

Minutes

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 17 November 2020

Present

Councillors Wilson (Convener), McNeese-Mechan (Vice-Convenor), Arthur (substituting for Councillor Doran), Brown, Dixon (substituting for Councillor Fullerton), Doggart, Key, Mitchell, Osler, Staniforth and Rae.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 15 September 2020 and 30 October 2020 as correct records.

2. Work Programme

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme 17 November 2020, submitted.)

3. Rolling Actions Log

The Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note that officers were engaged with stakeholders regarding the Public Space Management Plan and thereafter would carry out a consultation once the Committee had been provided with the draft and to circulate an update to members.
- 2) To note the Rolling Actions Log.
- 3) To update the rolling actions log to reflect decisions taken at this meeting and otherwise note the outstanding actions.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Work Programme
November 2020, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin

Decision

To note the business bulletin.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Work Business Bulletin 17
November 2020, submitted.)

5. Presentation – Capital Theatres Company Performance Report 2019/20

Fiona Gibson, the Chief Executive of Capital Theatres Trust presented on activity during 2019 and 2020. The focus of the presentation reflected on a successful period, however the impact of the outbreak of Coronavirus from March 2020 had forced theatres to close and had compromised income. Performances were being delivered digitally while theatres had closed and this innovative solution had allowed for new audiences to be reached however the loss of box office income, particularly associated with pantomime season, and the uncertainty for when theatres would be permitted to reopen were highlighted as areas for financial concern.

Decision

To note the presentation.

Declaration of Interests

Councillors McNeese-Mechan, Mitchell and Wilson declared non-financial interests in the above item as Board Members for Capital Theatres Trust.

6. Capital Theatres Company Performance Report 2019/20

The seventh annual performance report was presented and prepared as a requirement of the Services and Funding Agreement process which was adopted in 2013/14.

Capital Theatres had another successful year in 2019/20 which had offered a relevant reference point from which to acknowledge the subsequent impacts of COVID-19 since March 2020. The continued strong financial and programme performance in 2019/20 had subsequently served to highlight the exceptional business resilience and management of the Trust for the first several months of the crisis. Following a short delay in progress and planning in the light of COVID-19, Capital Theatres now

continued with the development of the King's Theatre Capital Project and formal reporting would be re-introduced into the committee calendar.

Decision

- 1) To note the positive performance of Capital Theatres during 2019/20.
- 2) To note that the report focused on the COVID-19 crisis and the subsequent fundamental impact and essential mitigation, advocacy and revised planning activity which had to be implemented by Capital Theatres since March 2020.
- 3) To refer this report to Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.
- 4) The Executive Director of Place and Chief Executive of Capital Theatres to consider how to engage with the Edinburgh Health and Health and Social Care Partnership to explore opportunities for those resident in care homes with dementia to share their stories and experiences, especially with respect to their experiences of restrictions in World War 2 and the synergies with life in lockdown for school children also facing restrictions.

Declaration of Interests

Councillors McNeese-Mechan, Mitchell and Wilson declared non-financial interests in the above item as Board Members for Capital Theatres Trust.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

7. Adelaide/Edinburgh Cultural Co-operation Project and Memorandum of Understanding

An update on the successful visit to Adelaide by the Director of Culture in February 2019 and the equally positive return visit by the Chief Executive of the City of Adelaide and the Associate Director, Customer and People to Edinburgh in August 2019 was shared with Committee. Approval was sought to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the intended update on co-operation in 2020 between the two cities had not taken place, as a direct result of the COVID-19 emergency. Edinburgh and Adelaide would continue their co-operative relationship however due to COVID-19, the plans for 2020 had been suspended and would be reviewed. The review would be informed by the planning impacts of COVID-19 on cultural recovery priorities.

Decision

- 1) To note the exchange of visits between Edinburgh and Adelaide between February 2019 and August 2019.
- 2) To note that the focus that was intended for 2020 on co-operation on Adelaide's aspirations to seek and secure UNESCO World Heritage Status for the

Adelaide Parklands and wider South Australia Hills had been directly impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.

- 3) To note that the relationship between the cities was retained and would be informed by cultural recovery planning priorities;
- 4) To approve the Memorandum of Understanding that the Council had approved the Edinburgh International Activity priorities on future international engagement.

(Reference –report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

8. Allotment and Food Growing Provision Update

An update on the allotment and food growing provision supported by the Council and considered whether priority should be given to those applicants referred for horticultural therapy by medical professionals.

Decision

- 1) To note the measures undertaken to date to increase allotment provision and to support and expand the network and the number of community gardens and food growing initiatives.
- 2) To approve the process for applicants referred to the service by medical professionals for horticultural therapy.
- 3) To agree to consider different opportunities for food growing, such as food growing on rooftops, taking into consideration issues such biodiversity.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee, 6 October 2020 (item 17); referral from the Policy and Sustainability Committee submitted.)

9. Cemetery Tour Guide Operator Registration Scheme

The Policy and Sustainability Committee had referred a report on the Council's risk appetite statement to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for consideration.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of this report.
- 2) To approve that a Cemetery Tour Guide Operator Registration Scheme be introduced with a code of conduct.
- 3) To approve that a review of the scheme and an update on progress would be submitted to this committee on an annual basis.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Staniforth declared a financial interest as he had worked as a tour guide and had planned to work as a tour guide in the future and left the virtual teams meeting during the Committee's consideration of the above item.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee, 15 September 2020 (item 5); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

10. Review of the Community Council Complaints Procedure

Minor changes were proposed to the Community Council Complaints Procedure to provide additional clarity and improve the robustness of procedures.

Decision

- 1) To agree that proposed changes to the Community Council Complaints Procedure as detailed at Appendix 1 would take effect for complaints received from 18 November 2020 onwards.
- 2) To agree there would be a full review in 2 cycles and that consultation would take place with all community councils to ensure that they were aware of what was required and to give them the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Osler declared a non-financial interest in the above item as she was previously a community councillor and her husband was a Community Councillor.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

11. Appointment of Working Groups Update

Working Groups appointed by the Committee had not met during 2019 and 2020 and the Committee agreed on 15 September 2020 to consider the ongoing relevance of each of the Working Groups in consultation with the Working Group Chairs

Decision

- 1) To agree to the ongoing appointment of the Meadowbank Sports Centre and Stadium Working Group and the Tourism and Communities Working Group.
- 2) To agree to conclude the CCTV Working Group.
- 3) To agree to receive six monthly update reports updates and progress of the Public Realm Upgrade, in lieu of the ongoing appointment of the CCTV Working Group.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee, 15 September 2020 (item 7); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

12. Update on Cultural Strategy Diversity Programme

Since the commencement of the Diversity Officer's post with the Culture Service in September 2019, a series of activities and initiatives has been developed to best understand and respond to the needs and ambitions of local ethnically diverse artists and creatives. An update was provided on the programme of activities and projects planned, developed and delivered with the aim of ensuring greater visibility and recognition of the diversity of people and narratives in Edinburgh's arts and culture sector. It had also increased cross-sector partnership working and dialogue surrounding diversity and inclusion in the arts and culture sector in Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress of the Diversity Programme through developing the network of ethnically diverse artists and creatives based in Edinburgh; and creating programmes, initiatives and opportunities that respond to the needs of the network.
- 2) To note the partnerships developed with local arts, culture and community organisations with the aim of increasing visibility and representation of ethnically diverse artists and creatives, their work and narratives across the sector; and promoting the importance of diversity and inclusion principles at workplace and in decision-making processes as well as creating pathways into balanced collaboration and co-curation.
- 3) To agree that a Diversity and Inclusion Grant Programme report would be provided in Autumn 2021 and to note that the recipient projects would be monitored throughout the interim period;
- 4) To agree that a Professional Development Programme outcomes report would be provided in Autumn 2021;
- 5) To agree that a final Diversity Programme Report including legacy outcomes and next steps would be provided in Autumn 2021.
- 6) To engage with school pupils to ensure that they felt that they were represented in the Diversity programme.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

13. Place Directorate - Revenue Monitoring 2020/21 – Month Five Position

The projected month five revenue monitoring position for the Place Directorate services was presented. The month five forecast was based on analysis of actual expenditure and income to the end of August 2020, and expenditure and income projections for the remainder of the 2020/2021 financial year.

Decision

- 1) To note the Place 'business as usual' revenue budget forecast for 2020/2021 was a projected £1.710m overspend (excluding Covid-19 impact) including a forecast budget underspend of £0.650m for services within the remit of this Committee;
- 2) To note the Place revenue budget forecast for 2020/2021 in respect of the net cost impact of Covid-19 was forecast to be circa £28m. £3.616m of this budget pressure related to services within the remit of this Committee;
- 3) To note that the Executive Director of Place was taking measures to reduce budget pressures and progress would be reported to Committee at agreed frequencies.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Rae declared a non-financial interest in as she was a council house tenant who had been the target of anti-social behaviour.

(References – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

14. Motion by Councillor Doggart- Scottish Public Sector Ombudsman Case reference 201906053 – Upheld Complaint Against the Council

The following motion by Councillor Doggart was submitted in terms of Standing Order 17:

“Committee:

Notes the decision of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman, Case Reference 201906053, to uphold a complaint against Council regarding its failure to take action to protect the complainer.

Further notes the Council had issued an apology following the decision of the Ombudsman.

Asked for a report to Policy and Sustainability within two cycles of any ongoing investigations being completed, or earlier if possible, detailing:

1. Council policy regarding tenants against whom repeated allegations of Anti-Social Behaviour have been made.
2. The responsibilities within the Council for delivering these policies.
3. The reasons that contributed to a failure in this case, including the failure to keep reasonable records.

4. Any changes to policy or process that were being considered in light of this case.
5. Reassurance that any consideration of the relocating any Council tenants would strongly favour the victims over the perpetrators of alleged Anti-Social behaviour.
6. Committee requests any decisions made by Policy and Sustainability would be referred back to this Committee and Housing Homelessness and Fair Work Committee for noting.”

- moved by Councillor Doggart, seconded by Councillor Brown

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Doggart.

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Rae declared a non-financial interest in as she was a council house tenant who had been the target of anti-social behaviour.

15. Resolution to Consider in Private

The Committee, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, excluded the public from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business for the reason that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

16. All Party Oversight Group Follow Up Report

The Committee considered a report on the arrangements for Winter Festivals 2020.

Decision

(Reference –report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)