

Motions and Amendments

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00 am Thursday, 5th October, 2023

Dean of Guild Court Room - City Chambers

Motions and Amendments

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Addendum by the SNP Group

Culture & Communities Committee

5 October 2023

Item 7.1 – Amplification of sound in public spaces

Adds to recommendations:

2.1.1 Acknowledges the disproportionate impact of amplified busking for residents living in close proximity to Portobello Prom or within the City Centre Ward and that whilst this may be enjoyed by transient visitors to the area it presents serious challenges to maintaining the liveability of these areas.

2.1.2 Further acknowledges that many residents have simply stopped reporting noise complaints due to the lack of action or response from CEC or Police Scotland and that data taken from during the pandemic is unlikely to be useful when understanding the usual state of play.

2.1.3 Agrees that a byelaw could present a simple and clear set of rules around amplification in public spaces and crucially the means to enforce it and therefore requests officers continue to build the evidence base required to introduce it.

2.1.4 Understands one-way residents have felt supported in previous years is through the deployment of lamppost wraps and signage that clearly displays the CEC busking policy and rules but regrets that their effectiveness has been limited to the ad hoc nature of their deployment due to:

- Lack of capacity within council signage team.
- Unauthorised removal of the signage.
- Inconsistent locations & key areas not being covered.
- The signage arriving too late into the year and being removed prematurely before prime busking season ends.

2.1.5 Therefore agrees to a further report in two cycles to the Culture and Communities Committee outlining a formalised approach to busking signage with set locations, time of year for deployment and identifying resource to support a standardised annual approach to their implementation.

This report should further outline options for how the Council can consider the more active management of on-street activities referenced in the report. These options should explore direct proposals with costings in advance of the following years budget setting proposals for Groups.

Moved by: Cllr Finlay McFarlane
Seconded by: Cllr Amy McNeese-Mechan

Amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group

Culture and Communities Committee

5th October 2023

Item 7.1 – Amplification of Sound in Public Spaces

Deletes all the recommendations and replaces with:

Committee notes

1. On 28th October 2021 Council approved a motion on the Amplification of Sound in Public Spaces. In it there was a request for the Convenor of Regulatory to write to Ben Macpherson, the then Minister for Local Government in Scotland, to request additional powers to allow the Council to effectively control the amplification of sound in public spaces under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. A response was received on 22nd December 2021 saying that this was being looked into. The Regulatory Committee agreed to write a follow up letter and received a further response from the Minister on 8th August 2022 with no further progress.
2. 4.4 of the report states *However, excessive noise from busking was highlighted as having a significant impact on residents and businesses nearby, especially where the busker has a limited repertoire.*

Therefore, Committee agrees

3. To commence the process of drafting an appropriate byelaw to allow for the control of the amplification of sound in public spaces.
4. That the Council should continue to monitor busking, engage with buskers who are using amplification to encourage them to moderate the volume and where appropriate, seek support from Police Scotland to address excessive noise.

Moved by: Cllr Neil Ross

Seconded by: Cllr Hal Osler

Amendment by the Green Group

Culture and Communities Committee

5 October 2023

Item 7.1 - Amplification of Sound in Public Spaces

Committee recognises:

1. The immense cultural contribution of buskers to the culture of Edinburgh
2. That provision should be made for buskers to perform in a way that balances their right to perform and for audiences to listen to their music with the need to protect the wellbeing of residents,
3. That some residents, including but not limited to those who live in the City centre ward, can be disturbed by loud and prolonged busking in the same place

Committee notes:

1. The opinion of officers that the evidence threshold to lodge an application for a bylaw has not been met

Committee therefore approves the recommendations of the report with the following amendments:

1. Delete 1.1.3
2. Renumber accordingly
3. Insert new point at end of list as follows: "Request report for the December meeting of the Culture and Communities Committee detailing:
 - a. The evidence threshold for lodging a bylaw application
 - b. How it was determined that this has not been met
 - c. The feasibility of working with the artist community to identify public spaces in the city centre which could be promoted as good places to busk with good practices agreed by all stakeholders

d. The outcome of the discussions with the Scottish Government

Moved by: Councillor Dan Heap
Seconded by:

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

Culture and Communities Committee

5 October 2023

Item 7.2 - Trees in the City – Tree Management Policies

Committee

Adds the following;

1.1.4 Notes that at 4.7 the report states that “any remaining actions will be carried forward under the strategic direction of Edinburgh Million Tree City.”

1.1.5 Therefore requests that the overdue Million Tree City annual update come to Committee at its February 2024 meeting, including an update on those outstanding actions.

1.1.6 Notes the Ash Dieback Action Plan report received by committee in March 2023.

1.1.7 Agrees that, once the Tree Management Policies have been agreed, the Million Tree City Annual Updates should become the main avenue for regular reporting on the state of trees in Edinburgh and that other regular reports on trees should be folded into that reporting.

1.1.8 That this should include but not be limited to; updates on numbers of trees planted, and removed in the year, canopy cover and species diversity, and efforts to manage and maintain newly planted trees to ensure their survival.

1.1.9 Additionally, requests officers work with colleagues in the flooding team to determine how the Management Policies can best be used to support flood mitigation efforts where projects are being undertaken, and report this back to committee via the Business Bulletin within three cycles.

Moved by: Cllr Ed Thornley

Seconded by: Cllr Hal Osler

Addendum by the Green group

Culture and Communities Committee

5 October 2023

Item 7.2 - Trees in the City – Tree Management Policies

Adds:

- 1.1.4 Welcomes the report and changes / additions to the tree management and protection policies, recognising that these demonstrate a renewed focus and commitment to trees across the city, in line with the Council's declaration of a nature emergency.
- 1.1.5 Notes that a renewed Climate Adaptation strategy is due at Policy and Sustainability committee and that trees will have a prominent role to play in this strategy, and therefore ought to be prioritised for investment.
- 1.1.6 Recognises that this update largely covers an operational approach to tree management but that there are still wider strategic aims which Committee may wish to strengthen in order to improve outcomes for trees in the city and deliver other co-benefits relating to this, including (but not limited to):
 - 1.1.6.1 Understanding what additional resource would be required to replace trees which have died in recent years owing to inadequate aftercare, and to increase canopy cover to a sufficient level to meet the needs of the changing climate and manage the risks associated with this
 - 1.1.6.2 Reviewing the standard materials used in tree beds in order to deliver wider benefits for biodiversity and create corridors of planting for pollinators
 - 1.1.6.3 Reviewing what proactive engagement happens with residents at the onset of planting of street trees to encourage greater community engagement, including highlighting how residents can support with tree watering and maintenance
- 1.1.7 Agrees that the renewed focus on tree maintenance rather than just planting means that KPIs relating to trees / forestry in the Council ought to be revised to commit the Council to targets around not just planting trees but keeping trees alive

for years after their initial planting, and that these should be covered as part of routine reports to Committee.

- 1.1.8 Further agrees that other targets relating to community engagement with tree planting and delivering wider benefits for biodiversity should be developed and included in routine reporting to Committee.
- 1.1.9 Notes that the update on the Million Tree City is overdue, requests that this comes to Committee in December 2023 and includes consideration of all of the above, as well as ideas about what a more robust, routine reporting schedule for tree management might look like, for agreement by Committee.
- 1.1.10 Further agrees that a future meeting of the Sustainability, Climate and Nature Emergencies APOG should include discussion of the Million Tree City strategy and tree management policies for additional scrutiny, and to set out how this work sits in the wider strategic context relating to climate adaptation and mitigation, and actions to tackle the nature emergency.

Moved by: Cllr Ben Parker
Seconded by:

Addendum by the SNP Group

Culture and Communities Committee

5 October 2023

Item 7.3 – Use of public spaces for events and filming

Adds:

1.1.3 Noting the impact that events and filming can have on residents and therefore the importance of this policies success, agrees for a full review of the policy within one calendar year of implementation.

1.1.4 Requests that a new button is added to the Council's main "Report It" page that directs comments through to the Public Spaces Inbox referenced in the report for public space events and filming complaints.

Moved by: Councillor Finlay McFarlane

Seconded by: Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

Culture and Communities Committee

5 October 2023

Item 7.3 – Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming

Committee

Notes on page 13 of the Guidance for Events Organisers that there is a process to follow if complaints are received.

adds

1.1.3 Agrees all complaints gathered through publicspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk will be collated and sent to the relevant service manager for their attention and included in the updates to the Festivals All Party Oversight Group.

Moved by: Cllr Hal Osler

Seconded by: Cllr Ed Thornley

Amendment by the Green Group

Culture and Communities Committee

5 October 2023

Item 7.3 - Use of public spaces for events and filming

Committee notes that

1. At the December 2022 meeting, it amended the list of principles as specified in the motion by Councillor Heap in their amendment, available at: [Public Pack\)Motions and Amendments Agenda Supplement for Culture and Communities Committee, 13/12/2022 10:00 \(edinburgh.gov.uk\)](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/motions-and-amendments-agenda-supplement-for-culture-and-communities-committee-13/12/2022-10:00)
2. These amendments do not appear in the principles presented at today's meeting (5 October 2023)
3. This was the result of a minor administrative error in the production of the papers for this meeting

Committee therefore approves the recommendations of the report with the following amendments to the principles:

1. Insert after "(Appendices 3 and 4)", "with the following amendments"
 - a. At principle 12, before "built", insert new sentence "Event organisers should be asked to demonstrate how they going to avoid, entirely where possible, or if not possible, minimise, damage to built and green areas"
 - b. In the section titled "Economic", insert "and social and community benefits" in title. At end of principle 6, insert a paragraph break and then a new sentence. "Organisers may be asked to provide some Community Benefits. These should be substantial and tangible for the local community and proportionate to the size of the event."
 - c. In principle 17, before "living" insert "real" and after "wage" insert "as defined by the Living Wage Foundation"

Moved by: Councillor Dan Heap

Seconded by:

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Committee – Culture & Communities

5 October 2023

Item 7.3 – Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming

Inserts as recommendation 1.1.3:

“Agrees that the Council’s ‘Report It’ website will have an additional link and ‘Report It’ function page added specifically in relation to events to allow for simple and immediate raising of any issues or disturbances with the Council. Further agrees that this link can be included on the page referenced in 5.1.3.”

Moved by: Councillor Max Mitchell

Seconded by: Councillor Marie-Clair Munro

Addendum by the SNP Group

Culture and Communities Committee

5 October 2023

Item 7.4 – Third Party Cultural Grants – Strategic Partnerships Funding Programme Review

Adds:

2.1 Noting that the budget allocation has been standstill for several years, requests officers produce a short report ahead of the forthcoming budget setting to outline what Edinburgh Councils Third Party Cultural Grants revenue budget would be if it had increased in-line with inflation.

2.1.1 This report should include a rough estimate of what impact such an increase would have on the scope and sustainability of the city's key cultural infrastructure and deliverability of the Councils Business Plan and Cultural Strategy.

Moved by: Councillor Finlay McFarlane

Seconded by: Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan

Addendum by the SNP Group

Culture and Communities Committee

5 October 2023

Item 7.5 – Bonfire Night

Adds:

1.2 Notes that Bonfire Night falls on Sunday the 5th and therefore we should expect activity throughout the duration of the weekend on the 3rd 4th and 5th of November.

1.3 Requests Officers engage with colleagues in Parks to put measures in place to ensure health and safety measures are in place for public parks. This should include a focus on restricting vehicle access and ensuring public safety on Calton Hill.

1.4 Notes thanks to Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, LAYC and partners in addition to our own Council teams for their hard work and dedication to keeping people safe at this time of year.

Moved by: Councillor Finlay McFarlane

Seconded by: Councillor Fiona Glasgow

Addendum by the SNP Group

Culture and Communities Committee

5 October 2023

Item 7.10 – Sprint World Orienteering Championships – Budget Update

1.2 Agrees the further funding allocation to honour the Council's longstanding historic commitment to the organisers to deliver this event and noting that officers have advised this decision will have no adverse effect on planned events in 2024/25.

1.3 Requests that Council Officers work with Sprint to maximise the community engagement and legacy benefits of the event, keeping the Festivals and Events APOG up to date with developments and with a further report back to Culture and Communities Committee upon the event's conclusion detailing how the extent and reach of such activity and what was undertaken.

1.4 Recognises that the funding priorities and financial climate of the Council have substantially changed since the decision to proceed with the World Orienteering Championships alongside the cost of hosting such events due to inflationary pressure.

1.4 Therefore agrees that a review of the aims and values that guide allocation of funds from the Events Budget, in terms of what projects the Council decides to proceed with is required and should be undertaken alongside the work underway to create a Physical activity and sports strategy for the city. This could provide a way to ensure tangible community benefit to the city's sports clubs and communities.

Moved by: Councillor Finlay McFarlane

Seconded by: Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan

Addendum by the Green Group

Culture and Communities Committee

5 October 2023

Item 7.10 - Sprint World Orienteering Championships: Budget Update

Committee :

1. Notes that it would have benefitted from more opportunities to engage with Edinburgh's involvement in the World Sprint Orienteering Championships as planning developed given concerns about overspend and value for money
2. Expresses concern about whether the scale of the funding provided is justified, as it has received limited information on the case for the Council's financial commitment
3. Regrets that delay to the decision on funding is likely not possible given the advanced nature of the preparations
4. Committee therefore asks for an update from officers on:
 5. How funding decisions on large events are made, including the criteria and how this relates to the Council's wider strategic priorities outlined in the Business Plan, including specific consideration of how events contribute to the Council's actions to meet net zero by 2030
 6. Whether what an appropriate balance between local, national and international events is considered, and how local communities are or can be involved in this process
 7. How the benefits for the city are assessed and presented for scrutiny, taking into account the new use of public spaces for filming and event policy, if passed
 8. How Councillors are kept informed about large events that Council funding is being provided for, especially in cases where event costs are escalating

Moved by: Cllr Dan Heap

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Green Group

Culture and Communities Committee

5 October 2023

Item 9.3 - Events budgeting

Committee recognises:

1. That there is a Climate Emergency
2. The climate and environmental impact of large events

Motion amended as follows:

3. Insert after “priorities”, including the Net Zero strategy and the Business Plans’s three aims: Create good places to live and work; End Poverty in Edinburgh and Become a Net Zero city, ”

Moved by: Councillor Dan Heap

Seconded by:

Emergency Motion by the Administration

Culture and Communities Committee

5 October 2023

Emergency Motion – Creative Scotland Funding Cut by Scottish Government

Committee:

Notes the Scottish Government has reimposed the cut of £6.6 m to Creative Scotland's budget putting many of Edinburgh and Scotland's creative industry partners at huge risk of survival.

Notes the significance and value of arts and cultural organisations to the residents, communities, and economy of Edinburgh; and

Notes the importance of access to, and participation in Edinburgh's cultural offering by Edinburgh residents and community groups, and the detrimental impact such a funding cut will have in that regard.

Asks the Council Leader:

To write to the Cabinet Secretary, Edinburgh's MSPs and MPs, to convey Council's concern, and to enlist their support for this cut be reversed; and

To host an urgent summit which brings together representatives from the creative industry and cultural sector to discuss the impact this Scottish Government decision to cut funding will have upon the creative industry sector, and upon citizen and community access to, and participation in, the cultural offering of Edinburgh.

Moved by: Councillor Val Walker

Seconded by: Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Emergency Motion by the Conservative Group

Committee – Culture & Communities

5 October 2023

Item – Creative Scotland Funding

Committee:

1. Is alarmed by the Scottish Government's last-minute decision to reimpose a budget reduction on Creative Scotland of £6.6m and the impact this may have on Edinburgh's cultural industries as well as those across Scotland.
2. Is concerned that Creative Scotland is having to use more than a third of its National Lottery reserves.
3. Thanks the over 13,500 signatories of Campaign for the Arts' petition.

Committee therefore agrees that:

4. The Convener will write to the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture to
 - (a) express the Committee's dismay at and opposition to the Scottish Government's decision to reduce Creative Scotland's budget by £6.6million,
 - (b) insist he and the Scottish Government honour the commitment made in February 2023 to "uplift" Creative Scotland's budget and urgently reinstate the £6.6m in full, and
 - (c) encourage him to commit to increasing, or at the very least maintaining, Creative Scotland funding from 2024/25.

Moved by: Councillor Max Mitchell

Seconded by: Councillor Marie-Clair Munro

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