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Notice of meeting and agenda

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00 am Tuesday, 14th September, 2021

Virtual Meeting - via Microsoft Teams

This is a public meeting and members of the public are welcome to watch the webcast live on the Council's website. The law allows the Council to consider some issues in private. Any items under "Private Business" will not be published, although the decisions will be recorded in the minute.

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1. Order of Business

1.1 Including any notices of motion and any other items of business submitted as urgent for consideration at the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

2.1 Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

3. Deputations

3.1 If any

4. Minutes

5 1

6.1

4.1 Minute of Culture and Communities Committee of 15 June 2021 – 5 - 12 submitted for approval as a correct record

5. Forward Planning

Work Programme - September 2021

6. Bu	siness Bulletin	
5.2	Rolling Actions Log - September 2021	15 - 30
0.1	Work Frogramme September 2021	10 14

7. Presentations

7.1 Presentation on Thriving Greenspaces Verbal Report

8. Executive Decisions

Business Bulletin

- Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming, Report by the Executive 47 56Director of Place
- 8.2 The Sixth Edinburgh Makar, Report by the Executive Director of Place 57 86
- 8.3 Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe' Seal for Festival Cities and 87 98 Regions, Report by the Executive Director of Place

13 - 14

31 - 46

9. Routine Decisions

9.1 Revenue Monitoring Update – 2020/2021 Provisional Out-Turn and 2021/2022 Month three position 116

10. Motions

10.1 Motion By Hal Osler:

"The Culture and Communities Committee is asked:

To note no update has been received since November 2019 on any of:

- 1) Establishing a new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy;
- 2) The city-wide action plan for the Edinburgh Physical Activity Partnership;
- 3) A communication plan that celebrates the good practice that already exists across the city;

And

- 4) The allocation of CEC officer time to support the Physical Activity Alliance Groups;
- To note with concern, the lack of any progress on these important initiatives, acknowledging some delay due to COVID-19;
- 6) To request a further report on each of the above to be provided within one cycle, identifying progress and a timeline to complete in each case."

Nick Smith

Service Director: Legal and Assurance

Committee Members

Councillors Councillor Donald Wilson (Convener), Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan (Vice-Convener), Councillor Mark Brown, Councillor Phil Doggart, Councillor Karen Doran, Councillor David Key, Councillor Max Mitchell, Councillor Hal Osler, Councillor Alex Staniforth, Councillor Ethan Young and Councillor Chas Booth

Information about the Culture and Communities Committee

The Culture and Communities Committee consists of 11 Councillors and is appointed by the City of Edinburgh Council. This meeting of the Committee is being held virtually by Microsoft Teams.

Further information

If you have any questions about the agenda or meeting arrangements, please contact Natalie Le Couteur, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, Business Centre 2.1, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG, Tel 0131 529 6160 / 0131 529 4085, email natalie.le.couteur@edinburgh.gov.uk / blair.ritchie@edinburgh.gov.uk. The agenda, minutes and public reports for this meeting and all the main Council committees can be viewed online by going to https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/.

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other connected processes). Thereafter, that information will continue to be held as part of the historical record in accordance with the paragraphs above.

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Minutes

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 15 June 2021

Present:-

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

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 16 March 2021 as a correct record.

2. Work Programme

Decision

To approve the work programme of the Culture and Communities Committee of **15 June 2021** as a correct record.

3. Rolling Actions Log

The Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following action:
 - **Action 4 –** Service Payment to Edinburgh Leisure.
 - **Action 6 -** Grounds Maintenance in the South West Locality (Transferred from the South West Locality Committee)
 - Action 15 Motion by Councillor Doggart
- 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 Rolling Actions Log 15 June 2021, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin



The Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the business bulletin.
- To circulate information to schools to advise parents about the availability of activities for school children during the summer school holidays.
- 3) To note that work to stabilise the slope and reopen the Dean Path, which had been caused by the landslip, would commence in July 2021 then activity would commence on the slope.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Business Bulletin 15 June 2021, submitted.)

5. Petition for Consideration: Street Hockey & Skate Park

The Committee was asked to consider a petition at this meeting. A valid petition entitled 'Street Hockey & Skate Park' had been received. The petition received 422 signatures.

The petition called on the Council to provide 'safe facilities for both skating and street hockey in the city centre'. It proposed there was a space in The Meadows which may be suitable for these purposes.

Decision

- 1) To consider the terms of the petition 'Street Hockey & Skate Park' as set out in Appendix one of the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To agree to request a report to determine the feasibility, need, coverage and location of skatepark and street hockey facilities.
- 3) For the skate parks and street hockey to feature on the Culture map as a category as skatepark.
- 4) To note the differentiation between the skatepark and street hockey and to have multi-functional provision to allow for activities to co-exist and the report to be clear about what was being proposed.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted)

6. Allotment Regulations

The report by the Executive Director of Place presented allotment regulations for approval. The draft allotment regulations were prepared by officers in association with representatives from the Federation of Edinburgh District Allotments and Gardens Associations (FEDAGA) and Scottish Allotment Gardens (SAGs).

In January 2020 Committee approved draft allotment regulations (Appendix 1 of report by the Executive Director of Place) for consultation. These were drafted in accordance with the published guidance from the Scottish Government and included mandatory requirements covering allocation of allotments, rent, cultivation, maintenance, buildings and other structures that may be erected, the keeping of livestock and landlord inspections.

Decision

- 1) To note the consultation undertaken on the draft allotment regulations
- 2) To note the feedback and analysis which resulted in the draft regulations being amended.
- 3) To approve the Allotment Regulations to regulate allotments managed by the City of Edinburgh Council.

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

7. Parks and Greenspace Investment

An update was provided on the asset surveys undertaken to date to assess the condition of infrastructure (walls, fences, gates, paths, roads, bridges, tunnels etc) within the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries estate.

The survey programme identified assets that were of poor condition and set priorities for remediation. Completion of the recommended works would ensure sites remained accessible, safe, sustainable and open to the public - helping the Council meet its land management duty of care. The report by the Executive Director of Place also summarised significant urgent / priority works that had been actioned.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress of the condition surveys being undertaken across the city's Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries estate.
- 2) To note the progress on infrastructure works for immediate or urgent attention.
- 3) To approve progressing the works that had been identified as priority rated category 01 urgent (within one year) and priority category 02 (essential within one to two years), provided they could be contained within the capital budget allocation and any additional funding secured.
- 4) To agree that the Executive Director of Place would provide updates to Committee on a six-monthly basis via the Business bulletin to provide regular updates to members on parks and greenspace investment.
- To agree that the Executive Director of Place, in future updates to committee, would set out the rationale for how future projects were identified, which projects were progressed, and which projects had to be deprioritised.
- To agree that communications would be delivered to members of the public and ward councillors on updates concerning parks and greenspace.
- 7) To agree that The Technical Manager (Place) would clarify when work would commence on Fauldburn Park and update Councillor Brown.

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

9. Community Access to Secondary School Sports Facilities – Queensferry High School and Bangholm Recreation Ground

It was reported that following the completion of the new Queensferry High School and with approval now in place to construct a new school sport centre for Trinity Academy at Bangholm Recreation Ground, Edinburgh Leisure had asked for approval to transfer both venues from their core operation to their community access to secondary school sport venue operation.

Decision

To approve the transfer of Queensferry High School and Bangholm Recreation Ground from Edinburgh Leisure's core venue operation to their community access to secondary school sport venue operation from the start of the 22/23 financial year.

(Reference – report by the Interim Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

8. Lauriston Farm, Edinburgh – Proposed Lease

It was reported that the Council owned the land known as Lauriston Farm, near Cramond, which until 2020 was leased for grazing purposes. The Council had received a proposal from Edinburgh Agroecology Co-op CIC (EAC) for a community farm to be established on the land. Committee was asked to note this lease on the terms and conditions outlined in the report.

Decision

- 1) To note that the Finance and Resources Committee, on 20 May 2021, approved a 25-year lease of the land at Lauriston Farm to Edinburgh Agroecology Co-op CIC (EAC) on the terms outlined in this report.
- 2) To note that future reports of this nature concerning cultural of historical assets were presented initially to Culture and Communities Committee then referred onto the relevant Executive Committee.
- To agree that an update would be submitted to committee on the success of the lease holder to ensure Committee had oversight of the activity underway on the Urban farm, which formed part of the wider setting of Lauriston Castle.
- 4) To agree to invite the Edinburgh Agroecology Co-op CIC to a future meeting of the Committee to give a presentation on the urban farm.

(References – the Finance and Resources Committee, on 20 May 2021, the Planning Committee on 26 February 2020, and March 2018, the Housing and Economy Committee; report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

10. Anti-Social Behaviour Motion Report

The following report by the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities and Chief Social Work Officer was in response to a motion by Councillor Doggart with regard to an upheld complaint against the Council by the SPSO (Case Reference 201906053).

The report provided a response to the following individual questions raised as part of that motion, including:

- (a) Council policy regarding tenants against whom repeated allegations of Anti-Social Behaviour had been made.
- (b) The responsibilities within the Council for delivering Anti-Social Behaviour policies.
- (c) The reasons that contributed to a failure in this case, including the failure to keep reasonable records.
- (d) Any changes to policy or process considered in light of this case.
- (e) Reassurance that any consideration of the relocation of Council tenants would strongly favour the victims over the perpetrators of alleged Anti-Social behaviour.

Decision

- 1) To note that this report was taken to Policy and Sustainability on 20 April 2021.
- 2) To note the response to the motion as set out below.
- To approve the revised City of Edinburgh Council Anti-Social Behaviour Procedure under Appendix 1 of the report by the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities and Chief Social Work Officer.
- 4) To request the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities to provide an update report before the end of 2021 confirming adherence to the new procedure.

Note: To thank the officers for the report which was sensible and proportionate and tried to meet all the requirements.

(References: Policy and Sustainability Committee of **20 April 2021**; report by the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities and Chief Social Work Officer, submitted.)

11. Re-Drawing Edinburgh (Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Tramways Act 1920 Centennial) Update Report

Details were provided of the success of the Re-Drawing Edinburgh online programme of events, which commemorated the 1920 boundary extension of the city. It set out the proposal to end the programme with a series of five outdoor evening events in September 2021 spread across Leith, Cramond, Corstorphine, Colinton, and Liberton, as well as the funding plan to finance it.

Decision

1) To note the outcomes of the Re-Drawing Edinburgh online activity programme commemorating the centennial of the city's 1920 boundary extension.

2) To note the intention to hold outdoor events in September to conclude the commemoration, subject to external funding, with any required contingency to be requested from the Finance and Resources Committee.

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

12. Internal Audit: Overdue Findings and Key Performance Indicators as at 10 February 2021 – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

On the 23 March 2021 the Governance, Risk and Best Value (GRBV) Committee considered a report on Internal Audit Overdue Findings and Key Performance Indicators as at 10 February 2021, which provided an overview of the status of the overdue Internal Audit (IA) findings as at 10 February 2021. A total of 115 open IA findings remained to be addressed across the Council as at 10 February 2021. This included the one remaining historic finding and excluded open and overdue Internal Audit findings for the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board and the Lothian Pension Fund.

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee agreed:

- (a) To note the status of the overdue Internal Audit (IA) findings as at 10 February 2021.
- (b) To refer the report to the relevant Council Executive committees and the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board Audit and Assurance Committee for information in relation to the current Health and Social Care Partnership position.
- (c) To agree to revise the timescale on outstanding action 107 which had a 2024 close date to an earlier date.
- (d) To agree that the 30 outstanding actions which were over a year old would return to GRBV for scrutiny in May 2021 or later subject to the Chief Internal Auditor and Convenor of GRBV's discussion

Decision

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee referred the report to the Culture and Communities Committee for information and Culture and Communities committee noted the report.

(References - Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of **23 March 2021**; report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

13. Internal Audit: Overdue Findings and Key Performance Indicators as at 27 April 2021 – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

On the 8 June 2021 the Governance, Risk and Best Value (GRBV) Committee considered a report on Internal Audit Overdue Findings and Key Performance Indicators as at 27 April 2021, which provided an overview of the status of the overdue Internal Audit (IA) findings as at 27 April 2021. A total of 100 open IA findings remained to be addressed across the Council as at 27 April 2021. This excluded open and

overdue Internal Audit findings for the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board and the Lothian Pension Fund.

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee agreed:

- (a) To note the status of the overdue Internal Audit (IA) findings as at 27 April 2021.
- (b) To refer the report to the relevant Council Executive committees and the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board Audit and Assurance Committee for information in relation to the current Health and Social Care Partnership position.
- (c) To agree to provide a briefing note on progress of actions 28 and 29 the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership (EADP) Contract Management to Members of the Governance Risk and best Value Committee.

Decision

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee referred the attached report to the Culture and Communities Committee for information and Culture and Communities committee noted the report.

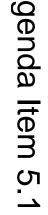
(References - Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee of **8 June 2021**; report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)



Work Programme

Culture and Communities Committee 14 Sept 2021

	Title / description	Purpose/Reason	Routine / Executive	Lead officer	Directorate	Progress updates	Expected date
1.	Cemetery Strategy		Executive	Robbie Beattie	Place		November 2021
Page 15 ³ .	Citywide Culture Plan Review Update		Executive	Lindsay Robertson	Place		November 2021
σ _{3.}	Dowies Mill Weir		Executive	David Jamieson	Place		November 2021
4.	Capital Theatres Performance		Executive	Lyndsay Robertson	Place		November 2021
5.	Sports Ground Certification		Executive	Claire Millar	Place		November 2021
6.	Diversity and Inclusion Programme Report		Executive	Beata Skobodzinska	Place		November 2021



7.	Professional Development Outcomes Report	Executive	Beata Skobodzinska	Place	November 2021
8.	Diversity Programme Final Report	Executive	Beata Skobodzinska	Place	November 2021
9.	Makars' Court Application	Executive	Gillian Findlay	Place	November 2021
10.	Capital Wellbeing: Museums and Galleries Redesign	Executive	Gillian Findlay	Place	November 2021

Rolling Actions Log

Culture and Communities Committee 14 September 2021

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
1.	31.05.18	City of Edinburgh Council - Fair Fringe and Fair Hospitality Charter Guidelines	Calls for report on the Charter's efficacy to go to Culture and Communities Committee after August 2019.	Executive Director of Place	November 2022	Item on business bulletin for 12 November 2019. No survey was carried out by the Fringe during 2019, so the report will come to committee in autumn 2020. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic there was no Fringe during 2020, therefore any survey would be undertaken during 2021. A survey was not run during the 2021 Fringe, therefore any survey would need to be undertaken during the 2022 Fringe.
2.	11.09.18	Edinburgh People Survey – Culture Results	To agree that, in advance of the publication of the next iteration of the Edinburgh People Survey, the proposed questions pertaining to culture and greenspace matters under	Executive Director of Place	June 2021	At present it is not known when, and if, a survey would be undertaken.





No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
			the remit of this Committee would be presented to Committee for review.			
3.	13.11.18	King's Theatre Capital Redevelopment Update Report	An annual update report would be provided to members.	Executive Director of Place	February 2022	
4.	18.06.19	Citywide Culture Plan Update 2018/19	To note that a Culture Plan review update report would be presented in June 2020	Executive Director of Place	November 2021	
5.	06.11.12	The Future Management and Ownership of Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve (LNR) – motion by Councillor Burns	To provide information on the possibility of community ownership and management of the woodland and open space in the area in the longer term and how this might be achieved, with ownership transferring to the Council as an interim measure, with a view to the eventual transfer of ownership and management, to a community organisation.	Executive Director of Place	February 2022	Transferred to the Culture and Communities Committee from the Policy and Sustainability Committee. Update was included in Business bulletin on 12 November 2019.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
6.	12.12.17	Open Library	That an update report be submitted to Committee in six months.	Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services	March 2020	Education, Children and Families (EC&F) Committee on 8 October 2019 agreed to transfer this outstanding action to Culture and Communities Committee.
7.	11.12.18	Petition for Consideration - Edinburgh Central Library vs Virgin Hotel	 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. To request that the annual report on the Lifelong Learning Plan scheduled for October 2019, includes within it, options for the Central Library, drawing on past and current studies and 	Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services	November 2019	EC&F Committee on 8 October 2019 agreed to transfer this outstanding action to Culture and Communities Committee. Central Library Future Development report tabled at Culture and Communities Committee 12th November 2019. Committee approved setting up a project team 'to explore the viability of developing an imaginative, accessible and engaging future vision for the city's Central Library'.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
			feasibility exercises and a clear vision for its role in the city's cultural landscape.			
8.	10-09-19	City Centre Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Measures Update Report - report by the Executive Director of Place	 To note that a further update report will 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 will be funded. 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 	Executive Director of Place	April 2022	

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
			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. 3) To agree to update Committee on City Centre Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM), and possibilities that HVM assets which were located in Edinburgh, may need to be reallocated in line with national policing priorities.	Executive Director of Place	Ongoing	
9.	10-09-19	Transfer of Management of Secondary School Sports Facilities to Edinburgh	Recommendations approved with the proviso that the report called for is brought back in the first instance to the	Interim Executive Director of Education and	April 2022	Update – September 2021 Since 2016, the Council has transferred the management of community access to secondary school sport facilities to Edinburgh Leisure. As reported to

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
		Leisure - referral report by the Education, Children and Families Committee	Culture and Communities Committee. 2) To ask that the report addressed: Access to facilities, recognising Edinburgh Leisure's requirement to balance the operational costs with its core purpose in making a positive difference to communities. The barriers to access including cost and physical access issues related to transport. The impact on high performance sport and any change in the usage of facilities from these groups associated with the transfer of management of secondary school sports	Children's Services		Culture and Communities Committee on 15 June 2021, all schools have transferred apart from Leith Academy and Wester Hailes Education Centre. Both schools were scheduled to transfer on 1 April 2020 but, due to Covid-19, this was put on hold. The report stated that the transfers of the final two schools was likely to take place later this year but following further discussion Edinburgh Leisure have informed the Council that their preferred transfer date is now 1 April 2022. Council officers will continue to work with Edinburgh Leisure to complete the transfers as soon as possible and by 1 April 2022 at the latest.

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
			facilities to Edinburgh Leisure.			
10	10-09-19	Appointments to Working Groups - report by the Chief Executive	To review the membership of the Tourism and Communities Working Group and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.	Executive Director of Corporate Services (previously owned by Chief Executive)	November 2021	The purpose and composition of the Tourism and Communities Working Group will be reviewed when action plans for the city's Tourism Strategy 2030 are being developed.
11	28.01.20	The Quaich Outline Business Case	To welcome the work carried out to date by the Quaich Project and to support the intention to improve West Princes Street Gardens.	Executive Director of Place	March 2022	An update on the business case for this project will be brought forward to Committee at the appropriate time.
			2) To request the Executive Director of Place to provide a more detailed report to Committee within one cycle setting out the assumptions in the business case presented.			
			3) To note that Councillor Osler had declared she would recuse herself from the determination			

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
40	20.04.20	Development of a	on matters pertaining to the planning application for the Quaich Project.		Contombou	A stalishalder on consequent range
12	28.01.20	Development of a Public Space Management Plan	 To note the initial findings of a review of the Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto (EPEM) and the Public Spaces Protocol (PSP). To note that it is intended to use these findings, alongside the motions from Committee and Council to develop a single Public Space Management Plan (PSMP) to be supported by a single set of processes, criteria and procedures when applications are received in the future. To approve the principles for the PSMP as set out in paragraph 4.8 with the inclusion of effective measures that 	Executive Director of Place	September 2021	A stakeholder engagement page for the Public Spaces Management Plan is now live and will remain so until 23 November 2020. The 'home page' describes and links to 4 'challenges' that are hosted on the collaborative engagement tool Dialogue. The 4 'challenges' are: • Public Space Management Plan Key Principles and Guidelines • Area Conditions • Application process for Organisers • Community Engagement The link to the site is here: https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/b24acf90

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
			could be adopted to control the amplification of sound in public spaces when appropriate. 4) To note that it is intended to present the draft PSMP to Committee in March 2020, with consultation to begin in April 2020 and the final document presented to Committee in June 2020 for approval.			
13	17/11/20	Cemetery Tour Guide Operator Registration Scheme	To agree to receive an update on progress.	Executive Director of Place	February 2022	
14	26/01/21	Thriving Green Spaces	To receive further project updates and requests for approval as the project moves beyond its midpoint review, from development phase to transition phase.	Executive Director of Place	February 2022	

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
15	26/01/21	Festivals and Events Core Programme 2021/22	 Will be kept updated on the status of events throughout the year through the Committee Business Bulletin. 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. To agree to provide an update to the Committee on the plan for funds for events which did not proceed. 	Executive Director of Place	Ongoing	
16	26/01/21	Public Realm CCTV Update	To request an update on the Public Realm CCTV	Head of Safer and Stronger Communities	December 2021	

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
			upgrade project progress in nine months' time.	and Chief Social Work Officer		
17	26/01/21	Place Directorate - Revenue Monitoring 2020/21- Month Seven Position	That the Executive Director of Place is taking measures to reduce budget pressures and progress will be reported to Committee at agreed frequencies.	Executive Director of Place	Ongoing	
18	26/01/21	Edinburgh Million Tree City	To receive annual updates on the project, including tree numbers and other monitoring data.	Executive Director of Place	February 2022	
19	16/03/21	Public Spaces Management Plan - Collaborative Development	To note that a report on the recommendation from the working group would be presented to the 14 September 2021 meeting of the Committee for Member approval.	Executive Director of Place	14 September 2021	

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
20	16/03/21	Developing Trauma Informed Services	To request an updated progress report in 12 months' time.	Report by the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities and Chief Social Work Officer	March 2022	
21	16/03/21	Locality Improvement Plans	1) To agree that The Strategy Manager for Communities would speak with the Convenor and Vice Convenor to consider how Committee could have further input to priority setting for Locality Planning and also to give consideration to reporting frequencies.	The ger for vould Convenor enor to Committee ther input ng for nng and Executive Director of Corporate Services (previously owned by Chief Executive) Meeting schedule to take place on Septemb 2021 with the Convener Con	scheduled to take place on 15 September 2021 with the Convener	
		2)	2) To agree that business growth colleagues would speak with Locality Managers to ensure the economic recovery component was contained within the	Executive Director of Place	Business Growth colleagues discussed at a meeting with Locality Managers –	

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
			Locality Improvement Plans.		recommend for closure.	
22	15/06/21	Business Bulletin	To circulate information to schools to advise parents about the availability of activities for school children during the summer school holidays.	Interim Executive Director of Education and Children's Services	June 2021	
23	15/06/21	Petitions for Consideration: Street Hockey and Skate Park	To agree to request a report to determine the feasibility, need, coverage and location of skatepark and street hockey facilities.	Executive Director of Place	February 2022	
24	15/06/21	Parks and Greenspace Investment	To agree that the Executive Director of Place would provide updates to Committee on a six-monthly basis via the Business bulletin to	Executive Director of Place	Ongoing	

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
			provide regular updates to members on parks and greenspace investment.			
			2) To agree that the Executive Director of Place, in future updates to committee, would set out the rationale for how future projects were identified, which projects were progressed, and which projects had to be de-prioritised.	Executive Director of Place	Ongoing	
25	15/06/21	Lauriston Farm, Edinburgh – Proposed Lease	1) To note that future reports of this nature concerning cultural of historical assets were presented initially to Culture and Communities Committee then referred onto the relevant Executive Committee.	Executive Director of Place	Ongoing	

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
			2) To agree that an update would be submitted to committee on the success of the lease holder to ensure Committee had oversight of the activity underway on the Urban farm, which formed part of the wider setting of Lauriston Castle.	Executive Director of Place	T.B.C.	
26	15/06/21	Anti-Social Behaviour Motion Report	To request the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities and Chief Social Work Officer to provide an update report before the end of 2021 confirming adherence to the new procedure.	Report by Head of Safer and Stronger Communities and Chief Social Work Officer	T.B.C.	

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Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee 10.00am, Tuesday 14 September 2021



Return of the Summer Festivals



Last month the city welcomed the return of the summer festivals and the Convener and Vice Convener thanked all those who made it possible - recognising teams from across the Council, from public safety, licensing, events and environmental health to roads teams and waste services. Together, in preparation for the launch of the Art, Book, Fringe, Film and International Festivals, they worked in close partnership with festival operators, the Scottish Government, Event Scotland, NHS, Essential Edinburgh and the Emergency Services, who collaborated to bring festivals back safely and with a new emphasis on outdoor sites.

The Council has always had an important role in supporting the Edinburgh Festivals through strategic funding, processing the significant Licensing requirements and undertaking safety inspections of the hundreds of Festival venues. This year required the Council to lead a new citywide partnership of festival producers, venues, public health experts and other key stakeholders to ensure that the events could return safely. This process began months in advance of the Festivals with continuous updates and adaptations to align with the latest clinical advice and guidance from the Scottish Government.

Alongside that of partners, festivals and stakeholders, the commitment from the Council's officers to contribute to, and facilitate the safe reintroduction of the festivals in such an unpredictable and challenging environment was exceptional. It has ensured a successful reintroduction for 2021 and a good reason to very much look forward to a successful August 2022.

In addition to the planning and technical support, the Council provided £385,000 in new funding to deliver outdoor venues at Summerhall, MultiStory at Castle Terrace and Fringe High Street. This was in addition to the £2.371m in Strategic Partner funding provided to the summer festivals and £745,560 provided through the PLACE programme.

Sir Walter Scott - 250th Birthday Events

In August we celebrated the 250th birthday of Sir Walter Scott and Public Programmes had a series of events on the birthday week which were delivered digitally.

On 17 August, 348 booked to enjoy a lecture on "Sir Walter Scott and the History of Children's Literature" given by Sarah Dunnigan (Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh) and Gerard Carruthers (Francis Hutcheson Professor of Scottish Literature at the University of Glasgow). Scott's library at Abbotsford was home to a literary treasure trove which contains a fascinating history in miniature of children's literature, containing items which speaks to the transformations in children's literature across two centuries, and brings new perspectives to Scott's roles as antiquarian, collector, and imaginative writer.

On 19 August a second lecture took place, hosted again by our Learning and Public Programme Manager and booked by 109 people, on "Sir Walter Scott and the Sense of Place". The lecture, by Penny Fielding (Grierson Professor of English and the University of Edinburgh), took attendees on a geographical tour of Scotland and looked at how Scott's characters move between places and across borders, and how Scott described the Scottish landscape.

"The Gothic Rocket: The Scott Monument" was the subject of the third lecture on 20 August given by Jackie Sangster (Learning Manager at Historic Environment Scotland) and booked by 240 people. The Scott Monument is the second largest monument to a writer in the world and the

lecture examined archives, from early photographs to souvenir postcards, to see how this iconic landmark has endure on Prince Street since its completion in 1846.



There is a talk on "Haunted Scott" on Friday 29 October and more digital talks are arranged for early 2022. We have a talk at Halloween on haunted Scott! A few more digital talks are also arranged for early 2022 – for further information please visit our website.

Culture Service Diversity Programme Launches the Second Edition of its Governance Scheme

Eight ethnically diverse artists and creatives embark on a journey into company governance and board membership with the aim of increasing representation and visibility across local arts and culture organisations.

Developed and delivered in partnership with Queen Margaret University and Arts and Business Scotland, the City of Edinburgh Council's Governance Training and Board Membership Programme facilitated by the Culture Strategy Service (Diversity Programme) welcomes new participants and partner organisations this August. WHALE Arts Centre, Craigmillar Now, Magnetic North Theatre Company, Cutting Edge Theatre Company, SCO (Youth Advisory Council), Take One Action Film Festival, Starcatchers and Prewired+ have all responded to our invitation to be programme partners and will offer board membership opportunities to ethnically diverse artists and creatives based in Edinburgh.

This edition follows on from the successful delivery of board appointments with Capital Theatres, Just Festivals, North Edinburgh Arts, Edinburgh Printmakers, Out of the Blue. Capital Theatres appointee has also agreed to establish a Youth Advisory Board.

A great example of participation in the Governance Scheme is Tony Mills, the recently appointed Artistic Director of Dance Base. In addition to participating in the Scheme, Tony joined leadership workshops with Asif Khan, and international working sessions with Isabel Moura Mendes which were hosted throughout autumn 2020 as part of the Professional Development Programme designed by the Culture Service Diversity Officer. Tony was also one of the recipients of the Diversity and Inclusion Fund 2020/21 that supported the development of 'The Cave', an immersive physical theatre piece, in partnership with Magnetic North.

Schools Engagement through Museums and Galleries

From April to June, four primary schools in Edinburgh took part in our City Art Stars programme. Our Schools Engagement Officer delivered a five-week interactive art programme to pupils from Dalry Primary, Craigentinny Primary, Clovenstone Primary and Royal Mile Primary via Microsoft Teams. Approximately 165 pupils were involved in these creative sessions that were inspired by our Museums and Galleries Edinburgh collections such as paintings from the City Art Centre and toys from the Museum of Childhood. Feedback from pupils and teachers was overwhelmingly positive. City Art Stars will begin again in September with new sessions focusing on our current exhibitions.

Over the summer, our Schools Engagement Officer has worked in collaboration with local charity People Know How, Edinburgh University's Museums, SCRAN and Historic Environment Scotland to develop and deliver a six-week creative summer programme for young people titled Dear Lothian. The aim of the programme was to increase confidence and resilience in the young participants as they prepare for high school. Digital workshops were delivered to a group of nine young people inspired by the current Donald Smith and Ian Hamilton Finlay exhibitions at the City Art Centre. In addition, the Schools Engagement Officer has been hosting City Art Stars digital sessions with a group of children from WHALE Arts as part of their summer programme.

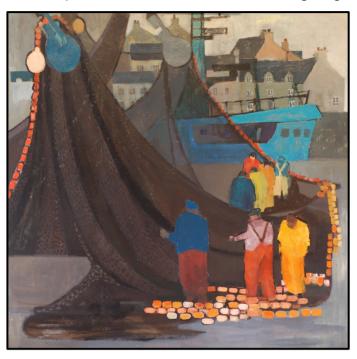
Empire, Slavery and Scotland's Museums Project

Museums and Galleries Edinburgh have been contributing to the Scottish Government funded project Empire, Slavery and Scotland's Museums led by Museums Galleries Scotland. The project is a review on how Scottish museums and galleries can better address the legacies of slavery, empire and colonialism at every level. This nationwide project will build on existing work from within the equalities sector and from across Scotland's museums, to explore the mechanisms of how Scotland can confront challenging histories within museum spaces. Lyn Stevens, Curator at the Museum of Childhood, has participated in the project's Collections Sub-Group and one of the Museum of Childhood objects features in the newly launched Empire and Slavery Resources for Museums – Museums Galleries Scotland | Empire, Slavery & Scotland's Museums: Resources

Funding Award and Exhibition Sales Success

The City Art Centre has secured a £3,000 grant from Bòrd na Gàidhlig which will go towards an education and events programme linked to the exhibition *Islander: the paintings of Donald Smith*, which is currently on show at the gallery in Market Street. Donald Smith (1926-2014) was a Gaelic speaker, so the aim of the programme is to develop opportunities for usage of Gaelic in Edinburgh, to strengthen networks between Gaelic community groups and our young people, and to create a positive image and environment for Gaelic language and culture. The programme will involve adults, families and schoolchildren, and encompass music as well as art (see item below).

The Donald Smith exhibition is part of an ongoing strategy to showcase Scottish artists of original talent who have largely been overlooked in the story of Scottish painting. This exhibition, organised in partnership with An Lanntair in Stornoway, includes works which are for sale. While the Art Centre does not customarily sell artworks, we've been delighted at the response. So far 19 of the exhibits have been sold, testament to the pleasure the exhibition has been giving.



Donald Smith (1926-2014), The Big Net, oil on panel, Private Collection

Public Engagement Programmes – Museums and Galleries

Public Programmes have developed a digital programme consisting of 15 storytelling sessions, six art workshops, five live music sessions and a digital Visually impaired tour for our Donald Smith exhibition fully funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. We are working hard to involve the Gaelic community in Edinburgh and most social media posts are going out primarily in Gaelic. All of these events will stream on Facebook in August and September. Information can be found on the Museums and Galleries website – here.

Floating Exhibition Features Young People's Artwork

This summer, Museums and Galleries Edinburgh worked in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland and SCRAN, the University of Edinburgh's Museums, St. Cecilia's Hall and local charity People Know How to support young people in their transition to high school through a programme of arts, culture and heritage activities designed to increase their confidence and resilience as well as strengthen their relationship with their local area. As part of the six-week programme, children took part in digital art workshops, producing watercolour paintings and text artworks inspired by our current Donald Smith and Ian Hamilton Finlay exhibitions at the City Art Centre.

On 11 August, People Know How held an exhibition showcasing the artworks, soundscapes, oral histories, and scrapbooks of young people who participated in the programme. The exhibition took place on People Know How's jointly owned canal boat, All Aboard.

"It's been wonderful to collaborate with partner organisations to bring these sessions to life. The summer before high school, particularly during the pandemic, can be a stressful time for P7s, but through Dear Lothian we have witnessed first-hand the excitement and increase in confidence that can result from opportunities to engage with their local community through the arts." Claudia Baldacchino, Communications and IT Officer, People Know How.







Travelling Gallery Re-launch

The Travelling Gallery is delighted to be back on the road again after a lengthy period of closure as a result of the pandemic. Their exhibition, *Shapes of Water*, had just launched last year when the gallery had to close towards the end of March. Now, with extra safety measures in place, the gallery will be out and about from early September. *Shapes of Water* was part of Scotland's 'Year of Coasts and Waters' and the partnership allowed the gallery staff to invite three thought provoking and exciting emerging artists to respond to the theme. The exhibition features work by Suzie Eggins, Amy Gear and Rhona Mühlebach. It will tour local Edinburgh venues for the first few weeks before travelling further afield. Further details can be found on the gallery web site - https://travellinggallery.com/current-exhibition/

Reopening of Museum of Edinburgh

The Museum of Edinburgh re-opens to visitors from Monday 30 August and we look forward to welcoming you back. Pre-booking is no longer essential, however we do advise it as numbers will still be restricted to ensure social distancing can be observed for the comfort and safety of all. For more details about opening hours, the venue and its collections, and to book a slot that suits you, please visit our website at: https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/. Admission is free.

Museums and Galleries Kickstart Placements

Museums and Galleries Edinburgh is pleased to be hosting four Kickstart placements over the next few months. The Kickstart Scheme is a UK Government-funded scheme that provides funding to create new job placements for 16-24 year olds who are on Universal Credit and at risk of long term unemployment. Our placements are supported by Museums Galleries Scotland, who is acting as the Kickstart Gateway and will provide employability support and top up each opportunity to the Real Living Wage. Over the next few months a series of Kickstart blogs will appear on our website – here (link to be added) – starting with an introduction to Claire Robertson who has joined us as our new Digital Outreach Assistant.

Edinburgh Recipients of funding from round two of the Performing Arts Venue Relief Fund

Assembly Festival Ltd (Assembly Roxy) - £85,000.

Capital Theatres (Festival Theatre and Kings Theatre) - £500,000.

City of Edinburgh Council (Usher Hall) - £182,445.

Dance Base Scotland (Dance Base) - £223,827.

International Entertainment Holdings Ltd (Edinburgh Playhouse, Theatre Royal Glasgow and Kings Theatre Glasgow) - £350,000.

Leith Theatre Trust (Leith Theatre) - £342,800.

The Queens Hall (The Queens Hall) - £97,500.

Traverse Theatre (Scotland) Ltd (Traverse Theatre) - £150,000.

Usher Hall Reopening

Following the easing of Covid restrictions, our cultural venues have been given permission to reopen.

Forthcoming events:

Elbow - Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 September

Teenage Fanclub - Tuesday 14 September









Black Stone Cherry – Saturday 18 September

Paloma Faith – Sunday 19 September

A Celebration of the Music from Game of Thrones, Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit – Monday 20 September

Rumours of Fleetwood Mac - Wednesday 22 September

A Question of Sport Live – Friday 24 September

Dr Hook starring Dennis Locorriere - Saturday 25 September

Manic Street Preachers - Tuesday 28 September

Erasure – Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 October









Rufus Wainwright - Unfollow the Rules Tour - Saturday 9 October

Belinda Carlisle - Tuesday 12 October

Joker In Concert - The Film with live orchestra - Friday 15 October

What's Love Got To Do With It? A Tribute to Tina Turner – Saturday 16 October

Wet Wet – Saturday 30 October

OMD - Tuesday 2 November

For full details of these events please visit the website – <u>here</u>.

Assembly Rooms Reopening

Following the easing of Covid restrictions, our cultural venues have been given permission to reopen.

Forthcoming events:

Aldo Kane - Friday 1 October

Fi Glover and Jane Garvey: Did I Say That Out Loud - Saturday 23 October

Moving Adventures - European Outdoor Film Tour 2021 - Friday 12 November 2021

Chris Ramsey - Saturday 20 November 2021

For full details of these events please visit the website - here









Update on City Centre Graveyard Investment and Cemetery Tour Guide Operators Scheme

A range of works have been carried out in the five city centre historic graveyards at Canongate Greyfriars, New Calton, Old Calton and St Cuthbert's, These include:

- installation of bronze entry plaques in English, Gaelic and Braille;
- entrance gates painted;
- interpretation panel installed on the bothy wall in Greyfriars Kirkyard;
- granite copy of Greyfriars Bobby on a plinth installed as a focal point on entry to Greyfriars Kirkyard for 150th anniversary of the death of Bobby on 14 January 2022. A granite name plate has been added with the date of 1562 when the council was given the land by Mary Queen of Scots;
- Bum the Dog statue, a gift from twin city San Diego, has been moved temporarily into St Cuthbert's Kirkyard from the closed Kings Stables entry road below castle rock and bare earth turfed;
- some worn paths in Greyfriars repaired with gravel; and
- with Captured Realities Ltd created 360 virtual Wizard Walk and Bobby tour of Greyfriars.

The Cemetery Tour Guide Operator Scheme went live on 1 June 2021 and now has 29 tour company registrations so far. Two contactless donation boxes have been installed in Greyfriars with a point to follow in St Cuthbert's. As an alternative a text to donate facility is operational.

Footfall of visitors though the graveyards in the month of July was as follows:

- Canongate 7,000;
- New Calton 9,000;
- Old Calton 11,000;
- Greyfriars 57,000;
- St Cuthbert's 93,000 (actual number of graveyard visitors can't be defined with many using
 it as a cut through to Princes Street Gardens).





Thank you for your visit. Please consider making a text donation to help support the UNESCO World Heritage Site Graveyards at Canongate, Greyfriars, Old Calton, New Calton and St Cuthbert's

Text GRAVEYARD to 70450 to donate £1

Texts cost £1 plus one standard rate message

Thank you for your kind donation

he City of Edinburgh Council in partnership with Greyfriars Outreach on the Donr platfo





Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit - A Chance to Shine

The Drummond Cluster has been working with Cricket Scotland and the charity a Chance to Shine to give Primary 5 and 6 pupils a chance to learn cricket skills during curriculum time. The pupils received 90 minute sessions a day for 5 days by qualified coaches who were funded by the charity. The official launch of the initiative took place on Thursday 24 June at Princes Street Gardens with pupils from Broughton Primary in attendance. This has been a great initiative with local clubs receiving an influx of enquiries from the Drummond Cluster Pupils as this is the first time a block of cricket has been delivered to this age group.





Get Into Summer at Juniper Green Tennis Club

Local school pupils from Currie, Balerno and Colinton have had a fun-packed summer holiday at Juniper Green Tennis Club through the Accelerate Tennis coaching programme. The programme delivered morning and afternoon sessions open to players aged 5 - 11 of all abilities with a focus on introducing and developing essential motor skills, basic technique, fun games and match-play.

Week three of the programme saw a partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit called 'Get Into Summer' with funding made available through the Scottish Government to deliver summer activities for children and young people across Scotland. The aim is to help address negative impacts arising from extended periods of isolation and the lack of participation in normal activities during the pandemic. The priority is to improve children and young people's wellbeing, providing opportunities to socialise and reconnect with peers during the summer. The offer of a free tennis camp was presented to local schools with places on the camp filling up within a



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week!

"Juniper Green Tennis Club were more than happy to partner with The City of Edinburgh Council Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit programme 'Get Into Summer', recognising the opportunity to improve children and young people's wellbeing, providing opportunities to socialise and reconnect with peers during the summer. Thanks to Ryan Harrower – Racquets Development Officer, for facilitating this fun week of tennis activity." Kenny Petrie – Club Coach.

The club has applied for further funding to provide more opportunities for local families to access the tennis programme.

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Incremental Restart of Overnight Camping Expeditions

During June, the Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) gained council approval to restart overnight camping, including Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) expeditions. This is a prompt and proportionate response to a recent change in Scottish Government offsite visits advice. SOLU delivered an online safety briefing session and devised a risk assessment template to ensure a swift and safe return to overnight camping. Whilst national DofE flexible expedition arrangements continue to be available to participants, the incremental return to overnight expeditions brings additional benefits and experiences. Council schools, community groups like the Citadael Youth Centre and key partners such as the Friends of the Award (FOTA), all operating via the council's DofE Licence, have organised recent overnight camping expeditions.

The SOLU and DofE Scotland recently welcomed The Earl of Forfar and Lord Provost to the Bonaly Scout Centre. They spoke with DofE participants from Trinity Academy, <u>SCOREscotland</u> (Strengthening Communities for Race Equality Scotland based in Wester Hailes), and FOTA. His Royal Highness enjoyed working with the young people, some of whom were preparing for their first overnight expedition.



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Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit: Epic Day Adventures for Primary 7 Pupils

The council's Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit is delivering an innovative P7 Epic Days programme during the Summer and into the Autumn; taking place at the Bonaly Scout Centre and Pentland Hills Regional Park. This is helping to compensate for no school residential visits during the pandemic; as required by Scottish Government guidance. Pupils are experiencing a taste of some elements of a residential. The programme includes an extended day (10:00 – 21:00) and involves more than 3000 P7 pupils undertaking a wide range of outdoor activities including hillwalking in nearby Pentland Hills, archery, climbing wall, bushcraft, crate-stack, nightline and low ropes course. This is then followed by a hot meal, games and making a camp fire. The Outdoor Learning staff, including those from Benmore and Lagganlia staff, are being supported by Active Schools Coordinators and the Council's school catering team who provide hot meals to everyone taking part.

A P7 parent said: "My son came home on a complete high "the most epic of all epic days". You're all awesome for taking that on in the crazy weather they had that day. My son had just the best day out, and he has now decided that lentils are a good thing to eat - phenomenal!"

Jacqueline Scott, Head Teacher of Trinity Primary School said: "A huge thanks to everyone for providing such a memorable day for our Trinity P7s. From the minute we arrived to the minute we left, the organisation was incredible. The day provided absolutely the right balance between allowing the pupils some independence and an element of risk taking whilst also encouraging cooperation and ensuring safety. They arrived back at school buzzing with excitement. 'The best day ever' was reported to many parents and carers. The commitment and enthusiasm of the group leaders were infectious."

Recent media coverage, including photographs:

https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/education/over-3000-edinburgh-schoolkids-descend-on-pentland-hills-outdoor-adventure-area-for-epic-day-out-3282860

https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2021/06/epic-day-out-for-thousands-of-edinburgh-schoolchildren/

Incremental Restart of School Residential Visits to the Council's Benmore and Lagganlia Outdoor Centres

The council has recently approved the restart of school residential visits to Benmore and Lagganlia, subject to ongoing national advice and assessment of local infection rates. These will restart in the Autumn term and represents significant planning and preparation to ensure a prompt and safe return.

The council is at the forefront of reintroducing residential visits, which is in line with Scottish Government advice. Council officers have participated in national work supported by the Scottish Government, including creating and updating national guidance and resources: Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance to support the reintroduction of school residential visits

School residential visits are an important part of a progressive approach to outdoor learning via the Curriculum for Excellence. They produce significant and unique outcomes, for example: Educational value of Scotland's Outdoor Education Centres.

The council operating its own centres is as important as ever, allowing it to directly control the safety, availability and quality of its services; guaranteeing the best provision to Edinburgh children and young people. The centres are a beacon of good practice throughout the UK and beyond.

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit has recently started its periodic review of the Excursions Policy. The review of this framework for delivering offsite visits will focus on pandemic adaptation and renewal; safety; equity; equality; environmental sustainability and educational effectiveness.

Swanston Golf Club Girls Initiative

CEC Community Sport Hub officers have been working in partnership with Swanston Golf Club to support the development of girl's golf.

The club volunteers are hugely committed and have created a very welcoming and supportive environment for girls and their families. They have organised girls only sessions and camps and now have 40 girls as junior members.

Funding from the Golf Foundation has enabled the club to put in new tee markers to aid the transition to the full golf course for all juniors as they develop. Last week they held an Adult and Child Launch to promote the new tees, which was a fun and social occasion.



Opening of Libraries

18 libraries are open for an appointment-based service, with a mobile library service in operation at Ratho as alternative service provision while the new Library and Nursery hub is developed. In line with the Scottish Government's 'careful, cautious and sensible approach', an extended service offer alongside an incremental extension of opening hours will continue over September and October. This will see the requirement to make a booking for browsing being removed (except for bus pass applications and public computers), the introduction of dwell time, group and 121 activity, study space, and public access to toilets. Promotion of the service is taking place to align with a fines and charges amnesty running to end December. The proposed changes will also support the creation of dual function spaces (where building allows) to support the Asymptomatic Test Centre process and reduce disruption across the library service offer.

The resumption to pre Covid opening hours is planned to be in place by December.

Muirhouse will open its Edinburgh College Granton Campus library service by the end of October and the Muirhouse staff team will be running activities and services from schools and partner locations throughout the community: for example, Bookbug sessions will start on the 6 September from West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre. Granton has some health and safety issues (requiring building adaptation) which are in the process of being resolved. At Balerno, discussions are taking place with the school with regard to managing a COVID safe click and collect service. Corstorphine's planned asset works are complete and subsequent cupola paint work and internal reconfiguration will see the library opening from 25 October onwards.

A pilot digital library, offering supported People's Network (PN) free public computing and internet, will open in South Neighbourhood Office, to coincide with the refreshed PN offer citywide to be launched in January 2022.

Four libraries - Oxgangs, Sighthill, Newington and Leith - are currently in use as Symptomatic Test Centres until November 2021 and this requirement from Scottish Government is likely to continue beyond this. However, a review will be conducted of the use of these test centres and a consideration of potential alternative venues.

Libraries Update

Health Information Week 6 – 12 July

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a huge disruption to cancer care, affecting diagnosis, treatment and support for thousands of people across Scotland. In Edinburgh the temporary closure of our Libraries meant that we haven't been able to support people face to face but that hasn't stopped us doing everything we can to be there for people and their families affected by cancer, Macmillan @Edinburgh Libraries appreciate that, for some, this has been an incredibly isolating, lonely and frightening time with people not knowing who to turn to for emotional, practical or financial help. Often what people need is a friendly voice, someone to talk to and understand what they're going through at a time when they feel very alone. We are aware of the impact this can have on our volunteers too who provide that support, that's why we felt it important to keep connected and share links which we hope in some way, will help people look after themselves both mentally and physically. From mindfulness to getting active, from burnout to emotional reliance, we hope that there is something for everyone. Feedback has been extremely positive with people telling us that it has made them more "self-aware" helping them to take stock and move forward positively. Our Information and Support Service is still available over the phone or via email to ensure that we offer support to people at a time when they need it most. Please get in touch:

0131 242 – 8125 voicemail service (alternatively every Monday, Margaret – 07710 854579, every Wednesday, Gaynor – 07894 802557, every Friday, Angela – 07562 437727)

Macmillan.libraries@edinburgh.gov.uk

Here are some of the health sites the Macmillan Team and their volunteers benefited from:

• https://www.getcheckedearly.org – link to NHS Scotland encouraging people to get checked early including signs and symptoms of the various types of cancer.

 <u>BBC Springwatch</u> – Mindful moments, a compilation of visual and acoustic sounds to encourage us to sit back and relax.

<u>Fit For Health - Edinburgh Leisure</u> – Keep active and feel better, a range of classes designed for anyone with a long term condition to help improve physical activity and mental health.

<u>SAMH is the Scottish Association for Mental Health | SAMH</u> – Support for individuals and workers working on the frontline.

 www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09by3yy - Michael Mosely TV Dr explores a series of bitezise life style changes we can all make to feel better, a opportunity to learn, reflect, motivate and inspire people to manage their health and well-ness.

Wellbeing Book List

Edinburgh City Libraries have partnered with Young Scot to allow the Escape, Connect, Relate, our school librarian's wellbeing book list, to reach as many of our young citizens as possible.

Check it out here.

Edinburgh International Book Festival

Under current restrictions Edinburgh Liberates were unable to participate to the level we usually do, there was no Edinburgh Libraries day in the Story tent or Dr Book sessions. We were however able to assist in providing Bookbug the character performing and hosting a sing a long for attendees.

The Digital Team created online ebook/audiobook collections for adults, teens and children written by authors appearing at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. We featured these on our Libby app and OverDrive website as well as advertising them on social media.

Our school libraries ran their book festival programme and watched author talks from this year's festival.

World Alzheimer's Day 21 September 2021

Bronwen Brown, Development Officer for the Music Library has undertaken to participate in the Scotland wide "Playlist for Life", making the soundtrack of a person's life to keep them connected to themselves, using music to help and support people with dementia. She will be looking at how to give this opportunity to libraries across the city, specifically for the Library Link customers who have dementia. Each Library will have the opportunity to display leaflets from Playlist.

Upcoming Events

National Poetry Day - 7 October 2021

Libraries Week - 4-10 October 2021

COP26 Glasgow – 1–12 November 2021

Black History Month – 1– 31 October 2021

Book Week Scotland - 15-21 November 2021

Culture and Communities Committee



ConvenerCouncillor Donald Wilson



Vice-Convenor
Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan

Members Contact

Councillor Wilson (Convener)

Councillor McNeese-Mechan (Vice-Convener)

Councillor Booth

Councillor Brown

Councillor Doggart

Councillor Doran

Councillor Key

Councillor Mitchell

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Committee Services
Telephone 0131 529 6160

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming

Executive/routine Executive Wards All Council Commitments 43.46.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Culture and Communities Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Approve the recommended key principles on the Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming (as set out in Appendix 2) for public consultation; and
 - 1.1.2 Note that, following the public consultation and analysis of the response, finalised principles and associated guidelines will be submitted to Committee for approval by Summer 2022.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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Report

Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report sets out recommended key principles for the use of public open space for events and filming in Edinburgh and proposes that these be progressed to public consultation.
- 2.2 It also provides information on the work of stakeholders on the working group and its sub-groups in developing these key principles.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Public Spaces Management Plan Collaborative Development report to Culture and Communities Committee on 16 March 2021:
 - 3.1.1 Noted the collaborative engagement with stakeholders who provided extensive comment, advice and ideas for the development of the Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming (previously called Public Space Management Plan/PSMP);
 - 3.1.2 Agreed to the establishment of a working group of stakeholders and officers to conclude the development and to be chaired by the Convenor or Vice Convenor of the Culture and Communities Committee; and
 - 3.1.3 Noted that a report on the recommendations from the working group would be presented to the 14 September 2021 meeting of this Committee for Member approval.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The working group, chaired by the Convenor of the Culture and Communities Committee, met for the first time on 21 April 2021. The organisations that are members of the working group are listed at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The working group formed seven sub-groups, one for each topic arising from the collaborative engagement, inviting participants from within the working group membership.

- 4.3 Each of the seven sub-groups met twice, developing and refining the key principles, and reporting back to the working group to ensure consistency and theme linkage.
- 4.4 Following the April meeting, the working group met again on 19 May, 23 June and finally on 21 July. The key principles they recommend are reported here.
- 4.5 The fundamental proposed for the use of public open space for events and filming are:
 - 4.5.1 Application and Approval Application and Approvals are tailored to the scale of an event or filming and in due course will be via a digital platform that provides guidance and is publicly accessible. They are managed by an Events Office.
 - 4.5.2 Area Conditions template Area Conditions will contain additional principles and guidelines specific to that area and will be included on a publicly accessible digital platform.
 - 4.5.3 Engagement and Communication Engagement and Communication is open and transparent, practicable and proportionate to the scale of the activity and the impact it will have, provided at the earliest opportunity and in appropriate and accessible formats.
 - 4.5.4 Filming Filming complies with the Code of Practice for filming, the key principles for the use of public spaces, minimises disruption to residents and maximises a positive legacy.
 - 4.5.5 Sustainable events, economic Events and filming provide net positive economic, social and community benefits.
 - 4.5.6 Sustainable events, environmental Events and filming activity commit to and demonstrate environmental sustainability throughout their tenure and will align with ISO 20121.
 - 4.5.7 Sustainable events, social Events and filming deliver beneficial social value and support a lasting positive legacy for Edinburgh.
- 4.6 The key principles that 'stand behind' those fundamental principles are in Appendix 2.
- 4.7 Stakeholders understand the volume of events and filming activity and are clear that measures must be proportionate to the scale of the activity and the impact it will have. This expression is repeated across several of the key principles and will be detailed in the guidelines. Defining what is proportionate will be straightforward for activity at either end of the 'scale and impact' range. Defining it for the 'middle ground' is more challenging and stakeholders noted it will require officer experience and expertise, as currently demonstrated with the Event Planning and Operations Group (EPOG) system.
- 4.8 Social value is identified by stakeholders as an important and required principle to help fully understand the benefits of events and filming for the people of Edinburgh. To quote one stakeholder, 'conceptualising Social Value as "added value", or solely positive can be problematic. All actions create and destroy value for people that are

- affected by them. The question is whether the positive and negative value has been identified and factored into the decision making. This will require trade-offs between different groups to be identified and addressed. More work is being carried out to understand how social value can be identified and applied.
- 4.9 Guidelines are required that are aligned with the key principles in Appendix 2. Most information, advice and application documents already exist and are in use (these are available on the <u>Culture Edinburgh</u> website) but they now need to be intuitively linked and where required, updated to align with the key principles.
- 4.10 A recurring theme in discussions across all sub-groups was the need to have a digital portal that could hold:
 - 4.10.1 Key principles, guidelines and information;
 - 4.10.2 An events and filming calendar;
 - 4.10.3 Geographic display of information;
 - 4.10.4 A streamlined application;
 - 4.10.5 Area condition information for local information, local contacts and notification;
 - 4.10.6 Automatic notification, updates and feedback to and from interested parties;
 - 4.10.7 Monitoring information and data for analysis; and
 - 4.10.8 Future links to Council payment, permission, licencing and application systems.
- 4.11 A project is underway to explore resource requirements, costs and timescales for a digital portal and a revenue budget will need to be identified.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If Committee agree the key principals, the next steps will be to:
 - 5.1.1 Consult publicly on the key principles for the use of public open spaces for events and filming. Consultation will be carried out in accordance with policy. The Consultation Advisory Panel has pre-approved this consultation.
 - 5.1.2 Collate and produce guidelines for the application of the key principles.
 - 5.1.3 Update the Parks Events Manifesto to reflect the key principles and guidelines.
 - 5.1.4 Identify associated costs and progress the digital portal.
 - 5.1.5 Analyse consultation response, conclude key principles and guidelines, and recommend to Committee for approval.
- 5.2 Following final approval by Committee, introduce and implement the key principles and guidelines, with a transition period for event and filming applications and approvals in progress.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The cost of developing the management plan has been met from within the Place directorate's existing revenue budget.
- 6.2 Costs associated with a web platform/digital portal and improving processes and procedures need to be identified as part of finalising the plan.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Stakeholders, including event and filming organisers, community councils, resident groups, business groups, friends' groups, Council officers and interested individuals were invited to, and many collaboratively engaged in the development of the use of public space for events and filming.
- 7.2 Following the March 2021 Committee, these stakeholders formed a Working Group with seven focused sub-groups to conclude the development of the use of public space for events and filming.
- 7.3 The key principles for the use of public space for events and filming presented here are recommended by the Working Group for approval.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 The Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto (EPEM) Transport and Environment Committee 26 August 2014.
- 8.2 Open Space 2021 Planning Committee <u>16 December 2016.</u>
- 8.3 Public Spaces Protocol Transport and Environment Committee 9 March 2018.
- 8.4 Film Charter for The City of Edinburgh Council film charter
- 8.5 Code of Practice for Filming in Edinburgh <u>code of practice</u>

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 Working Group membership organisations
- 9.2 Appendix 2 Key Principles for events and filming in public open spaces.

Use of public open space for events and filming - Working Group membership organisations

Assembly Festival

Beltane Fire Society

Centre for the Moving Image

City of Edinburgh Council

Cockburn Association

Collective

Cutting Edge Theatre

DF Concerts Limited

Edinburgh Cocktail Week

Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society

Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival

Edinburgh Leisure

Edinburgh Oktoberfest

Edinburgh World Heritage

Essential Edinburgh

EventScotland

Exchange Events Ltd (Gandey World Class

Productions)

Festivals Edinburgh

Film production

Fly Events

Friends of Inverleith Park

Friends of Lauriston Castle Estate

Friends of Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Grange Prestonfield Community Council

GSi Events

Imaginate

Leith Central Community Council

Leith Links Community Council

LeithLate

Lothian Buses

LS Productions

Meadows Festival Association

Meadows Festival Edinburgh and Tollcross

Community Council

MZA

New Town and Broughton Community Council

NL Productions

Nuvoc VC

Patrick Geddes Memorial Trust

Picardy Residents Association/New Town and Broughton Community Council Environment

Committee

Southside Community Council

Sporting Bears Motor Club

The Grassmarket Residents Association and

OTCC

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Underbelly Ltd

Unique Events Ltd

West End Community Council

Key Principles (numbered) for the use of public open space for events and filming

Application and Approval

Application and Approvals are tailored to the scale of an event or filming and in due course will be via a digital platform that provides guidance and is publicly accessible. They are managed by an Events Office.

- 1. The Application and Approval for events and filming will be based on the scale of the activity, the impact it will have, both short and long term.
- 2. A digital platform will hold an events and filming calendar, planned disruption to an area such as road works or construction, Area Conditions and an application template with a guide to what's required for a successful application, including notification of stakeholders likely to be impacted. It will also record and communicate the positive benefits events and filming provide, as well as the negative impacts, to ensure balanced analysis.
- 3. A single point of contact 'event and filming office' will aid clarity, information exchange and consistency. It will need to be appropriately resourced and empowered.
- 4. Applications will be expected to follow the principles and guidelines. In exceptional circumstances an applicant may seek modification or departure from these principles but will be required to present their case, including mitigations, to impacted stakeholders and for scrutiny by the Council. The Council, after due consideration and taking account of comments, will not be obliged to grant the exception.

Area Conditions

Area Conditions will contain additional principles and guidelines specific to that area and will be included on a publicly accessible digital platform.

5. Area Conditions will have information available on the area including stakeholders, facilities, capacity, toilets, key contacts.

Economic

Events and filming provide net positive economic, social and community benefits.

6. The use of Council-owned or public good sites for commercial events should be framed within a Community wealth building approach.

Engagement and Communication

Engagement and Communication is open and transparent, practicable and proportionate to the scale of the activity and the impact it will have, provided at the earliest opportunity and in appropriate and accessible formats.

- 7. Information on events and filming will be as open and transparent as confidentiality allows and proportionate to the scale of the activity and the impact it will have. It will be provided at the earliest opportunity, to all those who may be interested in it, in appropriate and accessible formats.
- 8. Proportionate to the scale of the activity and the impact it will have, communication must be sufficient and accessible to allow anyone who may be impacted by events and filming to understand the disruption and if needed make alternative arrangements in a timely manner.
- 9. There will be open and transparent sharing of non-confidential information and engagement, proportionate to the scale of the activity and the impact it will have. As with planning applications, engagement can provide comment to be taken into account; while this will not automatically veto an event or filming, stakeholders will be entitled to an explanation where their views are not upheld.
- 10. There will be maximum transparency in all contracts and reporting, proportionate to the scale of the activity and the impact it will have.

Environment

Events and filming activity commit to and demonstrate environmental sustainability throughout their tenure and will align with the principles of ISO 20121.

- 11. Every opportunity must be taken to minimise disruption.
- 12. Built and green areas will be protected to allow an expeditious return to pre event conditions (or better).
- 13. Organisers must demonstrate that events and filming respect and contribute to the city's cultural identity, reputation and quality of life for residents. They will be expected to join with Edinburgh residents in taking responsibility for the good appearance of the city.
- 14. Responsibility for re-instatement, where required, will be identified at application and timescales given for both anticipated conditions and poor/wet weather conditions.
- 15. Events and filming must comply with Edinburgh's Sustainability Approach to 'net zero' by 2030 and events with the principles of ISO 20121.

Filming

Filming complies with the Code of Practice for filming, the key principles for the use of public spaces, minimizes disruption to residents and maximises a positive legacy.

Social

Events and filming deliver beneficial social value and support a lasting positive legacy for Edinburgh.

16. Social value is an important and required principle, but more work is needed to understand how it can be identified and applied. For example, 'Relevant and significant positive and

negative effects on groups of people should be identified and factored into the decision. Decisions about events and filming should be made such that they pursue as much of net positive social value as possible and mitigate any unavoidable negative effects as far as possible. The anticipated social value and the way this has influenced decision making must be transparent.'

17. All those employed in events and filming should be covered by the living wage and approved employment practices, including receiving necessary training.



Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 14 September 2021

The Sixth Edinburgh Makar

Executive/routine
Wards All
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee:
 - 1.1.1 acknowledge Alan Spence's achievements as Edinburgh Makar over his extended term from 2017 to 2021, and to extend Committee's thanks and best wishes for the future; and
 - 1.1.2 To approve the appointment of Hannah Lavery as the Sixth Edinburgh Makar, from October 2021 to September 2024.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director - Place

Contact: Gillian Findlay, Acting Cultural Venues Manager (Museums and Galleries)

E-mail: gillian.findlay1@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 07874 884913



Report

The Sixth Edinburgh Makar

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report gives the background to the civic appointment of the Edinburgh Makar. It notes the achievements of the outgoing Fifth Makar, Alan Spence, whose term of office comes to an end on 30 September 2021 and asks Committee to acknowledge those achievements. Hannah Lavery has been nominated as the sixth Edinburgh Makar, to take up the post from 1 October 2021. Committee is asked to approve her appointment.

3. Background

- 3.1 At its meeting on 28 August 2001, the Council Executive approved the proposal to create the civic appointment of Edinburgh Makar, a 'poet laureate for Edinburgh'. The Edinburgh Makar is appointed in acknowledgement of his or her achievements in poetry.
- 3.2 This initiative built on the Council's existing commitment to the promotion of writers and literary projects through, for example, the Writers' Museum, Makars' Court, literary publications, Edinburgh City Libraries and designate at Unesco City of Literature.
- 3.3 The Scots word 'makar' originally applied to writers of the 15th century such as William Dunbar but has come to be used to stress the role of the poet or author as a skilled and versatile worker in the craft of writing.
- 3.4 The post is a civic appointment made by Council and overseen by the Culture service. The writer is selected and nominated by representatives of the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust, the Scottish Poetry Library, the Scottish Centre of PEN International and the Saltire Society in partnership with Culture. Eligible writers are required to be resident in Edinburgh, or to have a strong connection with the city.

- 3.5 The Makar is required to write one poem each year on Edinburgh and/or aspects of life in the city and assist in the promotion of poetry throughout Edinburgh, in partnership with the Writers' Museum, City Libraries, Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust, the Scottish Poetry Library, Scottish PEN, the Saltire Society and other literary organisations
- 3.6 Following a rigorous selection process, the poet and playwright Stewart Conn was appointed as the First Edinburgh Makar by the Council on 30 May 2002, taking up his post on 1 June 2002. He was succeeded by the poet Valerie Gillies who was appointed by the Council on 2 June 2005. Ron Butlin, poet, novelist, playwright and librettist, was appointed by Council on 1 May 2008 and became the Third Edinburgh Makar. He was succeeded by Christine De Luca, who took up her appointment on 1 June 2014. Alan Spence became the Fifth Makar on 1 October 2017.
- 3.7 An honorarium, currently £2,500 per year for a fixed period of three years, is awarded for this civic appointment.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Alan Spence has been a committed, dedicated and tenacious Edinburgh Makar. Despite the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic and many practical challenges it brought throughout 2020/21, he has successfully engaged with a wide range of local and national cultural partners, poets and members of the public, and participated in a significant number of civic and cultural events. Alan has been an impressive advocate and ambassador for Edinburgh and for poetry, and his interest in international dialogue and exchange has undoubtedly enhanced the city's reputation overseas.
- 4.2 A detailed calendar of activities undertaken by the Fifth Edinburgh Makar is provided in Appendix 1; the range of the Makar's activities is illustrated below:
 - 4.2.1 creating commissioned work, notably for the annual Edinburgh Awards;
 - 4.2.2 giving public readings of his work;
 - 4.2.3 representing the city or its cultural partners at launch events and receptions;
 - 4.2.4 providing interviews for the spoken and print media; and
 - 4.2.5 participating in cultural meetings and events nationally.
- 4.3 The writer nominated to succeed Alan Spence as Edinburgh Makar is Hannah Lavery, an award-winning poet, playwright, performer and experienced workshop facilitator, born and raised in Edinburgh. The Drift, her autobiographical play, toured Scotland as part of the National Theatre of Scotland's Season 2019 and her poem, Scotland, you're no mine, was selected as one of the Best Scottish Poems 2019. A biographical note is provided in Appendix 2.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Covid-19 restrictions allowing, a civic reception will be held in the City Chambers for the outgoing and incoming Edinburgh Makars. A plaque in the City Chambers inscribed with the details of the previous Edinburgh Makars will be brought up to date to record the end of the fifth Makar's appointment, and the start of the sixth Makar's term.

6. Financial impact

6.1 The honorarium of £2,500 per annum, the cost of updating the Edinburgh Makar plaque, and the costs of the civic reception can all be contained within the 2021/22 revenue budget held by Culture.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 The Culture service has worked in partnership with representatives of the Saltire Society, the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust, the Scottish Centre of PEN International and the Scottish Poetry Library to select the nominee for the Edinburgh Makar appointment.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 The Edinburgh Makar 2005-2008, City of Edinburgh Council, <u>1 May 2008</u>
- 8.2 The Edinburgh Makar 2008-2011, City of Edinburgh Council, <u>1 May 2008</u>
- 8.3 Update on the Edinburgh Makar, Culture and Leisure Committee, 26 April 2011
- 8.4 Edinburgh Makar Update, Culture and Leisure Committee, 28 June 2011
- 8.5 The Third and Fourth Makars, Culture and Sport Committee 27 May 2014
- 8.6 Edinburgh Makar: Update and Extension of Term, 20 March 2017
- 8.7 The Fifth Edinburgh Makar, Culture and Communities Committee, <u>12 September</u> <u>2017</u>

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 Detailed calendar of activities undertaken by the Fifth Edinburgh Makar
- 9.2 Appendix 2 Biographical note for Sixth Edinburgh Makar

Alan Spence - Fifth Edinburgh Makar

Calendar of Activities: 2017 → 2021

September

Announcement in the press of appointment as Makar - articles in The Scotsman, Evening News, Herald. Online coverage from Edinburgh City of Literature, Scottish Poetry Library, Scottish Review of Books, Association for Scottish Literary Studies...

Meeting at City Arts Centre with Maeve Toal, Helen Scott and David Patterson to discuss working together on Makar-related projects, and in particular participation in launch events at the Gallery on 16 November.

Recorded interview and poetry reading, with Bashabi Fraser, on BBC Radio Scotland Ricky Ross show. Also featured on BBC Scotland Facebook page.

Reading at the Heretics, Waverley Bar, with John Herdman, Dolina McLennan, Peter Burnett. Welcomed and introduced to the audience as Edinburgh's new Makar.

Broadcast on Ricky Ross Show, BBC Radio Scotland.

National Poetry Day - held poetry book sale at Citadel Books and gave out copies of Scottish Poetry Library's postcards. Did readings at the shop throughout the day.

Attended event at Scottish Poetry Library to honour previous Makar Christine De Luca and welcome me to the post. Event chaired by Edinburgh's First Makar, Stewart Conn.

October

Ceremony at City Chambers, hosted by Lord Provost, to welcome me as Makar. Among those in attendance were the Japanese Consul General and the Indian Deputy Consul General as well as previous Makars Christine De Luca, Valerie Gillies and Stewart Conn.

Press coverage (with photos) of Makar ceremony, in Scotsman, Edinburgh Evening News and The National

Online interview with Scottish Review of Books, discussing new bookshop and appointment as Makar.

Meeting with Gillian Findlay, Galleries and Museums, to discuss possibilities for Makar post.

Organised and hosted a reading at Citadel Books to promote Thali Katori, a new anthology of Scottish/South Asian poems. Other poets taking part were Bashabi Fraser and Alan Riach (editors of the anthology) and former Makars Christine De Luca and Valerie Gillies, along with Indian-born poets Shampa Ray and Jameela Muneer.

Working on commissioned poem for Edinburgh Award winner (Sir Tim O'Shea)

November

Meeting with Anna Murray, Galleries and Museums, to discuss project to write site-specific poems for Gallery of Modern Art, particularly to encourage children to use the outdoor area.

Continuing work on commissioned poem for Edinburgh Award winner Sir Tim O'Shea

Chaired literary event - Culture Cafe - in Aberdeen with author Bernard MacLaverty. Introduced to audience as Edinburgh Makar.

Read poetry for Edinburgh City of Literature at launch of Star and Story project in the Canon's Gait.

Attended launch of Our Story project at Museum of Edinburgh.

Attended Edinburgh Award ceremony at City Chambers, hosted by the Lord Provost. Read commissioned poem - 'World Without Walls' - for 2017 recipient Sir Tim O'Shea.

For Interfaith Week, took part in reading/discussion at St Mungo Museum of Religion, Glasgow. Introduced as Edinburgh Makar.

Meeting at Citadel Books with Councillor Gordon Munro, artist/photographer Fay Young and Lilias Fraser from Scottish Poetry Library. Discussed revival of Poetry Tree events in St Andrew Square - aiming at programme for Spring 2018 with reading/performance/installations. Proposed collaboration with Japanese Consulate. Sponsorship sought from Standard Life and Costa Coffee who have both expressed interest.

Gave reading of winter poems at City Arts Centre, for launch of three exhibitions - the Gallery's Winter Season. Chaired by Councillor Ian Campbell and Museums and Galleries Manager Frank Little. Some 300 people in attendance.

Visit to Prague (UNESCO City of Literature).

Reading at Den Poezie Poetry Festival with eminent Czech poet/folksinger Jiri Dedecek, Head of Czech PEN. Own poems read in translation by poet Tomas Mika - discussions on dual-language publication as on-going project.

Talk at Charles University, Prague, on own writing and modern Scottish Literature. 50 students and staff attended.

Meeting with Bernie Higgins, Director of Den Poezie Poetry Festival and Katerina Bajo, director of Prague City of Literature project. Discussed many possible areas of collaboration - they are keen to establish their own Makar for the City of Prague. Keen also for me to make return visits, perhaps for 2-month residency, and to pursue further the possibility of publishing my poetry in Czech translation. Made visit to Municipal Library and Franz Kafka Museum.

Coverage of poetry reading via social media - Facebook and website pages for Den Poezie festival and Czech PEN.

Continuing email correspondence with Czech contacts.

December

READING at Indian Consulate to promote Thali Katori - anthology of Scottish/South Asian poetry. Reception hosted by Consul General Mrs Anju Ranjan and chaired by the book's editors Alan Riach and Bashabi Fraser, who also read, with Christine De Luca and other poets.

Attended Reception at Assembly Rooms in honour of the birthday of Emperor Akahito of Japan. Event hosted by Japanese Consul General Mr Daisuke Matsunaga. Speeches by the Consul General and Scottish Culture Minister Fiona Hyslop.

Continued correspondence with Councillor Gordon Munro, artist/ photographer Fay Young and Lilias Fraser from Scottish Poetry Library to forward St Andrew Square poetry project.

Meeting at National Gallery of Modern Art with Anna Murray, Galleries and Museums, to further discuss project for site-specific poems to be installed in the Gallery's outdoor area.

2018

January

Attended Event at Royal Scottish Academy with artist Calum Colvin discussing his portrait of poet Hugh MacDiarmid, introduced by author James Robertson.

Interviewed at Citadel Books by Edi Stark for BBC Radio Scotland magazine programme Winter Weekend. Discussed bookshops, writing and Makar post.

Interview with Edi Stark broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland.

Working on site-specific poems for National Gallery of Modern Art.

Meeting at Marketing Edinburgh office with CEO John Donnelly (along with artist Fay Young and Lilias Fraser from Scottish Poetry Library), to gain support and possible funding for Poetry Garden project in St Andrew Square.

Meeting at Essential Edinburgh office with Emily Johnston, Senior Manager and Roddy Smith, Chief Executive (along with Fay Young and Lilias Fraser - see above) to move forward the plans for Poetry Garden project. Firm commitment of support, financial and organisational, from Essential Edinburgh

Burns Night Reading at Lyon & Turnbull, Edinburgh, to promote new poetry anthology published by Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow. Read own poetry alongside other poets and book's editor Alan Riach.

Interview with Colin Waters of Scottish Poetry Library for podcast to be posted on SPL website. Discussed own work, poetry in general and Makar post.

Contacted Essential Edinburgh with costings for poetry / podcast related to Poetry Garden project.

Interview - Completed interview begun on my visit to Prague in November, to be featured in Czech newspaper Literary Noviny. Discussed own work, Scottish literature and Makar post.

Photograph with caption appeared in Edinburgh Life magazine. (Taken while reading poem for Sir Tim O'Shea at Edinburgh Award ceremony in City Chambers).

February

Meeting with Gillian Findlay at Writers' Museum for update on Makar activities and to discuss further projects.

Podcast interview by Colin Donald (30 minutes) posted on Scottish Poetry Library website.

Chaired Book Group in Citadel Books, Abbeyhill.

Chaired Reading at Belmont Cinema in Aberdeen by poet Douglas Dunn, and had Meeting with Jane Spiers, CEO Aberdeen Performing Arts on poetry poster project she has initiated involving twelve top poets working with artists. Results will go on show at Music Hall, Aberdeen, but discussed transfer to Edinburgh through my role as Makar - possible exhibition in Scottish Poetry Library or City Art Centre.

Completed and delivered seven short poems commissioned for gardens of National Gallery of Modern Art

Chaired Book Group at Citadel Books, Abbeyhill.

Meeting with American freelance journalist Susannah Jacob who is researching an article on Edinburgh for the New York Times. She has interest in literary Edinburgh, particularly Robert Louis Stevenson. I directed her to Gillian Findlay at the Writers' Museum for further research.

Participated in City of Literature project initiated by City of Literature Heidelberg - copied out two of my poems by hand on special paper, to be incorporated in a hand-bound book containing poems from all the Cities of Literature worldwide. Assisted by Rebecca Raeburn at City of Literature Edinburgh who took photos for the project's international website.

March

Meeting on site at St Andrew Square with artist Fay Young to discuss further possibilities for Poetry Tree project.

Book Group at Citadel Books, Abbeyhill.

At National Gallery of Scotland, judged annual poetry competition for school pupils reciting poetry they had learned by heart (Poetry by Heart Scotland competition) run by the Scotlish Poetry Library. Chose winners, spoke before and after award, recited one of my own poems and presented prize to overall winner.

Meeting with artist Calum Colvin to discuss participation in collaborative poetry/art project for Royal Scottish Academy (working with artist Doug Cocker.

Book Group at Citadel Books.

Meeting with photographer Robin Gillanders to discuss collaborative project - photographs and haiku, also for Royal Scottish Academy. Book Group at Citadel Books.

Interview (completed earlier) published in Czech newspaper Literary Noviny (two page spread). Discussed own work, Scottish literature and Makar post.

Book Group at Citadel Books.

Chaired Reading by poet Gerda Stevenson from her new collection QUINES - poems by Scottish Women

Meeting with Ali Bowden, City of Literature. Hand-wrote one of my poems to be gifted to City of Literature Iowa, during forthcoming visit by Lord Provost.

Chose one of my poems for City of Literature project in Krakow - poems to be projected at various sites in the city. Arranged for Polish translation of poem through contact at University of Lodz.

Continued correspondence with City of Literature Prague and Den Poezie Festival about establishing a Prague Makar post incorporating exchanges with Edinburgh.

April

Meeting with artist Rose Strang and cellist Atzi Muramatsu to plan collaborative project on Holyrood Park for Midsummer exhibition/performance.

Meeting at Royal Scottish Academy with artists Calum Colvin and Doug Cocker to discuss poetry performance at RSA exhibition.

Award - Announcement of award to me by Japanese government of their prestigious honour the Order of the Rising Sun. Citation describes me as poet, Emeritus Professor and Edinburgh Makar.

May

Social Media coverage of Rising Sun Award - University of Aberdeen, Edinburgh City of Literature, Bella Caledonis etc.

Radio interview on Rising Sun Award for BBC Radio Scotland Sunday morning show with Ricky Ross.

Meeting at Royal Scottish Academy (Preview of RSA Annual exhibition) with artist Calum Colvin and author James Robertson to discuss my contribution to poetry element of the exhibition in response to artworks.

Broadcast of Radio Scotland interview.

Reading at Nomad's Tent, Edinburgh to celebrate India's Nobel Prizewinning poet Rabindranath Tagore. Charity event also featuring former Makar Christine De Luca and Indian singer Bani Battacharya. Event attended by Indian Consul General Mrs Anju Ranjan.

Interview (conducted by phone) with Japan Times newspaper in Tokyo, following on from announcement of Order of the Rising Sun award.

Working on poem for RSA exhibition (collaborative piece with artist Doug Cocker). Working on poem for Midsummer event in Holyrood Park.

Attended Reception at Scottish Poetry Library for visiting Latvian poets.

Attended Event at Scottish Poetry Library in honour of librarian Lillias Fraser.

Meeting with visiting American poet Sarah McCallum.

Meeting with artist Rose Strang and cellist Atzu Miramatsu to progress collaborative project for Midsummer event in Holyrood Park.

Reading at Royal Scottish Academy, with poet Rab Wilson - session chaired by artist Calum Colvin, curator of this year's RSA exhibition. Read new poem MEADOW, a response to art-work of that name by artist Doug Cocker.

Working on Poem commissioned by Lord Provost's office for forthcoming visit to Krakow.

June

At Edinburgh City of Literature Office, copied out poem I had written for Lord Provost's visit to Krakow, on parchment paper to be delivered as a scroll to Mayor of Krakow.

Rehearsal and recording with cellist Atzi Muramatsu of poems I had written for Midsummer event with artist Rose Strong, on the wells of Holyrood Park.

Flew to Krakow for UNESCO Creative Cities event.

In Krakow. Afternoon, attended open forum sessions at Creative Cities event. Evening accompanied Lord Provost and Ali Bowden from City of Literature to meeting with Mayor of Krakow. Informal discussions on cooperation between Edinburgh and Krakow as partner-cities. At reception afterwards, Lord Provost announced Edinburgh/Krakow writers' exchange and I read my specially commissioned poem to Mayor and some 400 guests. Met delegates from many cities worldwide. Renewed acquaintance with Prague City of Literature delegate (Katerina Bajo) and confirmed my participation in Prague's Den Poezie festival in November. A number of delegates said they would discuss possibility of appointing their own 'Makar' or city poet.

Met my Polish translator - Monika Kocot from University of Lodz. She will translate my Edinburgh - Krakow poem for projection on 'Poetry Wall' in Krakow city centre (another of my poems, translated by her, is already part of the project). Evening, returned to Edinburgh.

Reading with cellist Atzi Muramatsu - midsummer event at studio/gallery of artist Rose Strang in Abbeyhill (collaborative project for the opening of The Wells of Holyrood Park exhibition).

Attended Reception/Dinner at the City Chambers, hosted by Lord Provost, welcoming delegation from University of Kyoto.

Book Group, Citadel Books, Abbeyhill.

Meeting with poet/artist Julie Johnstone to discuss collaborative projects and publication.

Award Ceremony to receive Order of The Rising Sun from the Japanese Government in the name of the Emperor. Award presented by Consul General Mr Daisuke Matsunaga at his residence in Edinburgh. Read a poem written for the occasion.

July

Book Group, Citadel Books.

Meeting with artist Fay Young and representatives of Essential Edinburgh to progress Poetry Garden project for St Andrews Square. (Meeting at Essential Edinburgh offices in George Street).

Meeting with Japanese Consul General Daisuke Matsunaga at his Residence in Edinburgh to discuss further contact/collaboration after his return to Japan and forthcoming posting to Ethiopia as Ambassador of Japan.

Meeting at Indian Consulate with Consul General Anju Ranjan to discuss participation in forthcoming celebration of 150th anniversary of birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

Book Group, Citadel Books, Abbeyhill

Meeting with Caitrin Armstrong of Book Trust Scotland to discuss writing workshop at Book Trust headquarters.

Book Group, Citadel Books, Abbeyhill

Meeting with artist Fay Young and Vikki from Dishoom Reastaurant to discuss Dishoom's involvement in Poetry Garden project at St Andrew's Square

Meeting with Rebecca Raeburn at City of Literature to restart Makar web page originally set up by Christine De Luca.

Book Group, Citadel Books, Abbeyhill

August

Reading at Moniack Mhor writers' centre. Introduced as Edinburgh Makar.

Reading at Citadel Books, with poets Tom Hubbard and Christine de Luca, with music from lute-player Christopher Jupp.

Reading at Edinburgh International Book Festival. Session chaired by Brian Taylor, BBC Scotland political commentator.

Reading at poetry festival in New York to mark 70th anniversary of United nations Declaration of Human Rights. Keynote speaker Chaudhuri, former Permanent Representative of Bangla Desh to UN.

Correspondence with Prague City of Literature making arrangements for visit to Den Poezie festival in November when I will read with their newly-appointed City Poet. The post was directly inspired by my Makarship after my visit to the festival last year.

Reception at City Chambers, hosted by Lord Provost, to meet international Peace Run arriving in Edinburgh on way across Europe.

September

Award Ceremony. Received Scottish Samurai Award from Ronald Watt OBE for services to literature and Scottish-Japanese relations. (Past recipients have included Billy Connolly and Joanna Lumley). Ceremony hosted by Lord Charles Bruce at his family home Broom Hall in Fife.

Meeting at St Andrew Square with artist Fay Young and David Cobb from Royal Caledonian Botanical Society to further progress re-establishment of Poetry Garden. Confirmed plans to hold ceremony and event on National Poetry Day in October.

Attended screening of new documentary film RAY OF LIGHT at Edinburgh University, organised by Edinburgh Indian Association, attended by Deputy Consul General.

Attended as civic guest Edinburgh Riding of the Marches at Edinburgh City Chambers, presided over by Lord Provost.

Conducted Writing Workshop for staff at Scottish Book Trust.

Attended Reception at City Chambers to honour retiring Indian High Commissioner to the UK Mr YK Sinha. Ceremony presided over by Lord Provost and Indian Consul General Mrs Anju Ranjan.

Lunchtime Reading of my poetry at Colonies Art Fair in Abbeyhill.

Second lunchtime Reading of my poetry at Colonies Art Fair in Abbeyhill.

Reading and Talk at Edinburgh Writers' Club.

October

Reading and Talk at Indian Consulate General to mark 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi. Ceremony organised and chaired by Consul General Mrs Anju Ranjan.

Recorded Podcast for Scottish Poetry Library on Poetry Tree event in St Andrew Square for National Poetry Day.

Reading at Terraces Book Group Edinburgh.

Ceremony for National Poetry Day - rededication of Poetry Tree in St Andrew Square. Organised Reading by myself and three of the previous Makars - Christine De Luca, Ron Butlin and Stewart Conn. Event also attended by Ms Yoko Murata from Japanese Consulate General who gave a short speech. Haiku written by me for the occasion was placed by the tree.

Podcast broadcast online on Scottish Poetry Library site.

Meeting with Frank Little (Cultural Venues Manager, Museums and Galleries) to discuss first year as Makar and forthcoming Makar-related projects. (Particular interest in international aspect of the post).

Attended Performance at Indian Consulate, hosted by Consul General Mrs Anju Ranjan - dance-drama based on the poetry of Rabindranath Tagore,

Meeting with artist Mary Walters to discuss collaborative sculpture/ performance project to take place at Summerhall arts centre.

November

Working on poem, Flower of Scotland, for Edinburgh Award winner Doddie Weir.

Working on poem, Edinburgh Come All Ye, to be read at Eurocities Conference, Edinburgh.

Attended Event at Scottish Storytelling Centre - opening of exhibition by artist Marie-Alice Harel (combining illustration and storytelling) and launch of book Hortari.

Visit to Prague.

Attended (as VIP guest) Concert in Prague to mark centenary of Czechoslovakian independence. Dignitaries attending included Czech and Slovak parliamentarians, guests representing literature and the arts, and Indian Ambassador.

Talk/Reading at Den Poezie Festival Prague, with newly-appointed Prague 'Makar' or City Poet Sylva Fischerova. (Appointment was inspired by my visit last year, and funded by Prague City of Literature).

Read Poems at ceremony in Makar's Court to dedicate memorial to Scottish World War 1 poets.

Read Poem commissioned for Edinburgh Award dedicated to this year's recipient Doddie Weir at special ceremony in City Chambers, hosted by Lord Provost, attended by Doddie Weir and guests.

My Doddie Weir poem, Flower of Scotland, published on Doddie Weir's website and Facebook page, and widely shared on social media.

Read specially commissioned poem, Edinburgh Come All Ye, at Eurocities Conference in Edinburgh, to some 500 delegates. Conference attended by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, poem introduced by Lord Provost. Renewed acquaintance with delegates from Prague City Council.

December

Attended Reception at Assembly Rooms to mark birthday of Emperor Akahito of Japan. Event organised by Japanese Consulate General and hosted by new Consul General Mr Nozomu Takaoka. Speech by Fiona Hyslop, Culture Minister.

Read at Launch of Gitanjali and Beyond, journal produced by Edinburgh Napier University. Launch was at Lighthouse bookshop and was attended by Indian Consul General Mrs Anju Ranjan. Other poets taking part were Chrys Salt and Bashabi Fraser.

Meeting with Frank Little - Cultural Venues Manager, Museums and Galleries) to discuss further projects for the coming year.

Sat for portrait drawing by artist Joyce Gunn Cairns for her forthcoming exhibition at Scottish Poetry Library also featuring portraits of my predecessors as Makar.

Correspondence with Aberdeen Performing Arts initiating transfer of their exhibition featuring twelve Scottish poets (including myself) by artist Andrew Cranston. Possible venues are Scottish Poetry Library and Writer's Museum.

2019

January

Correspondence with Den Poezie Festival, Prague, and Edinburgh International Book Festival on proposed visit to Edinburgh by Prague 'Makar' - City Poet Sylva Fischerova.

Attended Reception at City Chambers to mark India's Republic Day. Event hosted by Lord Provost and chaired by Indian Consul General Mrs Anju Ranjan. Speech by Deputy First Minister of Scottish Parliament, Mr John Swinney.

February

Attended Reception at City Chambers to welcome newly-appointed Indian High Commissioner to UK, Mrs Gaitri Issar Kumar.

Attended Meeting at Indian Consulate General hosted by Consul General Mrs Anju Ranjan. Emphasis was on links between Scotland and India, the arts being represented by me, poet Bashabi Fraser and by Lord Charles Bruce and Lady Joyce Caplan.

Reading to Scottish Writers' Centre, chaired by author and committee member Donul McLoughlin. Opportunity to meet Glasgow City Makar Jim Carruth.

Meeting with poet Larry Butler to discuss memorial event at Scottish Poetry Library for poet Tom Leonard who had passed away in December.

Meeting with Irish writer Billy O'Callaghan who was visiting Edinburgh.

Meeting with Asif Khan, Director Scottish Poetry Library, to discuss forthcoming events, including memorial event for poet Tom Leonard at SPL.

Attended Opening of exhibition by artist Rose Strang, with reading by poet Tom Hubbard.

Composed Poem on Gratitude commissioned by Edinburgh City of Literature.

March

Meeting with David Patterson, City Arts Centre, to discuss writing poem for forthcoming Victoria Crowe retrospective exhibition.

Meeting with Ali Bowden, Edinburgh City of Literature. Copied out commissioned poem on gratitude.

Participated in Event at Scottish Poetry Library in honour of poet Tom Leonard who passed away in December. Others taking part included poets Liz Lochhead, Aonghas Macneacail and Jenni Fagan, and actor Tam Dean Burn. Event chaired by BBC's Arts Correspondent Pauline Maclean.

Reading at Stirling University's Japan Festival. Introduced as Edinburgh Makar.

Hosted Reading at Citadel Books, Edinburgh to launch poetry pamphlets published by Tapsalteerie Press. Poets reading were lain Maloney, Samuel Tough and Sarah Stewart.

Reading at STAnza poetry festival, St Andrews. Read with poet Fiona Moore. Introduced as Edinburgh Makar. Session chaired by Glasgow Makar Jim Carruth.

Poem, Parliament Parkour, published in The National. Accompanying article by Professor Alan Riach mentioned Edinburgh Makarship.

Attended Dinner/Reception at City Chambers to mark launch of The Quaich project for redevelopment of Princes Street Gardens. Event hosted by Councillor Donald Wilson.

Reading at Aye Write festival in Glasgow at further event in honour of poet Tom Leonard. Other poets taking part included Alasdair Gary, Glasgow Makar Jim Carruth, and former Scottish Makar Liz Lochhead.

April

Meeting with photographer David Williams to discuss possible collaborative project (based on photos of Portobello promenade) to result in 'artist's book' publication.

Meeting at Saughton Park with Indian Consul General Mrs Anju Ranjan and Councillor to discuss possible event/installation to mark 150th anniversary of birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

Meeting with Guy Peploe of the Scottish Gallery to discuss possible publication featuring artwork by Dame Elizabeth Blackadder.

Attended Reception at Broom House (home of Lord Charles Bruce) organised by Japanese Consulate General to mark the accession to the Japanese throne by Emperor

Working on Poem commissioned by City Art Centre for the opening of retrospective exhibition by artist Victoria Crowe. Correspondence with the artist and with writer/critic Susan Mansfield about possible publication to mark the event.

May

Reading at Scottish Poetry Library for opening of exhibition by artist Joyce Gunn Cairns who has done drawings of myself and former Makars. The event was my idea and I read with previous Makars Christine De Luca, Ron Butlin and Stewart Conn. Along with other recent work I read a poem written for the occasion.

Attended Opening of exhibition by Victoria Crowe at City Arts Centre. My Poem, All About the Light, commissioned for the occasion, was featured in the exhibition, printed on the wall next to the first painting.

Working on Poem, The Ballad of Saughton Park, to be read at re-opening of the park after refurbishment, in presence of HRH The Princess Royal on 6 June.

June

Gave Poetry Reading and Talk on poetry and spirituality at Friends Meeting House, Edinburgh.

Helped edit online journal, Gitanjali and Beyond, for Napier University's Scottish Centre for Tagore Studies.

Completed and delivered poem The Ballad of Saughton Park for the park's re-opening after refurbishment.

Read poem, The Ballad of Saughton Park, at official ceremony for the park's re-opening. Ceremony attended by HRH The Princess Royal, Edinburgh's Lord Provost Frank Ross and other dignitaries. Event received extensive online news coverage.

Meeting over dinner at Gardener's Cottage, Princes Street Gardens to discuss ideas for Quaich project, led by Jules Haston. Others attending were novelist Ian Rankin, sculptor Andy Scott and journalist Alan Taylor.

Chaired reading by Edinburgh poet/storyteller James P Spence at Citadel Books to launch his new pamphlet Willow Pattern Haiku published by Edinburgh workshop group Other Poets.

Gave Reading of haiku poems to group of schoolchildren at Inverleith Park to launch tree-planting initiative, Tree Time - a partnership between the Woodland Trust Scotland, Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust and City of Edinburgh Council

Gave Reading at Scottish Poetry Library of poems written so far in my time as Makar. (One hour programme, including Q&A). Event was sold out.

July

Meeting with journalist/critic Susan Mansfield to help edit publication of poems and images arising from Victoria Crowe exhibition at City Arts Centre.

Further Meeting with Susan Mansfield to complete editing of Victoria Crowe book to tight deadline.

Attended Reading by visiting Irish poet Michael Longley to mark publication of a new pamphlet of his work.

Interview with me on my work as Makar, conducted by visiting Slovakian poet/academic Jan Gavura for online literary journal. (We had met at Den Poezie festival in Prague last year and he was following up the connection).

Attended Exhibition Opening at Skylark Cafe in Portobello by photographer David Williams with whom I am working on a poetry/photography collaboration.

Meeting with Prof. Ian Gow, Chairman of Japan Scotland Society, to discuss various projects, including my giving a talk to the Society.

August

Meeting at City Arts Centre with Frank Little Cultural Venues Manager, Museums and Galleries - to discuss on-going Makar-related projects.

Reading at launch of book Catching the Light, Poems inspired by the Paintings of Victoria Crowe. Victoria Crowe also took part in the event (at Scottish Portrait Gallery) as did poets Christine De Luca, Gillian Allnutt and Susan Mansfield.

Meeting at Saughton Park with Pete McDougall, Project Manager for the park's renovation project. Discussed publishing my poem, The Ballad of Saughton Park, as a commemorative pamphlet next year for the reopening celebration.

Reading of my Makar poems and other work at Edinburgh International Book Festival. (Was due to read with Prague City Poet Sylva Fischerova who had to withdraw because of an injury. So I did a solo reading instead).

Reading of my Makar poems and other work at Edinburgh Festival Fringe event in Scottish Arts Club.

Again, Reading of my Makar poems and other work at Edinburgh Festival Fringe event in Scottish Arts Club.

Reading at poetry festival in New York. Keynote speakers were Ambassador Toshiyo Hironi, Representative of Japan to UN, and Mrs Aye Aye Thant, daughter of UN's first Secretary General U Thant.

September

Reading of my poem The Ballad of Saughton Park at Saughton Park community open day organised by Friends of Saughton Park with Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society - reading was part of programme including Gardeners' Question Time with Beechgrove Garden presenter

Meeting with visiting Polish author/academic Dr Monika Kocot to discuss her translating my poems into Polish.

Attended Riding of the Marches at City Chambers - event hosted by Lord Provost Rt Hon Frank Ross.

Talk and Reading at conference in Alliance Française on links between Scotland, Japan and France. (Introduced as Edinburgh Makar). Guest of Honour was Japanese Consul General Mr Nozomu Takaoka.

Reading as part of Colony of Artists Festival, Abbeyhill, in conjunction with exhibition by Edinburgh-based photographer David Williams.

Second Reading at Colony of Artists Festival.

Wrote Poem for collaborative venture with photographer David Williams based on his series of photographs of Portobello Promenade, to be published as an artist's book.

October

Working on commissioned Poem for Edinburgh Award Winner Ann Budge.

Attended Reception at Indian Consulate General to commemorate 150th anniversary of birth of Mahatma Gandhi. Event hosted by Indian Consul General Mrs Anju Ranjan. I was introduced as special guest (Edinburgh Makar) and with Mrs Ranjan conducted ceremony garlanding Gandhi statue.

Attended event at Edinburgh University's Adam House in honour of birth anniversary of Patrick Geddes. Event jointly organised by the University and Patrick Geddes Society.

Reading of specially commissioned poem for artist Victoria Crowe at a special event in City Art Centre attended by the artist and marking the success of her exhibition, just concluding. (The book which I co-edited in honour of the artist - Catching the Light - has sold out its print run).

Attended Book Launch at Edinburgh Bookshop of new publication EDINBURGH by poet Gerda Stevenson and photographer Allan Wright.

Contributed Poems for inclusion in calendar being produced by North Edinburgh Arts, organised by former Provost Lesley Hinds.

Meeting at Unesco City of Literature office with Ali Bowden and Rebecca Raeburn to discuss Makar-related activities, including international links.

Attended shortlist announcement for Saltire Society's annual Scottish Book Awards - my pamphlet zenscotlit, published by Essence Press, was shortlisted for the Callum MacDonald Award.

Completed Poem for Edinburgh Award winner Ann Budge.

November

Reading at The Hub as part of fund-raising event for North Edinburgh Arts - chaired by Lesley Hinds and addressed by Lord Provost Frank Ross.

Reading and Talk to staff of Edinburgh Festival Fringe at Jupiter Artland.

Three of my poems, translated into Czech, displayed on trams in Prague, UNESCO City of Literature, as part of their annual Den Poezie Festival.

Recorded my Poem - Queen of Hearts - for Edinburgh Award winner Ann Budge. Recording was made at City Chambers, for broadcast at special ceremony, also at City Chambers, when award will be presented.

2020

NOTE: ACTIVITIES CURTAILED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.

March

Contributed poems for City of Literature project: Poems for Wuhan, in solidarity with Chinese victims of pandemic.

Wrote blog on forthcoming lockdown for Scottish Poetry Library web page.

April

Lockdown blog (see above) posted on Scottish Poetry Library web page.

Responses to SPL blog from London, Prague, Barcelona, Tokyo, Canberra, New York.

May

Wrote letter of support for poetry / arts venue in Prague. (Co-ordinated by Prague City of Literature and Den Poezie festival).

Contributed poems for Little Sparta project, co-ordinated by Ingleby Gallery.

June

Sent poem to Council's Parks and People garden project (distributed by Peter MacDougall, co-ordinator).

Meeting at Saughton Park to mark 3rd anniversary of Dreamer of Peace statue. Messages received from Joanna Cherry MP, Daisuke Matsunaga, former Consul General for Japan, Anju Ranjan, former Indian Consul General, Iain Torrance, former Moderator of General Assembly, Church of Scotland, Lord Charles Bruce and poets Gerda Stevenson and Christine De Luca (former Makar).

Contributed short story for anthology in aid of Homeless World Cup, edited by Val Macdermid.

July

Published article on my work in Japanese online cultural journal.

August 2020 - August 2021

Wrote article for Edinburgh City of Literature web page on links with Prague City of Literature. (Readings at Den Poezie Festival, Lecture at Charles University, my poems translated into Czech, displayed on city trams and in leaflet distributed to hospitals throughout the city).

Correspondence with Charles University Prague confirming commitment to take part in postponed Symposium of Scottish Literature.

Recorded poem by Edwin Morgan for online Perth and Kinross Literary Festival.

Contributed to poem for Edwin Morgan on what would have been his 101st birthday. Poem produced as poster by Essence Press, Edinburgh.

Contributed poem to Gitanjali and Beyond, online cultural journal produced by Napier University Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies.

Three poems in Golden Treasury of Scottish Verse to be published by Canongate. (Editors Don Paterson and Kathleen Jamie).

Wrote poem for Edinburgh Award Winner (Alexander McCall Smith).

Wrote poem for Time Capsule to go under statue of Robert Burns in Leith (linked with extension of Edinburgh Trams).

Zoom meeting with Saltire Society to discuss proposed stone at Makar's Court honouring Màiri Mhòr nan Òran (Mary Macpherson). Taking part were Sarah Mason, Saltire Society, Marion Sinclair, Publishing Scotland, and my predecessor as Makar, Christine de Luca.

Following on from Zoom meeting, shared with participants link to podcast by Gerda Stevenson in which she discussed Màiri Mhòr nan Òran, read one of her poems and sang one of her songs. Discussed featuring Gerda at unveiling of stone.

Suggested to Saltire Society it would be good to honour George Bruce with stone in Makar's Court. Followed up by contacting Bruce family who have since made a formal proposal. Further zoom meeting with Saltire Society to confirm placing of stone.

Zoom meeting with Asif Khan at Scottish Poetry Library to discuss Makarrelated projects with the Scottish Makars - those taking part were Bill Herbert (Dundee), Laura Fyfe (Stirling) and Niall O'Gallagher (Glasgow).

Monthly follow-up zoom meetings via SPL to confirm collaborative Makar events and commissions. Additional in person meeting with Stirling Makar Laura Fyfe.

Contributed poems for Pushing the Boat Out, Edinburgh Poetry Festival. Poems are site-specific and will be recorded to be heard at particular locations: Scottish Parliament, Holyrood Park and George Wyllie Stones of Scotland sculpture.

Did zoom poetry workshop with poetry / art group organised by artist Bridgid Collins.

Helped judge student poetry competition organised by Dr Saeko Yazaki - read entries then took part in zoom session linking Edinburgh, Glasgow and Tokyo.

Wrote essay on Edinburgh writer John Herdman for festschrift to mark his 80th birthday.

Wrote blurb for new poetry collection by Edinburgh-based poet Mario Relich.

Put together collection of the poems written in my time as Makar, to be published by Saltire Society. (Working title, Edinburgh Come All Ye). Book will feature artwork by Victoria Crowe, Alison Watt, David Williams, Doug Cocker, Rose Strang and Joyce Gunn Cairns.

Hannah Lavery Biography

HANNAH LAVERY is an award-winning poet, playwright, performer and experienced workshop facilitator. Her poetry has been published widely and her poem, Scotland, you're no mine, was selected by Roseanne Watt as one of the Best Scottish Poems 2019.

The Drift, her autobiographical play, toured Scotland as part of the National Theatre of Scotland's Season 2019. In 2020, she was awarded a New Playwrights' Award by the Playwrights Studio Scotland and selected by Owen Sheers' as one of his Ten Writers Asking Questions That Will Shape Our Future for the International Literature Showcase, a project from the National Writing Centre and the British Council.

In 2020, Hannah was also selected as one of the Scottish Voices for BBC Writers' Room. She is one of Imaginate's Accelerator Artists and an Associate Artist with the National Theatre of Scotland. In November 2020, her highly acclaimed play Lament for Sheku Bayoh was directed by Hannah in a co-production with the Royal Lyceum Theatre, National Theatre of Scotland and Edinburgh International Festival.

She has recently been selected for the Adopt a Playwright Award by offwestend.com and is under commission by Pitlochry Festival Theatre to adapt Jekyll and Hyde for their upcoming Summer Season. Hannah received a Creative Edinburgh Award in 2020 for her work with the Writers of Colour group and with Fringe of Colour.

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe Seal for Festival Cities and Regions

Executive/routine Executive Wards All

Council Commitments 46

1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that Committee approve Edinburgh's founding membership of the new 'Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe' (EFFE) Seal for Festival Cities.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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Report

Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe Seal for Festival Cities and Regions

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The 'Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe' (EFFE) Seal for Festival Cities is an initiative by the <u>European Festivals Association</u> developed in partnership with several European festival communities. This report sets out the principles of the Seal and seeks approval from Committee for Edinburgh to become a founding member.

3. Background

- 3.1 The European Festivals Association (EFA) was established in 1951 to bring together festivals to create dialogue, trust, friendship and collaborations across borders. Its founding and continuing mission is to foster intercultural understanding and international co-operation through exchange of art, ideas and experience. Today it connects about 100 festivals and festival associations in 40 countries.
- 3.2 In 2015, the Association created EFFE Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe an initiative co-financed by the European Union as a quality label for festivals, offering international recognition for excellence in their daily work across Europe, with one of the initial recipients being the Edinburgh International Festival.
- 3.3 Building on this initiative, the Association has been exploring how to enhance and recognise the importance of co-operation between cities and regions with their arts festivals in the spirit of responsibility towards the shared values and goals of Europe.
- 3.4 Consequently, the EFFE Seal for Festival Cities has been developed by several festival communities Bergen, Belgrade, Edinburgh, Gent, Krakow, Ljubljana, and Rotterdam and the Association is now asking these cities to become the founding members and recipients of the Seal.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The EFFE Seal will mean that:
 - 4.1.1 Cities and their festivals will be joint recipients of the EFFE Seal in recognition of their common achievements; and

- 4.1.2 At the same time, subscribing to the EFFE Seal is a commitment to the continued engagement with its aims and values and indicates a willingness to engage and share experiences with other festivals and festival cities.
- 4.2 Subscribing to the EFFE Seal is not a competitive process but a commitment to a range of principles, values and requirements that a city applies in its strategy and its daily work. When a city subscribes to the EFFE Seal, it takes a pledge:
 - 4.2.1 Firstly, to observe certain principles, such as applying a comprehensive approach to the festival community, maintaining standards and providing assistance no numerical or other 'objective' measures will be associated with these requirements;
 - 4.2.2 Secondly, to adhere to specific values, confirming a commitment that the festivals will endeavour to enhance fundamental values of inclusion, tolerance, justice and solidarity, and the conditions of freedom, democracy, equality, human rights and dignity, and conform as much as possible to ten features (listed in Appendix 1) including access, internationalism and inclusion; and
 - 4.2.3 Thirdly, to commit to certain requirements such as keeping festival profiles updated on FestivalFinder.eu and to actively promote Edinburgh's designation as a holder of the "EFFE Seal for Festival Cities" in any relevant communications.
- 4.3 Full details on the principles, values and requirements are contained within Appendix 1.
- 4.4 It is hoped that the EFFE Seal will lead to the establishment of a community of cities and their festivals that share these ambitions and features and will stimulate others to join. It will also develop an action programme on topics which the festival community wants to work and exchange, such as community development and environmental sustainability.
- 4.5 The European Festivals Association is now asking seven cities Bergen, Belgrade, Edinburgh, Gent, Krakow, Ljubljana, and Rotterdam for formal agreement to become the founding members of the EFFE Seal.
- 4.6 Agreement to become founding members of the Seal will be attested in a Memorandum of Agreement signed by the city (or region), the EFA, and Mariya Gabriel, EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth.
- 4.7 Although another such 'designation' from an international organisation might seem like an added burden to Edinburgh at this time, the 'Seal' aligns with the city's world leading festival proposition and would bring additional benefits to the city.
- 4.8 The EFFE Seal provides an opportunity to maintain and enhance cultural links with cities across the continent after Brexit. A number of the proposed 'founder' festival cities have existing cultural links with Edinburgh and are engaged in cultural programmes with the city: Krakow is twinned with Edinburgh; Ljubljana is a fellow UNESCO City of Literature and part of the Story Valley ERASMUS+ project with Edinburgh; officers in Culture also have strong links with their counterparts in Gent.

- 4.9 The values and principles of the EFFE Seal align closely to the values of the City of Edinburgh Council.
- 4.10 As a complement to other programmes, the EFFE Seal provides an opportunity to engage festivals and events beyond those in the membership of Festivals Edinburgh and will thus bring benefits to the wider community in the city as noted during the recent presentation by City of Edinburgh Council officials to EFA about the Culture United project.
- 4.11 The EFFE Seal also provides an opportunity for the city's smaller festivals and its community of producers to access a European network of similar festivals to collaborate, develop partnerships and to share expertise and ideas
- 4.12 Although not overtly stated, there is the possibility that such a Seal, when signed by the European Commission, might usefully position Edinburgh for future EU cultural funding programmes as an 'aligned' third party city/country.
- 4.13 Festivals Edinburgh is a member of the EFA, has participated in the development of the Festival Cities Seal concept, and is keen to support the city's membership if Committee agrees to the city becoming a founding member.
- 4.14 The EFFE Seal comes with no financial obligations although there may be a minor administrative burden primarily in updating the digital platform <u>festivalfinder.eu</u>. Festivals Edinburgh has offered support in carrying out this function.
- 4.15 In advance of the 75th anniversary of the birth of Edinburgh's Festivals in 2022 International, Fringe and Film the EFFE Seal provides a useful mechanism for international positioning and longer-term cultural recovery.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Upon agreement to become a 'founder', a formal invitation to attend the Memorandum signing ceremony will be sent to the Mayor or Lord Provost of each founding city in September.
- 5.2 The ceremony will take place at the EFA's Arts Festivals Summit 2021 (22 to 24 November) in Galway, Ireland which will be organised around a central topic of Festivals and Cities; and will also mark the formal launch of the EFFE Seal.
- 5.3 This Summit will also be the occasion for an exclusive meeting between Mariya Gabriel, EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth and the civic leaders of the European Capitals of Culture and Innovation, as well as the founding Festival Cities and cities linked to A Soul for Europe.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There is no financial impact associated with adoption of the EFFE Seal.
- 6.2 The EFFE Seal may usefully position Edinburgh for future EU funding programmes as an 'aligned' third party city/country.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 It is hoped that the EFFE Seal will lead to the establishment of a community of cities and their festivals that may develop an action programme on topics which the community wants to work and exchange, such as environmental sustainability.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 European Festivals Association – see https://www.efa-aef.eu/en/about/

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 - Explanatory Toolkit for the EFFE Seal for Festival Cities.



EFFE SEAL

for Festival Cities and Regions

The EFFE Seal for Festival Cities is a recognition and an invitation to cities that wish to associate and integrate their development and image with a strong festival, cultural – and European – commitment.

The initiative aims to develop exchanges between different layers including cities, audiences, artists, and other involved players, based on a joint action plan and a common set of values.

The EFFE Seal for Festival Cities is a proposal developed by seven cities and their stakeholders: Bergen, Belgrade, Edinburgh, Gent, Ljubljana, Krakow and Rotterdam.

In detail

Festivals are some of the most present and effective cultural platforms serving the ambition to use the arts as a vehicle to realise all sorts of social results in a community. They have an impact on tourism, urban development, economy, well-being and education, amongst others.

The EFFE Seal has a twofold character:

- **1.** Cities and their festivals will be joint recipients of the EFFE Seal in **recognition** of their common achievements.
- **2.** At the same time, subscribing to the EFFE Seal is a **commitment** to the continued engagement with its aims and values and signals a readiness of sharing experiences with peers.

Receiving the EFFE Seal will be authenticated in a Memorandum of Agreement, signed by the citY and by EFA. It is not a competitive process but a commitment to a range of principles, values and requirements that a city applies in its strategy and its daily work.

The EFFE Seal leads to the establishment of a community of cities and their festivals that share these ambitions and features and stimulate others to join. It develops an action programme on topics on which the community wants to work and exchange.

The EFFE Seal is part of the ongoing ambition of EFA to bring arts to audiences worldwide. A communication campaign on FestivalFinder.eu itself and promotional and media platforms will contribute to the visibility of the EFFE Seal.

A broader scope: "festival regions"

The EFFE Seal has been designed to include all sorts of local and territorial entities (like cities, towns, villages, rural areas, districts, regions, islands, valleys, or others) that define and administer themselves and which feel attracted by the values and want to use the benefits of the EFFE Seal.

With this broad scope in mind the word city stands for the variety of entities listed above. We call them "festival regions". In specific circumstances the Memorandum of Agreement will be signed by one of the entities (as a festival repage 94



Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe

Festivals and cities are twins. They facilitate the need to experience the arts and culture together, to assemble, motivate societies – urban and regional communities alike – to join in celebrating life and creativity: celebration in our cities.

The European Festivals Association (EFA) is convinced of the importance of the relationship and collaboration between a city and its arts festivals. We also assume, in our long-standing collaboration with 'A Soul for Europe', that a city together with its festivals has a responsibility towards Europe. We believe in the creative power of art and culture to strengthen the possibilities for and willingness of citizens to become active in the future development of Europe.

There is a necessity for festivals and cities to connect with each other to give communities a temper, a spirit, a face, a soul.

The wealth of suggestions, of perspectives from artists, festival makers, curators, mayors, city representatives and thinkers originating from all parts of Europe is the basis on which EFA and 'A Soul for Europe' has launched **the Festival Cities Initiative**.

The website **FestivalFinder.eu** was launched in 2019 as an online search tool to discover arts festivals, from music to theatre, streets arts to dance, literature and more, in 45 countries in Europe.

Its main purpose is to guide audiences, festival makers and lovers, artists, travellers, academics, journalists, bloggers, policy makers, city developers and all stakeholders through the world of Europe's diverse cultural space. It is rooted in and steered by the festivals community with the support of the European Union.

Today FestivalFinder.eu is extending to become a platform that facilitates and stimulates stronger collaboration between festivals and their municipalities, regions and tourism offices.

The proposal for an EFFE Seal for Festival Cties and Regions builds on the goals and the achievements of **the EFFE programme**: Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe. The EFFE acronym has become a symbol of European co-operation between cultural festivals: a recognised brand. This is why the current proposal has the word EFFE in its name.



The EFFE Seal

When a city subscribes to the EFFE Seal, it takes a pledge

Pro Primo to observe certain **principle**s,
Pro Secundo to adhere to specific **values**, and

Pro Tertio to follow particular **requirements** of conduct.

PRO PRIMO

The principles to establish and maintain a spirit of organic conviviality with festivals. In this spirit the city:

- 1 applies a comprehensive approach to the festival community, sharing a balance between
 - commercial, non-profit initiatives, as well as the city's own festivals,
 - attracting visitors from outside and catering for residents,
 - the hard spinoff in terms of jobs and revenue, and the soft benefits to liveability and harmony
- 2 takes the potential of festivals into consideration in all policy decisions (including especially tourism, communication, education, environment, health and social issues) and develops a decision-making process including cultural stakeholders in the city.
- **3** helps festivals to maintain and improve their quality standards without interfering but remaining attentive to feedback from professionals and inhabitants.
- 4 arranges for mentoring when existing or would-be festivals are deficient in the quality standards.
- 5 acknowledges the inherent flexibility of the festival scene (festivals emerge, transform and sometimes expire)
- **6** provides the necessary financial and other assistance to the operation and advancement of festivals.

No numerical or other 'objective' measures will be associated with these requirements. Stakeholders – such as the festival communities of the respective cities – will informally monitor these principles. Unless serious breaches are reported, the status of the EFFE Seal will be re-confirmed every three years.

PRO SECUNDO

There are **two classes of values** to be respected.

- 1 On a general level, subscribing to the EFFE Seal confirms a will that the festivals will endeavour to enhance the fundamental European values of inclusion, tolerance, justice and solidarity, and the conditions of freedom, democracy, equality, human rights and dignity.
- From this broad pool of overarching concepts the partners in this proposal have distilled the following key values: creativity, sustainability, internationalism, and resilience to toxic ideas.
- 2 On a specific level the festivals should conform as much as possible to the ten features listed in the EFFE Label application.



A festival with an EFFE Label is embedded in the European artistic, cultural and social ideal and:

- 1 presents a coherent, curated artistic programme including international artists.
- 2 supports on-going artistic development.
- **3** provides opportunities for emerging or innovative artists to create or to be presented in the programme.
- 4 is rooted in its local community, fostering local connections in the programme and among the performers and performances.
- 5 helps to increase access to culture and attract a diverse audience through, for example, the use of new technologies.
- 6 takes measures to make the festival more sustainable by developing new business models through innovative approaches to funding, production and management.
- 7 helps to shape, encourage and promote intercultural experience for audiences and artists.
- 8 embraces inclusivity as a core principle and practice.
- 9 invests in innovation and capacity building.
- 10 engages with the audience through educational programmes.

PRO TERTIO

The requirements from affiliated cities to the EFFE Seal:

- 1 A decisive share of the festivals in the city needs to be registered on FestivalFinder.eu.
- 2 Festivals are encouraged to keep their profiles updated on FestivalFinder.eu, which is recommended as the single point of information.
- **3** Festivals are encouraged to be ambitious when using the EFFE Label and to upgrade their performance for an EFFE Award.
- 4 The city should endeavour to craft a collective presence at the Festival-Finder.eu portal (a Lounge that goes with the name of the city, see below), the content of which should be kept updated at all times.
- 5 Representatives of the city's administration and festivals should follow the affairs of the EFFE Seal and take an active part whenever possible (among other ways, by participating in the annual Arts Festivals Summit, including a festival cities' working platform),
- **6** Feel invited to undertake 'EFFE Seal' actions locally and share them with the community in regular online meetings.
- **7** Brand themselves as "EFFE Seal for Festival Cities" holders in all their communications.



Benefits

EFFE Seal Lounge

Cities with an EFFE Seal will be entitled to chapters of their own on FestivalFinder.eu – an EFFE Seal Lounge with the name of the city (or festival region).

- The city and FestivalFinder.eu are co-owners and co-editors of this digital space.
- The Lounge defines and shows the festival offer of the city on
- FestivalFinder.eu in a continuously updated manner.
- Beyond the current concrete opportunities, the Lounge will display the general potential that the city provides to festival organisers and visitors.
- The content of the Lounge is mirrored on the website of the city (and/or its tourism sites), using the variety of technical interfaces that the FestivalFinder.eu will offer.

Benefits for cities

- The EFFE Seal offers an additional dimension to the city brand, aligning with other facets and projects of city branding,
- Intercity and international relations can be carried out on wider interfaces by the involvement of festival stakeholders, including businesses and civil society,
- On the conceptual level, familiarity with peers in the network helps to define the city's own festival strategy,
- On a short term practical level, festival schedules, logistics and marketing can be adjusted better,
- The common data pool provides statistical benchmarks for the quantifying of festival strategy,
- The EFFE Seal is one more anchor from the city to the common European project.

Benefits for festivals

- Festivals individually and together become more embedded in the social and cultural ecosystem of the city,
- The national and international exposure increases the relevance of the festivals in the city, adding to their inherent assets,
- Belonging to a broader project is boosts festivals' self-reflection,
- Festivals can capitalise on the structured relationship with peers in the network in terms of programming, marketing, logistics, and even in administrative and legal issues,
- Contributing to and learning from the common data pool facilitates the proficiency of festivals' self-improvement.

Benefits for artists

- Artists residents in the city and "outsiders" alike on the festival programme get increased visibility and chances to access other cities' festivals,
- The common pool of information adds to artists' familiarity with all aspects and conditions of being involved in festivals in Europe.

Benefits for residents

- A common perception of the city's festivals offers more chances for residents to feel or factually become their stakeholders,
- Collectively, and in an international perspective, issues of festivals' effects on local life – including negative challenges – can be identified and handled better.
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Benefits for audiences

- Information on festivals presented in harmonised, standardised fashion makes orientation and choice easier,
- The EFFE Seal provides a quality pledge for the audience.

Benefits for tourism

- The EFFE Seal is of great help to municipal tourism boards as well as business agencies in tourism.
- International tourism operators can rely on festivals with solid reputations and can consider cities as destinations on a broader scale in terms of content, timeframe and possibly space.

Benefits for other businesses

- Joint perception of the festivals in the city provides synergy for businesses in accommodation, traffic, catering, crafts and souvenirs, event security, ticketing etc.
- They also profit from the increased number of visitors that adherence to the Seal creates.

Benefits for media

- When covering a city, the attention of media will be attracted to festivals thanks to their more systematic and fuller exposure,
- Local and wider media will be inspired to communicate the full scale of festivals.

Benefits for academia

- The harmonised ways of presenting festivals and their self-presentation will enable and prompt researchers to apply a variety of comparative approaches to analysing festivals in Europe,
- Festivals will win greater prominence in urban studies.

Benefits for politics

The EFFE Seal will help politicians – incumbent and prospective alike –
to identify and exploit the potential in festivals in the areas of city branding, social cohesion, economic prosperity and external relations.

Benefits for Europe

- Arts and culture became a field within European policies that showed positive results in pursing the Union's aim for peace and integration.
 The EFFE Seal helps to make Europe 'tangible' for people and make an emotional and personal connection: It helps to allow citizens' active participation: Europe is alive and lives in festivals' communities.
- The EFFE Seal is a tool for Europe to involve the thousands of arts festivals and their cities to be active contributors in promoting Europe's cultural diversity and artistically vibrant space towards Europe's citizens and audiences worldwide

The EFFE Seal is an initiative of the European Festivals Association, in collaboration with a Steering group of 7 cities and stakeholders from the cities of Bergen, Belgrade, Edinburgh, Ghent, Ljubljana, Krakow and Rotterdam and the participation of the Budapest Observatory of Summa Artium in the framework of FestivalFinder.eu (a)Live Now.

FestivalFinder.eu (a)Live Now is a project implemented by the European Festivals Association in partnership with the City of Bergen, Italiafestival, Summa Artium, EURACTIV Media Network and publiq, and co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.







Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 14 September 2021

Appointments to Working Groups 2021/2022

Executive/routine Executive Wards All

Council Commitments

1. Recommendation

1.1 To consider the re-appointment of members to Working Groups as set out in Appendices 1 to 3.

Stephen S. Moir Executive Director of Corporate Services

Contact: Natalie Le Couteur, Committee Services

Legal and Assurance Division, Corporate Services Directorate Email: natalie.le.couteur@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 6160



Report

Appointments to Working Groups 2021/2022

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Culture and Communities Committee is required to appoint the membership of its Working Groups for 2021/22.
- 2.2 The proposed membership, structures and remits of each Working Group are detailed in Appendices 1 to 3 of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 The appointment of committees, joint committees and joint boards is a reserved matter for Full Council.
- 3.2 A report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee on 6 August 2020 proposed that, given the impact of the Covid-19 emergency and resource pressures that remain, working groups only meet if:
 - there is officer capacity and resource available;
 - it is required for specific actions to progress;
 - they take place virtually.
- 3.3 A report agreed by Full Council on 24 June 2021 on Political Management Arrangements recommended that working groups would remain virtual in the short term, and that "An assessment should be made as to whether, in the long term, some working groups should remain virtual. The findings of this assessment would be reported back to Council as part of the next review of political management arrangements." Political management arrangements and recommendations for working groups will be reported to Full Council in December 2021.
- 3.4 The Culture and Communities Committee on 17 November 2020 dissolved the Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Working Group. On 16 March 2021, it agreed to the establishment of a Working Group, chaired by the Convenor of Culture and Communities Committee, with stakeholders and officers to conclude the development of the public spaces management plan, which was later named the Use of Public Spaces for Events Working Group.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to consider the re-appointment of members to its Working Groups for 2021/22 as detailed in Appendices 1 to 3.
- 4.2 While there is no requirement for the membership of working groups to be proportionate to that of the Council, it is suggested that this is good practice. The proposed membership has therefore been adjusted to reflect the overall political balance on the Council. It is, however, open to the Committee to alter the membership where it feels this is warranted.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Financial impact

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 17 November 2020
- 8.2 Minute of Culture and Communities Committee of 16 March 2021
- 8.3 Minute of the City of Edinburgh Council of 24 June 2021
- 8.4 Review of Political Management Arrangements report by the Chief Executive

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Meadowbank Sports Centre and Stadium Working Group

Appendix 2 – Tourism and Communities Working Group

Appendix 3 – Use of Public Spaces for Events Working Group

Appointments to Working Groups 2021/22

Appendix 1

Meadowbank Sports Centre and Stadium Working Group- 5 members

Current Membership – Councillors Wilson (Chair), McNeese-Mechan, Osler, Staniforth, Brown

This group met twice in 2020/21.

Remit

The remit of the Working Group is to:

- Receive progress reports and updates from the project team.
- Provide feedback on the reports and updates.
- Submit reports with recommendations to appropriate Committees.
- Advise on the development of communication and engagement activities with local people and user groups.
- Act as ambassadors for the project and provide support to the project team at key stages during project delivery.

Last met: May 2021	Last	met:	May	2021
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Expected completion date: To be reviewed in August 2022

Appendix 2

Tourism and Communities Working Group – 6 members (2 each from Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, Transport and Environment Committee and Culture and Communities Committee, to extend invitations to City Centre Councillors and ensure cross-party representation).

Current Membership – Councillors Wilson (Chair), McNeese-Mechan, Jim Campbell, Lezley Marion Cameron, Bird and Key

This group met four times in 2018/19 and has not met in 2019/20 or 2020/21.

Remit

The remit of the Working Group is as follows:

- The working group will seek to ensure that the views and consideration of communities and residents are taken into account in the development of a new strategy for tourism.
- The elected members on the group will represent communities and residents, liaising through engagement with statutory and non-statutory groups and networks including Community Councils and Resident's Groups.

networks including Community Councils and Resident's Groups. • Officers will link to Council service areas as appropriate to ensure a coordinated cross-council approach is maintained throughout the process.
Last met: Early 2019
Expected completion date: To be reviewed in August 2022

Appendix 3
Use of Public Spaces for Events Working Group – 1 member alongside
community and stakeholder representatives.
Current Membership – Councillor Wilson (Chair)
This group met four times in 2020/21.
Remit
The remit of the Working Group is:
 To develop the key principles and guidelines for the use of City of Edinburgh owned or controlled public open spaces for events and filming.
Last met: July 2021.
Expected completion date: To be reviewed in August 2022

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Revenue Monitoring Update – 2020/2021 Provisional out-turn and 2021/2022 Month three position

Executive/routine
Wards All
Council Commitments

Recommendations

- 1.1 Members of the Culture and Communities Committee are asked to:
 - 1.1.1 note that the overall Place provisional revenue out-turn for 2020/2021 was a £31.660m overspend including costs attributable to Covid-19 and £0.531m when Covid-19 net costs are excluded. Services within the remit of the Committee delivered provisional out-turn underspends in 2020/2021 of £1.820m excluding Covid-19 impacts and £2.498m over including Covid-19;
 - 1.1.2 note that the overall Place revenue budget month three position for the 2021/2022 financial year is a projected £1.592m overspend (excluding Covid-19 impact). Services within the remit of the Committee are forecasting an overspend of £0.338m (excluding Covid-19 impact);
 - 1.1.3 note that General Fund Covid-19 costs of c. £13.5m in addition to pressure set out at 1.1.2 have been forecast for the overall Place Directorate at month three with circa £1.5m relating to services within the remit of the Committee; and
 - 1.1.4 note that the Executive Director of Place is taking measures to address budget pressures and risks. Progress will be reported to Committee at agreed frequencies.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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Report

Revenue Monitoring Update – 2020/2021 Provisional out-turn and 2021/2022 Month three position

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report sets out the provisional out-turn for the 2020/2021 financial year and the 2021/2022 projected month three revenue monitoring position for Place Directorate services which are under the remit of this Executive Committee. This is based on the unaudited annual accounts for 2020/2021 in respect of the provisional out-turn and for the month three forecast, an analysis of actual expenditure and income to the end of June 2021 with expenditure and income projections for the remainder of the 2021/2022 financial year.
- 2.2 The overall 2020/2021 provisional out-turn excluding Covid-19 impact was largely as reported at month nine to Finance and Resources Committee, in that an overspend of £0.531m was returned when the budget positions across Place Directorate are consolidated. The provisional out-turn for the services which are under the remit of this Committee was a business as usual underspend of £1.820m.
- 2.3 At month three, the 2021/2022 full year forecast business as usual (excluding Covid-19 impact) overall Place gross budget pressure is currently forecast to be £1.592m, which represents emergent pressures and approved 2020/21 savings assessed as 'red' in terms of delivery risk. The forecast is inclusive of the impact of residual pressure budget and service investment awarded as part of the February and May budget motions.
- 2.4 At month three, services within the remit of this Committee are forecasting a business as usual overspend in 2021/2022 of £0.338m which is representative of identified emerging pressures in Parks and Greenspaces of £0.300m and approved savings of £0.038m within the Culture service which have been assessed as 'red'.
- 2.5 At month three, the GF Covid-19 impact for Place Directorate has been forecast to be a net cost in the region of £13.5m with circa £1.5m of this relating to projected lost income and additional costs incurred in services within the remit of this Committee.
- 2.6 This report will focus on the aspects of Place revenue budgets which are within the remit of the Cultures and Communities Committee.
- 2.7 Pressures reported in respect of the 2021/22 position are emergent and require an updated, sustainable budget management strategy.

3. Background

- 3.1 The total 2021/22 approved net GF revenue budget for the Place Directorate is £52.667m after adjusting for income from other parts of the Council, external grants and other income. This budget is net of £4.346m of approved savings approved by Council in February and May 2021 and includes residual pressure funding of £5.800m.
- 3.2 This report provides an update on financial performance regarding revenue budgets; provisional 2020/2021 out-turn and 2021/2022 forecast at month three. A separate report to the Council's Finance and Resources Committee on 12 August 2021 set out the projected position on the Capital Investment Programme.
- 3.3 Covid-19 identified net costs have been separated from the 'business as usual' in order to facilitate understanding of the drivers of risks, cost pressures and mitigating actions where applicable.

4. Main report

Place Directorate - 2020/2021 provisional out-turn

- 4.1 The Directorate's activities continued to be subject to significant pressures during the year and the overall reported outturn position is largely consistent with that reported at month nine. The Place provisional out-turn position for 2020/2021 is a net overspend of £31.660m including Covid-19 related costs and £0.531m over budget after adjusting for Covid-19 impacts.
- 4.2 The provisional out-turn for 2020/2021 for the services within the remit of the Committee is a net overspend of £2.498m including Covid-19 related costs and £1.820m underspend for 'business as usual' when Covid-19 related costs are excluded. This means the cost impact of Covid-19 was £4.319m.
- 4.3 Within the financial year both 'opportunities' and restrictions were evidenced whilst working within public health guidelines which delivered some in year reductions in service costs which have helped manage the loss of service income from restricted activity. In addition to material reductions in supplies and services spend the Culture service successfully made applications to the Job Retention scheme and Creative Scotland as well as the repurposing of Council buildings for delivery of the public health response. All of which had a positive impact in mitigating some of the net cost impact. The composition of the provisional out-turn for services within the remit of this Committee is shown as Appendix 1.
- 4.4 The positions set out in 4.1 and 4.2 are incorporated into the overall Council provisional out-turn as reported to Finance and Resources Committee, <u>12 August 2021</u>.

2020/2021 Approved Savings Delivery

- 4.5 The approved budget savings for Place Directorate in 2020/2021 were £4.508m with £0.112m of this to be delivered by services within the remit of this Committee.
- 4.6 As reported in the course of the financial year, budget savings were assessed by Place Senior Management Team (SMT) as having been impacted by factors which are mainly attributable to the Coronavirus pandemic and at "substantial risk' of delivery. The out-turn position was £2.130m undelivered savings and a 53% delivery rate. It should be acknowledged that the eventual overspend was £0.531m and therefore services brought forward one off or substitute measures in order to manage budgetary responsibilities and mitigate where savings could not be made as specified.
- 4.7 Of the £0.112m of savings which relate to this Committee, £0.112m was delivered which equates to 100%. It should be noted that this saving was intended to be achieved by income maximisation which could not be achieved within the public health operating restrictions. The saving was achieved through cost reduction as set out in 4.3 which we assume will continue in 2021/22. The summary delivery position is shown within Appendix 2.

Place Directorate - 2021/2022 Month three forecast

- 4.8 A suite of assumptions have been applied to the forecast in terms of service adaptation and citizen need in terms of expected changes to public health guidance. These will continue to be monitored and reported at regular intervals.
- 4.9 Residual pressure funding was awarded to services to address specific legacy pressures. The impact of this on the services which are within the remit of this Committee is summarised within Appendix 3. The returned provisional 2020/2021 overspend for Parks and Greenspaces in terms of 'business as usual' was £0.375m with £0.308m of additional budget awarded in 2021/22 to largely reset the operational budget in terms of legacy pressures. At this juncture, the combination of this and management plans are assessed to be adequate to manage the associated budget risks concerning legacy pressures.
- 4.10 Emergent pressures have been identified in respect of 'business as usual', which combined with approved savings which have been assessed at 'red' total £1.592m across Place Directorate. The elements which are pertinent to this Committee total £0.338m and in the main relate to Parks and Greenspaces operational costs coming out of the 'Covid-19' era and potential for revenue costs as part of the capital funded programme to inspect structures within parks and the 'red' assessed income maximisation saving within the Culture service. Plans are actively being worked on to bring this budget back into balance.
- 4.11 At month three, Covid-19 costs across Place Directorate have been forecast at £13.520m with £1.520m relating to services within the remit of this Committee.
- 4.12 The positions set out in 4.10 and 4.11 are incorporated into the overall balanced budget position projected for the Council as reported to Finance and Resources Committee, 12 August 2021.

2021/22 Budget - Approved Savings Delivery

4.13 The approved budget savings for Place Directorate in 2021/2022 total £4.258m of which £0.188m relates to services within the remit of this Committee. A BRAG assessment has been undertaken of the savings delivery risk by Place SMT and a summary of the savings relevant to this Committee is shown in Appendix 4. As can be seen, there are no savings at 'black' with 20% at 'red' 27% at 'amber' and 53% at 'green'.

2021/22 Budget – Approved Service Investment

4.14 The budget motions in February and May 2021 awarded services within the remit of the Committee £0.800m in additional service investment on a one off basis to be utilised in year. The Culture investment has been delivered and the Parks and Greenspaces element is well advanced.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Place Directorate is committed to delivering mitigating management action to address identified emergent budget pressures and risks on an ongoing basis and will continue to report on progress towards the delivery of a balanced budget.
- 5.2 In addition to the introduction of realigned budgets and half-year reviews, a more strategic approach is being implemented in terms of budget management. Place SMT is looking to the 2022/2023 budget management strategy as part of a rolling process not confined to the current financial year.
- 5.3 The forecast costs in relation to Covid-19 can currently be contained within existing Council budgets, however the Place SMT will continue and monitor changes in public health guidance and budgetary impacts and report impacts as appropriate.

6. Financial impact

6.1 The Council's Financial Regulations set out Executive Directors' responsibilities in respect of financial management, including regular consideration of their service budgets. The position set out in the report indicates pressures emerging within the Place Directorate which require to be addressed.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 Consultation was undertaken as part of the budget setting process.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 Finance and Resources Committee, <u>12 August 2021</u>, Month three revenue 2021/2022.

- 8.2 Finance and Resources Committee, 12 August 2021, Out-turn Revenue 2020/2021.
- 8.3 Finance and Resources Committee, 12 August 2021, Capital Investment Update 2021/2022.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 Place Directorate: 2020/2021 Provisional Out-turn Summary Position including and excluding Covid-19 costs Services within the remit of Culture and Communities Committee.
- 9.2 Appendix 2 Place Directorate: 2020/2021 Provisional Out-turn Approved Savings Delivery Summary- Services within the remit of Culture and Communities Committee.
- 9.3 Appendix 3 Place Directorate: 2021/2022 Budget Residual Pressures Funding Services within the remit of Culture and Communities Committee.
- 9.4 Appendix 4 Place Directorate: 2021/2022 Month Three Approved Savings Assessment Services within the remit of Culture and Communities Committee.
- 9.5 Appendix 5 Place Directorate: 2021/2022 Additional One-off Investment Monies Services within the remit of the Culture and Communities Committee.

Appendix 1 – Place Directorate: 2020/2021 Provisional Out-turn – Summary Position including and excluding Covid-19 costs - Services within the remit of Culture and Communities Committee.

2020/21 Budget Provisional Out-turn Culture and Communities Committee	Out-turn including net costs of Covid-19 £m	Out-turn – Net costs of Covid- 19 only £m	Out-turn – Excluding net Covid-19 £m
Service	Total Provisional	Covid -19 net	'Business as
	Out-turn.	costs	Usual'
Parks and Greenspaces	1.105	0.730	0.375
Culture Service	1.393	3.588	-2.195
Total	2.498	4.318	-1.820

Appendix 2 – Place Directorate: 2020/2021 Provisional Out-turn – Approved Savings Delivery Summary- Services within the remit of Culture and Communities Committee

2020/21 Budget Approved Savings Position Out-turn Culture and Communities Committee	Delivered £m	Not Delivered £m	Total £m
Culture Service (income maximisation)	0.112	-	0.112
Total £	0.112	=	0.112
Total %	100%	0%	100%

Appendix 3 – Place Directorate: 2021/2022 Budget – Residual Pressures Funding – Services within the remit of Culture and Communities Committee.

2021/2022 Budget Approved Residual Pressure Service Funding – Culture and Communities Committee	£m
Parks and Greenspaces	0.308
Estimated underspends in service areas – netted off	(0.483)
Net Total	(0.175)

Appendix 4 – Place Directorate: 2021/2022 Month Three - Approved Savings Assessment - Services within the remit of Culture and Communities Committee.

2021/2022 Budget Approved Saving Culture and Communities Committee	Green £m	Amber £m	Red £m	Black £m	Total £m
	Delivered	In Progress	Difficult	At Risk	
Review of Culture Service (Museums and Galleries)	0.100	0.050	-	-	0.150
Culture Service – Income Maximisation Year 2.	-	-	0.038	-	0.038
Total	0.100	0.050	0.038	-	0.188
% of Total Savings	53%	27%	20%	-	100%

Appendix 5 – Place Directorate: 2021/2022 – Additional One off Investment Monies – Services within the remit of the Culture and Communities Committee.

2021/2022 Budget	£m
Approved One off Service Investment	
Culture and Communities Committee	
Parks and Greenspaces	0.500
Culture - Festivals	0.300
Total	0.800

