

Minutes

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 26 January 2021

Present:-

Councillors Wilson (Convener), McNeese-Mechan (Vice-Convenor), Brown, Doggart, Key, Mitchell, Osler, Rae, Staniforth and Ethan Young.

1. Welcome and Vote of Thanks

Welcome

To welcome Councillor Ethan Young to the committee.

Vote of thanks

To thank the following officers, who were retiring, for their long service to the Council and to wish them well for the future: Lynne Halfpenny, David Wardrop, Frank Little and John McNeill.

2. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 17 November 2020 as a correct record.

3. Work Programme

Decision

To note the Work Programme.

(Reference – Work Programme 26 January 2021, submitted.)

4. Rolling Actions Log

The Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:

Action 4 – Adelaide Cultural Co-Operation Project.

Action 6 – Allotment and Food Growing Provision Update.

Action 8 – CCTV Working Group Update.

Action 14 – Appointments to Working Groups.

Action 17 – Edinburgh Million Tree City.

Action 18 – Appointments to Working Groups.

Action 19 – Business Bulletin- Public spaces Management Plan – update to Members.

- 2) To update the rolling actions log to reflect decisions taken at this meeting and otherwise note the outstanding actions.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee 26 January 2021, submitted.)

5. Business Bulletin

Decision

- 1) To note the business bulletin.
- 2) David Bruce to check with Library Services if there were any surplus books and if they could be distributed to areas where there were those in need of them and to send an update and a proposal for addressing this matter going forward to elected members.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Work Business Bulletin 26 January 2021, submitted.)

6. Presentation – Outdoor Learning Map

Andrew Bagnall (Outdoor Learning Development Officer) gave a presentation on the Outdoor Learning Map. He indicated that this was a fairly new resource launched in September 2020. Although there were numerous maps already, these maps did not give sufficient information and this map was much more interactive and was designed for sharing resources and experiences to education practitioners but with a wider appeal to families and the community looking for outdoor learning opportunities.

The idea for the Outdoor Learning Map emerged in 2017 from the Outdoor Learning Team's work with Primary School teachers around Edinburgh. Through consultation with a wide network of teachers and other organisations delivering Outdoor Learning, the structure of the map took shape. Two of the main themes were to discover and to contribute.

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- Discover - Users should discover the wild places that were unknown and the resources to help explore these, check out what other groups and school were engaged with and find resources, lesson ideas and links to support experiences in the outdoors.
- Contribute – Users should become part of the learning community and share work with likeminded individuals, put their green space on the map and showcase what they had been up to, celebrate achievement and share top tips for using their green space in an interactive way.

He then described how the map worked, using pins, pop ups and filters. This included categories, such as art and design, how to share and contribute and advanced filter options. There had been over 100 contributors since the launch and the team were working on sustainable evolution of the map make it more user friendly.

Decision

- 1) To note the presentation.
- 2) To agree to ask Andrew Bagnall to discuss aligning the outdoor learning map with the creators of the Culture Map.

7. Platforms for Creative Excellence (PLAce)

Julia Amour (Festivals Edinburgh) and Lorna Duguid (Creative Scotland) gave a presentation on Platforms for Creative Excellence (PLAce). This included the following:

Background

- Five-year programme – Platforms for Creative Excellence.
- Support strategic development across Edinburgh festivals.
- Unique three-way partnership including City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Government and the Edinburgh Festivals, supported by Creative Scotland.
- Interim evaluation from BOP Consulting considered the full first year of the PLAce programme before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Intended outcomes and impacts

- Improved innovation capacity.
- Increased quality, opportunities and reputation.
- Sustained and strengthened programming innovation.
- Increased creative development opportunities across Scotland.

- Improved lives for citizens and communities through cultural engagement.

Key findings

- PLAce enabled the festivals to develop and expand as organisations:
- PLAce stimulated innovation and enabled festivals to do programming and take risks.
- Engagement with communities had significantly increased, but it took time to find ways of working that worked for both festivals and communities.
- Festivals had created opportunities for cultural professionals to develop skills and links.
- Collaboration had increase and festivals had grown their national and international networks.

The Changing Context –

- The Covid pandemic had major consequences on Edinburgh festivals since March 2020

Conclusion

PLAce had added significant value across all areas of festivals' programme activity

- Managed innovation and risk.
- Strategic community partnerships.
- Opportunities for cultural professionals.
- Increased collaboration.

To secure and embed the long-term impacts across the future years of the programme, festivals are recommended to:

- Sustain strategic focus.
- Deepen understanding of mutual needs with community and wider cultural organisations.
- Enhance diversity and inclusion.
- Share learning and practice.

Decision

To note the presentation.

8. Thriving Green Spaces

(a) Presentation

Linda Anglin (Green Spaces Senior Project Manager) gave a presentation on the Thriving Green Spaces project. She indicated that the goal was to enable Local Authorities and their partners to transform the whole greenspace estate in their town or city; to make them as accessible and vibrant as possible and ensure they were financially sustainable for years to come. This included the following:

- Working Together.
- Edinburgh's Ecological Coherence Plan.
- Map of City illustrated, showing capacity and demand.
- Quality Park Assessment.
- Parks for Health.
- The right greenspace to suit needs at that moment in time.
- Valuing Edinburgh's Greenspace.
- Edinburgh's green spaces provided services valued at £175 m per year, 89% of which was attributable to improvements to mental wellbeing and physical health.

Our Challenge

- Our Challenge was ensuring our public greenspaces, which were critical to the health and wellbeing of Edinburgh's citizens, were funded to a level that they could be managed and maintained to a high level and developed where quality or provision was low:
- Baseline to establish true costs.
- Building the evidence base for funding.
- Income Generation Strategy.
- Business Cases for key sites including Inch Plant Nursery.
- Edinburgh Park Foundation to fund-raise.

Decision

- 1) To note the presentation.

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- 2) To e-mail the elected members the names of the five General Practice surgeries which were prescribing the benefits of green space, in order to direct people to them and to encourage conversations between surgeries about the benefits of green space.
- 3) To send a copy of the presentation to members.

(b) Report by the Executive Director of Place

An update was provided on the Thriving Green Spaces project. As core components of the 20-minute neighbourhood, the city's green and blue spaces had never been so important to Edinburgh's residents. The Covid-19 pandemic had underscored the importance of local outdoor places for people's health and wellbeing, as well as the inequalities found in accessing good quality local green space.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made in delivering the Thriving Green Spaces project and support its extension to March 2022.
- 2) To receive further project updates and requests for approval as the project moved beyond its midpoint review, from development phase to transition phase.

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

9. Festivals and Events Core Programme 2021/22

An update was provided on the recommended core programme of festivals and events for 2021/22. Given the restrictions which were in place as a result of COVID-19, it was recognised that this events programme could be impacted by the on-going need to protect public health and therefore the nature and form of events might need to change, and some might be cancelled. To support the event planning process, Committee was asked to agree funding awards in principle. Regular contact with event organisers would continue and notice of changes to plans would be agreed and publicised on an ongoing basis.

Decision

- 1) To note that COVID-19 had a significant impact on festivals and events in the city over the last nine months and that events were only permitted at levels 0 and 1 of the Scottish Government' Coronavirus (COVID-19) protection levels. At present the Scottish Government had issued 'stay at home' guidance until the end of January.

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- 2) To note that the events outlined below could only take place if Coronavirus protection was at the appropriate level and that all events would be required to comply with the relevant Scottish Government guidance at the time of the event.
- 3) To note that event organisers, however, were continuing to plan for events to take place in 2021/22.
- 4) Therefore, agreed, in principle, the following funding allocations from the Events budget:
 - (a) £70,000 towards the Tour of Britain.
 - (b) £30,000 towards the Edinburgh Winter Run.
 - (c) £7,000 towards the Squash European Masters Championships.
 - (d) £10,000 towards the Small Countries Beach Volleyball International.
 - (5) £10,000 towards the UK Beach Volleyball Tour.
 - (6) £15,000 towards the Commonwealth Games Qualification Tournament.
 - (7) £20,000 towards the Edinburgh International Swim Meet.
 - (8) £30,000 towards the Scottish Album of the Year Awards.
 - (9) £25,000 towards Burns&Beyond Festival in 2022.
- 5) To note the update to the Edinburgh Summer Sessions programme in West Princes Street Gardens for 2021.
- 6) To note the continued in principle commitment to the following events from the Events budget:
 - (a) £5,000 towards Armed Forces Day from the 2021/22 financial year.
 - (b) £18,000 towards the Edinburgh Award.
 - (c) £8,000 towards the Remembrance Day Service.
- 7) To note that, where the Scottish Government guidance means that events could not take place as planned, event organisers would be encouraged to plan for online events if possible.
- 8) Committee would be kept updated on the status of events throughout the year through the Committee Business Bulletin.
- 9) To note there was a minor adjustment to the appendix of the report, to indicate that the Imagine Festival should be the Edinburgh international Children's Festival.

- 10) To note that there was ongoing dialogue for festivals and events and depending on circumstances, if there were any changes to the programme, these would be brought back to the Committee.
- 11) To agree to provide an update to the Committee on the plan for funds for events which did not proceed.
- 12) To note the concerns raised over events being cancelled at short notice and to ensure that the Council was protected from any financial loss.

(References – Culture and Sport Committee, 31 May 2016 (item 8); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

10. City Centre Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Measures Update Report

An update was provided on the progress of the project to install safety measures in the city centre to protect crowded places from the threat of a hostile vehicle being used as a weapon.

It was proposed that the working group continued to gather information and to bring forward recommendations for the future installation of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) measures in the city.

Motion

- 1) To note that the officer working group had progressed the assessment of the suitability of type, position, and cost of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) installations at prioritised sites in the city centre up until “lockdown” in March 2020.
 - 2) To note the proposed extension of activity to include external partners to allow joint planning for any installations.
 - 3) To approve the working group recommendation that all statutory and project planning for the city centre public realm going forward included consideration of HVM measures at key sites.
 - 4) To note that a further update report would be prepared following return to normal working conditions to outline the findings from the working group and to provide details of the anticipated cost and how it would be funded.
 - 5) To approve the continued liaison with Police Scotland and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), as appropriate, to develop the protective scheme proposals.
- moved by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan.

Amendment

- 1) To note that £2.5 million to £3 million was required for the mitigation measures.
 - 2) To note the City of Edinburgh Council has made two recent bids for financial support to the Scottish Government.
 - 3) To agree that the Convener and Vice Convener would write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Kate Forbes MSP, at Holyrood, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Barclay MP and Baroness Williams, at the Home Office in Westminster, requesting financial support to specifically assist the Council with the costs of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation, and explain Edinburgh's unique position and reasons for requiring Hostile Vehicle Mitigation.
- moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Doggart.

In accordance with Standing Order 21(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

Decision

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- 2) To note the proposed extension of activity to include external partners to allow joint planning for any installations.
- 3) To approve the working group recommendation that all statutory and project planning for the city centre public realm going forward included consideration of HVM measures at key sites.
- 4) To note that a further update report would be prepared following return to normal working conditions to outline the findings from the working group and to provide details of the anticipated cost and how it would be funded.
- 5) To approve the continued liaison with Police Scotland and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), as appropriate, to develop the protective scheme proposals.
- 6) To note that £2.5 million to £3 million was required for the mitigation measures.
- 7) To note the City of Edinburgh Council has made two recent bids for financial support to the Scottish Government.
- 8) To agree that the Convener and Vice Convener would write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Kate Forbes MSP, at Holyrood, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Barclay MP and Baroness Williams, at the Home Office in Westminster, requesting financial support to specifically assist the Council

with the costs of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation, and explain Edinburgh's unique position and reasons for requiring Hostile Vehicle Mitigation.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee, 10 September 2019 (item 7); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

11. Declaration of Wester Craiglockhart Hill and Little France Park as Local Nature Reserves

An outline was provided of the Council's legislative power to declare Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and approval was sought to progress the declaration of both Wester Craiglockhart Hill and Little France Park as protected nature reserves.

An LNR was an area of land declared under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 by a local authority because of its special nature interest and/or educational value.

Decision

- 1) To approve progression of matters to declare Wester Craiglockhart Hill as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) under the provisions of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- 2) To approve progression of matters to declare Little France Park as a LNR under the provisions of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

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

12. Public Realm CCTV Update

An update was provided on the progress made towards developing the Public Realm CCTV service in Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To approve the update of the multi-agency project board for the upgrade of the Public Realm CCTV service in Edinburgh.
- 2) To request an update on the Public Realm CCTV upgrade project progress in nine months' time.

(Reference – report by the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities and Chief Social Work Officer, submitted.)

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

The projected month seven revenue monitoring position for the Place Directorate services was presented. The month seven forecast was based on analysis of actual expenditure and income to the end of October 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 2020/21 was a projected £0.516 million overspend (excluding Covid-19 impact) including a forecast budget underspend of £1.209m for services within the remit of this Committee.
- 2) To note the Place revenue budget forecast for 2020/21 in respect of the net cost impact of Covid-19 was forecast to be circa £28 million. £3.890 million of this budget pressure related to services within the remit of this Committee;
- 3) That the Executive Director of Place was taking measures to reduce budget pressures and progress would be reported to Committee at agreed frequencies.
- 4) To agree that Officers consider what investment opportunities there were for greenspaces.

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

14. Community Centres and Libraries Re-opening (Update)

The adaptation and renewal arrangements during the coronavirus pandemic in community centres and libraries, including performance data for libraries was presented and outlined the challenges faced by the Council to continue to provide a library service in line with government guidelines and public health guidance, alongside the key pressure that remained on facilities management.

It proposed next steps to improve service and protect health and safety such as the reintroduction of online reservations; upgrade of the current Library App to allow self-service from customer's own smart devices (i.e. mobile phone); resource request service from Central Library Art and Design, Music and Edinburgh and Scottish Libraries.

Decision

- 1) To note the current use of community centres and libraries;
- 2) To note the current restrictions and challenges placed on community libraries and community centres due to Covid-19.
- 3) To note that the current necessary measures were a resource challenge for the Council and that maintaining a safe environment for citizens and staff across the estate was subject to resources being made available.

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- 4) To approve the continued, phased approach to safely re-open libraries and community centres in line with Scottish Government guidelines, allowing safe roll-back to previous phases of service delivery, or forward progression, depending on the prevailing Scottish Government levels.
- 5) To agree that the Head of Libraries and Lifelong Learning would contact the Works Planning Team concerning the libraries which remained closed to establish when they would re-open and to circulate a briefing note to members with update.
- 6) To agree to ensure that anyone not in receipt of book, received one from the surplus and to thank Scotland Street Press for their help with this.

(References – Policy and Sustainability Committee, 6 August 2020 (item 7) and 10 November 2020 (item 11); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

15. Edinburgh Million Tree City

An update was provided on plans to ensure Edinburgh becomes a Million Tree City by 2030. The Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries service was leading a project to increase tree cover to help Edinburgh fulfil its Climate Emergency commitments and become a Million Tree City by 2030. 250,000 trees would need to be planted over the next decade across a wide range of public and private land.

Decision

- 1) To note progress made in initiating the Edinburgh Million Tree City project, including a successful application to the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund for £298,055 to support project delivery.
- 2) To receive annual updates on the project, including tree numbers and other monitoring data.
- 3) To agree to ensure that Council Departments looked after newly planted trees properly.
- 4) To agree to share best practice for tree protection with landowners and other partners.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee, 20 January 2020 (item 10); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

16. Internal Audit: Overdue Findings and Key Performance Indicators at 30 October 2020 – Referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee had referred the report on Internal Audit Overdue Findings and Key Performance Indicators at 30 October 2020 to Committee for information.

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Decision

To note the report.

(Reference – Referral report from Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee, 8 December 2020 (item 5); report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)