.
- 1.4 The Education, Children and Families Committee agreed:
  - 1.4.1 To note the terms of the petition.
  - 1.4.2 To request that the annual report on the Lifelong Learning Plan scheduled for October 2019 included within it options for the Central Library drawing on past and current studies and feasibility exercises and a clear vision for its role in the city's cultural landscape.
  - 1.4.3 To note that the second request in the petition set out at paragraph 1.2.2 above did not fall within the remit of the Education, Children & Families Committee; therefore, to agree to refer that part of the petition to the Finance and Resources Committee for its consideration.

## For Decision/Action

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- 2.1 The Finance and Resources Committee is asked to consider requesting a detailed report on purchasing back land and buildings which formed part of the India Buildings hotel-led development as set out in paragraph 1.2.2 above.

## Background reading / external references

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**Act of Council No.2 of 22 June 2017**

**Webcast of Education, Children and Families Committee – 11 December 2018**

### **Laurence Rockey**

Head of Strategy and Communications

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## Links

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### **Appendix**

**Petition for Consideration – Edinburgh Central Library vs Virgin Hotel** - report by the Chief Executive

# Education, Children and Families Committee

**10.00am, Tuesday, 11 December 2018**

## **Petition for Consideration: Edinburgh Central Library vs Virgin Hotel**

**Item number**

**Report number**

**Executive/routine**

**Wards**

Executive

City Centre

### **Executive Summary**

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The City of Edinburgh Council at its meeting on 22 June 2017 agreed the Petitions Committee be discontinued and that petitions would be sent to the responsible executive committees or in future locality committees for consideration.

The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to consider a petition at this meeting.

## Edinburgh Central Library vs Virgin Hotel

### 1. Summary

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- 1.1 The Committee is asked to consider a petition.
- 1.2 A valid petition entitled 'Edinburgh Central Library vs Virgin Hotel' has been received. The petition received 127 signatures.

### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 To consider the terms of the petition 'Edinburgh Central Library vs Virgin Hotel' as set out in Appendix one.

### 3. Measures of success

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- 3.1 There are no immediate measures of success applicable to this report.

### 4. Financial impact

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- 4.1 There are no financial impacts arising from the consideration of the petition.

### 5. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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- 5.1 There are no risk, policy, compliance and governance impacts arising from the consideration of the petition.

### 6. Equalities impact

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- 6.1 There are no equalities impacts arising from the consideration of the petition.

### 7. Sustainability impact

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- 7.1 There are no sustainability impacts arising from the consideration of the petition.

### 8. Consultation and engagement

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- 8.1 There are no consultation or engagement requirements at this part of the process.

### 9. Background reading/external references

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- 9.1 Minute of the City of Edinburgh Council 22 June 2017

**Andrew Kerr**

Chief Executive

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## 10. Links

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**Council Priorities**

**Single Outcome  
Agreement**

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Petition - Edinburgh Central Library vs Virgin Hotel

# Appendix 1 - Edinburgh Central Library vs Virgin Hotel

Date made available for signatures	Date closed for signatures	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected
20 July 2018	16 November 2018	<p><b>Edinburgh Central Library vs Virgin Hotel</b></p> <p>We the under-signed call for the City of Edinburgh Council to safeguard the Category A listed Central Library, a key resource in the literary and cultural landscape of the nation's capital, and:</p> <p>1) Require a detailed report on Edinburgh Central Library as a flagship cultural project of national/international significance commensurate with existing professional advice to the Council and the Council's own reports*.</p> <p>2) Require a detailed report on purchasing back land and buildings which form part of the India Buildings hotel-led development, sold by the Council without a full consultation on the implications for the Central Library.</p>	City Centre