

# Minutes

## Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday 5 October 2023

### Present:

Councillors Walker (Convener), Lezley Marion Cameron, Campbell (substituting for Councillor McFarlane item 20), Faccenda (substituting for Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron for item 10 onwards), Glasgow, Heap, McFarlane, McNeese-Mechan, Mitchell, Mowat (substituting for Councillor Munro items 1-8), Munro, Nicolson (substituting for Councillor Glasgow item 18), Osler, Parker (substituting for Councillor Heap items 6 and 20 ), Ross (substituting for Councillor Thornley item 5), Staniforth and Thornley.

## 1. Minutes

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### Decision

To approve the minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 10 August 2023 as a correct record subject to the adjustment to item 11 of the minute to include the Amendment 3, to read as follows:

### Item 11 - Meadows Jawbone Arch Conservation Project

Approval was sought on the proposal as part of The Meadows Jawbone Arch Conservation project to dispose of the original Jawbones as they were considered beyond reasonable repair, unable to be relocated safely and now a cost pressure to the Council.

The Committee had heard a deputation from Friends of the Meadows and Bruntfield Links on this issue (see item 1(b) above).

### Motion

- 1) To note the update on the Meadows Jawbone Arch Conservation Project, and the information provided in respect of ideas for creative conservation of the Jawbones.

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- 2) To agree to dispose of the existing Jawbones which are deemed unviable for suitable public display.
- 3) To agree to continue the exploration of creative conservation solutions until October 2023, with the outcome of this reported to Group Spokespeople.
- 4) To note that, if a creative solution is not found, the original Jawbones will be disposed in line with guidance from City Archaeologist with cross-section pieces kept and accessioned into the museum collections with a view to being installed at a suitable location within the Museums and Galleries service.
- 5) To agree to advance discussions with stakeholders and potential funders on the commission of a bronze replacement.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To note the update on the Meadows Jawbone Arch Conservation Project, and the information provided in respect of ideas for creative conservation of the Jawbones.
- 2) To agree to dispose of the existing Jawbones which are deemed unviable for suitable public display.
- 3) To agree to continue the exploration of creative conservation solutions until October 2023, with the outcome of this reported to Group Spokespeople.
- 4) Agrees to contact The Collective, Edinburgh's Centre for Contemporary Art who may be well placed to organise a commission using the Jawbone as a medium, and notes that this could perhaps provide a rare opportunity for an artist to respond to Edinburgh's whaling heritage and modern concerns of conservation of endangered species in a new public artwork
- 5) To note that, if a creative solution is not found, the original Jawbones will be disposed in line with guidance from City Archaeologist with cross-section pieces kept and accessioned into the museum collections with a view to being installed at a suitable location within the Museums and Galleries service.
- 6) To agree to advance discussions with stakeholders and potential funders on the commission of a bronze replacement.

- moved by McFarlane, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

### **Amendment 2**

- 1) To agree that the Jawbone Arch is a longstanding, much-loved landmark in Edinburgh

- 2) To agree that should preservation, in-situ, not be possible, then the optimal outcomes are:
  - a) As full as preservation of the Arch as possible, on view to the public in a different place, and
  - b) A replica to be made and located in place of the Arch.
- 3) To note the update on the Meadows Jawbone Arch Conservation Project, and the information provided in respect of ideas for creative conservation of the Jawbones.
- 4) To agree to continue the exploration of creative conservation solutions.
- 5) To agree to advance discussions with stakeholders and potential funders on the commission of a bronze replacement.
- 6) Requests a report to Culture and Communities Committee recommending a way forward at the conclusion of the processes outlined in 3) and 4).

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

### **Amendment 3**

- 1) To note the update on the Meadows Jawbone Arch Conservation Project, and the information provided in respect of ideas for creative conservation of the Jawbones.
- 2) To agree to dispose of the existing Jawbones which are deemed unviable for suitable public display.
- 3) To agree to continue the exploration of creative conservation solutions until October 2023, with the outcome of this reported to Group Spokespeople.
- 4) Agrees to contact The Collective, Edinburgh's Centre for Contemporary Art who may be well placed to organise a commission using the Jawbone as a medium, and notes that this could perhaps provide a rare opportunity for an artist to respond to Edinburgh's whaling heritage and modern concerns of conservation of endangered species in a new public artwork
- 5) To note that, if a creative solution is not found, the original Jawbones will be disposed in line with guidance from City Archaeologist with cross-section pieces kept and accessioned into the museum collections with a view to being installed at a suitable location within the Museums and Galleries service.
- 6) To agree to advance discussions with stakeholders and potential funders on the commission of a replacement.

- moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Munro

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the Motion was adjusted, and Amendment 1 adjusted by the terms of Amendment 3 and accepted an addendum to the Motion.

### **Voting**

For the Motion (as adjusted) - 9 votes  
For Amendment 2 - 2 votes

(For the Motion (as adjusted): Councillors Lezley Marion Cameron, Glasgow, McFarlane, McNeese-Mechan, Mitchell, Munro, Osler, Thornley and Walker.

For Amendment 2: Councillors Heap and Staniforth.)

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To note the update on the Meadows Jawbone Arch Conservation Project, and the information provided in respect of ideas for creative conservation of the Jawbones.
- 2) To agree to dispose of the existing Jawbones which are deemed unviable for suitable public display.
- 3) To agree to continue the exploration of creative conservation solutions until October 2023, with the outcome of this reported to Group Spokespeople.
- 4) To agree to contact The Collective, Edinburgh's Centre for Contemporary Art who might be well placed to organise a commission using the Jawbone as a medium, and note that this could perhaps provide a rare opportunity for an artist to respond to Edinburgh's whaling heritage and modern concerns of conservation of endangered species in a new public artwork.
- 5) To note that, if a creative solution is not found, the original Jawbones would be disposed in line with guidance from City Archaeologist with cross-section pieces kept and accessioned into the museum collections with a view to being installed at a suitable location within the Museums and Galleries service.
- 6) To agree to advance discussions with stakeholders and potential funders on the commission of a replacement.

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

## **2. Work Programme**

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The Committee's Work Programme was presented for review.

### **Decision:**

To note the work programme.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Work Programme 5 October 2023, submitted)

### 3. Rolling Actions Log

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The Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log was presented.

**Decision:**

1) To agree to close the following actions:

- **Action - Action 4** – Business Bulletin - The Future Management and Ownership of Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve (LNR) – Motion by Councillor Burns
- **Action 14 (1, 2, 3,4, 5 and 8)** - Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming Update
- **Action 16** - Amplification of Sound in Public Places
- **Action 19(2)** - Response to Motion by Councillor Osler - Trees
- **Action 21(1)** - Motion by Councillor Osler – Tree Protection Measures East and West Princes Street Gardens
- **Action 26(2)** - Third Party Cultural Grants Funding 2023-24
- **Action 28(2)** - Response to Motion by Councillor Osler – Tree Protection in East and West Princes Street Gardens
- **Action 30(3)** - Lawn Tennis Association Investment in Parks Tennis Courts
- **Action 32** – Motion by Councillor Heap - WASPS Studio Space in Dalry
- **Action 33(1)** - Motion by Councillor McFarlane – International Overdose Awareness Day
- **Action 35** - Motion by Councillor Heap – Celebrating Pride Month
- **Action 36(1)** - NHS Lothian Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022
- **Action 37** - Motion by Councillor Faccenda - Toilet Provision
- **Action 42** – Motion by Councillor McFarlane - Closure of The Nelson Monument
- **Action 43** – Motion by Councillor Thornley - Community Centre Strategy Reporting

- 2) To ask officers to ensure that International Overdose Awareness Day was marked annually (Action 33(1) - Motion by Councillor McFarlane – International Overdose Awareness Day).
- 3) To note the rolling actions log would be updated to reflect decisions taken at this meeting and otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log 5 October 2023, submitted)

#### 4. Business Bulletin

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The Culture and Communities business bulletin was presented.

##### **Decision**

To note the updates in the business bulletin.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Business Bulletin 5 October 2023, submitted)

#### 5. Amplification of Sound in Public Spaces

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Details were provided on the information received following a survey with residents and businesses to seek evidence of the issues associated with the amplification of sound in public spaces which had been carried out between 9 May and 31 August 2023 together with proposed next steps. Records held by Police Scotland for incidents reported under Section 54 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 had also been obtained.

##### **Motion**

- 1) To note the findings of the recent survey on busking and amplification, including that the response was broadly positive about the benefits of busking in the city.
- 2) To note that excessive amplification had a more significant impact on those living or working nearby and therefore monitoring in specific locations where local amenity was impacted was required.
- 3) To note that the survey did not provide an evidence base for the creation of a byelaw to tackle the nuisance of noise in public spaces at this time.
- 4) To agree that the Council should continue to monitor busking, particularly at 'hotspot' locations, engage with buskers to try to address identified issues, and, where appropriate, seek support from Police Scotland to address excessive noise.
- 5) To request that the Convener write to the appropriate Scottish Government Minister to seek an early discussion on this issue and on the potential to extend

the powers to local authorities for section 54 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To note the findings of the recent survey on busking and amplification, including that the response was broadly positive about the benefits of busking in the city.
- 2) To note that excessive amplification had a more significant impact on those living or working nearby and therefore monitoring in specific locations where local amenity was impacted was required.
- 3) To note that the survey did not provide an evidence base for the creation of a byelaw to tackle the nuisance of noise in public spaces at this time.
- 4) To agree that the Council should continue to monitor busking, particularly at 'hotspot' locations, engage with buskers to try to address identified issues, and, where appropriate, seek support from Police Scotland to address excessive noise.
- 5) To request that the Convener write to the appropriate Scottish Government Minister to seek an early discussion on this issue and on the potential to extend the powers to local authorities for section 54 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.
- 6) Acknowledges the disproportionate impact of amplified busking for residents living in close proximity to Portobello Prom or within the City Centre Ward and that whilst this may be enjoyed by transient visitors to the area it presents serious challenges to maintaining the liveability of these areas.
- 7) Further acknowledges that many residents have simply stopped reporting noise complaints due to the lack of action or response from CEC or Police Scotland and that data taken from during the pandemic is unlikely to be useful when understanding the usual state of play.
- 8) Agrees that a byelaw could present a simple and clear set of rules around amplification in public spaces and crucially the means to enforce it and therefore requests officers continue to build the evidence base required to introduce it.
- 9) Understands one-way residents have felt supported in previous years is through the deployment of lamppost wraps and signage that clearly displays the CEC busking policy and rules but regrets that their effectiveness has been limited to the ad hoc nature of their deployment due to:
  - Lack of capacity within council signage team.

- Unauthorised removal of the signage.
  - Inconsistent locations & key areas not being covered.
  - The signage arriving too late into the year and being removed prematurely before prime busking season ends.
- 10) Therefore agrees to a further report in two cycles to the Culture and Communities Committee outlining a formalised approach to busking signage with set locations, time of year for deployment and identifying resource to support a standardised annual approach to their implementation.

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

- moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

### **Amendment 2**

- 1) To note the findings of the recent survey on busking and amplification, including that the response was broadly positive about the benefits of busking in the city.
- 2) To note that excessive amplification had a more significant impact on those living or working nearby and therefore monitoring in specific locations where local amenity was impacted was required.
- 3) To agree that the Council should continue to monitor busking, particularly at 'hotspot' locations, engage with buskers to try to address identified issues, and, where appropriate, seek support from Police Scotland to address excessive noise.
- 4) To request that the Convener write to the appropriate Scottish Government Minister to seek an early discussion on this issue and on the potential to extend the powers to local authorities for section 54 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.
- 5) Notes that on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Council approved a motion on the Amplification of Sound in Public Spaces. In it there was a request for the Convenor of Regulatory to write to Ben Macpherson, the then Minister for Local Government in Scotland, to request additional powers to allow the Council to effectively control the amplification of sound in public spaces under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. A response was received on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 saying that this was being looked into. The Regulatory Committee agreed to write a follow up letter and received a further response from the Minister on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 with no further progress.

- 6) Notes that 4.4 of the report states *However, excessive noise from busking was highlighted as having a significant impact on residents and businesses nearby, especially where the busker has a limited repertoire.*

Therefore, Committee agrees:

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

- moved by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Osler

### **Amendment 3**

Committee recognises:

- 1) To recognise the immense cultural contribution of buskers to the culture of Edinburgh.
- 2) To recognise that provision should be made for buskers to perform in a way that balances their right to perform and for audiences to listen to their music with the need to protect the wellbeing of residents.
- 3) To recognise that some residents, including but not limited to those who live in the City centre ward, can be disturbed by loud and prolonged busking in the same place.
- 4) To note the opinion of officers that the evidence threshold to lodge an application for a bylaw has not been met.
- 5) To note the findings of the recent survey on busking and amplification, including that the response was broadly positive about the benefits of busking in the city.
- 6) To note that excessive amplification had a more significant impact on those living or working nearby and therefore monitoring in specific locations where local amenity was impacted was required.
- 7) To agree that the Council should continue to monitor busking, particularly at 'hotspot' locations, engage with buskers to try to address identified issues, and, where appropriate, seek support from Police Scotland to address excessive noise.
- 8) To request that the Convener write to the appropriate Scottish Government Minister to seek an early discussion on this issue and on the potential to extend the powers to local authorities for section 54 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

- 9) To request a report for the December meeting of the Culture and Communities Committee detailing:
  - a) The evidence threshold for lodging a bylaw application;
  - b) How it was determined that this has not been met;
  - c) The feasibility of working with the artist community to identify public spaces in the city centre which could be promoted as good places to busk with good practices agreed by all stakeholders; and
  - d) The outcome of the discussions with the Scottish Government.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 1 was accepted as an addendum to the Motion, and Amendments 2 and 3 were adjusted and accepted as addendums to the Motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To note the findings of the recent survey on busking and amplification, including that the response was broadly positive about the benefits of busking in the city.
- 2) To note that excessive amplification had a more significant impact on those living or working nearby and therefore monitoring in specific locations where local amenity was impacted was required.
- 3) To agree that the Council should continue to monitor busking, particularly at 'hotspot' locations, engage with buskers to try to address identified issues, and, where appropriate, seek support from Police Scotland to address excessive noise.
- 4) To request that the Convener write to the appropriate Scottish Government Minister to seek an early discussion on this issue and on the potential to extend the powers to local authorities for section 54 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.
- 5) To acknowledge the disproportionate impact of amplified busking for residents living in close proximity to Portobello Prom or within the City Centre Ward and that whilst this may be enjoyed by transient visitors to the area it presented serious challenges to maintaining the liveability of these areas.
- 6) To further acknowledge that many residents had simply stopped reporting noise complaints due to the lack of action or response from the City of Edinburgh

Council or Police Scotland and that data taken from during the pandemic was unlikely to be useful when understanding the usual state of play.

- 7) To agree that a byelaw could present a simple and clear set of rules around amplification in public spaces and crucially the means to enforce it and therefore request officers continue to build the evidence base required to introduce it.
- 8) To understand one-way residents had felt supported in previous years was through the deployment of lamppost wraps and signage that clearly displayed the Council's busking policy and rules but regret that their effectiveness had been limited to the ad hoc nature of their deployment due to:
  - Lack of capacity within council signage team.
  - Unauthorised removal of the signage.
  - Inconsistent locations and key areas not being covered.
  - The signage arriving too late into the year and being removed prematurely before prime busking season ended.
- 10) To therefore agree to a further report in two cycles to the Culture and Communities Committee outlining a formalised approach to busking signage with set locations, time of year for deployment and identifying resource to support a standardised annual approach to their implementation.

This report should further outline options for how the Council could consider the more active management of on-street activities referenced in the report. These options should explore direct proposals with costings in advance of the following years budget setting proposals for Groups.
- 11) To note that on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Council approved a motion on the Amplification of Sound in Public Spaces. In it there was a request for the Convenor of Regulatory to write to Ben Macpherson, the then Minister for Local Government in Scotland, to request additional powers to allow the Council to effectively control the amplification of sound in public spaces under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. A response was received on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 saying that this was being looked into. The Regulatory Committee agreed to write a follow up letter and received a further response from the Minister on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 with no further progress.
- 12) To note that 4.4 of the report by the Executive Director of Place stated *However, excessive noise from busking was highlighted as having a significant impact on residents and businesses nearby, especially where the busker has a limited repertoire.*

- 13) To agree to commence the process of drafting an appropriate byelaw to allow for the control of the amplification of sound in public spaces.
- 14) To agree that the Council should continue to monitor busking, engage with buskers who were using amplification to encourage them to moderate the volume and where appropriate, seek support from Police Scotland to address excessive noise.
- 15) To request a report for the December meeting of the Culture and Communities Committee detailing:
  - a) The evidence threshold for lodging a bylaw application;
  - b) How it was determined that this had not been met;
  - c) The feasibility of working with the artist community to identify public spaces in the city centre which could be promoted as good places to busk with good practices agreed by all stakeholders; and
  - d) The outcome of the discussions with the Scottish Government.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee of 13 December 2022 (item 10); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

## 6. Trees in the City – Tree Management Policies

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An update on the tree management policies for the Council, which provided the actions proposed to address the motion approved by Committee in December 2022 on Trees and also set out the policies to support tree protection when hosting events (following a request by Committee in May 2023) was presented. A specific example relating to East and West Princes Street Gardens was included in Appendix 3 to the report by the Executive Director of Place.

### **Motion**

- 1) To approve the updated Trees in the City document containing tree management policies relating to how the Council maintained and managed trees in the city (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 2) To note the update provided in response to the motion on Trees which was approved on 13 December 2022.
- 3) To note that policies to protect trees during events had been incorporated into the revised policy document and updated Tree Protection plans for East and West Princes Street Gardens were included in Appendix 3 to the report.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

### **Amendment 1**

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- 1) To approve the updated Trees in the City document containing tree management policies relating to how the Council maintained and managed trees in the city (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 2) To note the update provided in response to the motion on Trees which was approved on 13 December 2022.
- 3) To note that policies to protect trees during events had been incorporated into the revised policy document and updated Tree Protection plans for East and West Princes Street Gardens were included in Appendix 3 to the report.
- 4) Notes that at 4.7 the report states that “any remaining actions will be carried forward under the strategic direction of Edinburgh Million Tree City.”
- 5) Therefore requests that the overdue Million Tree City annual update come to Committee at its February 2024 meeting, including an update on those outstanding actions.
- 6) Notes the Ash Dieback Action Plan report received by committee in March 2023.
- 7) Agrees that, once the Tree Management Policies have been agreed, the Million Tree City Annual Updates should become the main avenue for regular reporting on the state of trees in Edinburgh and that other regular reports on trees should be folded into that reporting with the exception of the Ash Dieback Action Plan updates.
- 8) That this should include but not be limited to; updates on numbers of trees planted, and removed in the year, canopy cover and species diversity, and efforts to manage and maintain newly planted trees to ensure their survival.
- 9) Additionally, requests officers work with colleagues in the flooding team to determine how the Management Policies can best be used to support flood mitigation efforts where projects are being undertaken, and report this back to committee via the Business Bulletin within three cycles.

- moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor Osler

### **Amendment 2**

- 1) To approve the updated Trees in the City document containing tree management policies relating to how the Council maintained and managed trees in the city (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 2) To note the update provided in response to the motion on Trees which was approved on 13 December 2022.
- 3) To note that policies to protect trees during events had been incorporated into the revised policy document and updated Tree Protection plans for East and West Princes Street Gardens were included in Appendix 3 to the report.

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- 4) Welcomes the report and changes / additions to the tree management and protection policies, recognising that these demonstrate a renewed focus and commitment to trees across the city, in line with the Council's declaration of a nature emergency.
- 5) Notes that a renewed Climate Adaptation strategy is due at Policy and Sustainability committee and that trees will have a prominent role to play in this strategy, and therefore ought to be prioritised for investment.
- 6) Recognises that this update largely covers an operational approach to tree management but that there are still wider strategic aims which Committee may wish to strengthen in order to improve outcomes for trees in the city and deliver other co-benefits relating to this, including (but not limited to):
  - a) Understanding what additional resource would be required to replace trees which have died in recent years owing to inadequate aftercare, and to increase canopy cover to a sufficient level to meet the needs of the changing climate and manage the risks associated with this.
  - b) Reviewing the standard materials used in tree beds in order to deliver wider benefits for biodiversity and create corridors of planting for pollinators.
  - c) Reviewing what proactive engagement happens with residents at the onset of planting of street trees to encourage greater community engagement, including highlighting how residents can support with tree watering and maintenance.
- 7) Agrees that the renewed focus on tree maintenance rather than just planting means that KPIs relating to trees / forestry in the Council ought to be revised to commit the Council to targets around not just planting trees but keeping trees alive for years after their initial planting, and that these should be covered as part of routine reports to Committee.
- 8) Further agrees that other targets relating to community engagement with tree planting and delivering wider benefits for biodiversity should be developed and included in routine reporting to Committee.
- 9) Notes that the update on the Million Tree City is overdue, requests that this comes to Committee as soon as is possible and includes consideration of all of the above, as well as ideas about what a more robust, routine reporting schedule for tree management might look like, for agreement by Committee.

- moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addendums to the Motion.

## **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To approve the updated Trees in the City document containing tree management policies relating to how the Council maintained and managed trees in the city (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 2) To note the update provided in response to the motion on Trees which was approved on 13 December 2022.
- 3) To note that policies to protect trees during events had been incorporated into the revised policy document and updated Tree Protection plans for East and West Princes Street Gardens were included in Appendix 3 to the report.
- 4) To note that at 4.7 the report stated that “any remaining actions will be carried forward under the strategic direction of Edinburgh Million Tree City.”
- 5) To therefore request that the overdue Million Tree City annual update come to Committee at its February 2024 meeting, including an update on those outstanding actions.
- 6) To note the Ash Dieback Action Plan report received by committee in March 2023.
- 7) To agree that, once the Tree Management Policies had been agreed, the Million Tree City Annual Updates should become the main avenue for regular reporting on the state of trees in Edinburgh and that other regular reports on trees should be folded into that reporting with the exception of the Ash Dieback Action Plan updates.
- 8) To agree that this should include but not be limited to; updates on numbers of trees planted, and removed in the year, canopy cover and species diversity, and efforts to manage and maintain newly planted trees to ensure their survival.
- 9) To additionally, request officers work with colleagues in the flooding team to determine how the Management Policies could best be used to support flood mitigation efforts where projects were being undertaken, and report this back to committee via the Business Bulletin within three cycles.
- 10) To welcome the report and changes / additions to the tree management and protection policies, recognising that these demonstrated a renewed focus and commitment to trees across the city, in line with the Council’s declaration of a nature emergency.
- 11) To note that a renewed Climate Adaptation strategy was due at Policy and Sustainability Committee and that trees would have a prominent role to play in this strategy, and therefore ought to be prioritised for investment.
- 12) To recognise that the update largely covered an operational approach to tree management but that there were still wider strategic aims which Committee

might wish to strengthen in order to improve outcomes for trees in the city and deliver other co-benefits relating to this, including (but not limited to):

- a) Understanding what additional resource would be required to replace trees which had died in recent years owing to inadequate aftercare, and to increase canopy cover to a sufficient level to meet the needs of the changing climate and manage the risks associated with this.
  - b) Reviewing the standard materials used in tree beds in order to deliver wider benefits for biodiversity and create corridors of planting for pollinators.
  - c) Reviewing what proactive engagement happened with residents at the onset of planting of street trees to encourage greater community engagement, including highlighting how residents can support with tree watering and maintenance.
- 13) To agree that the renewed focus on tree maintenance rather than just planting meant that KPIs relating to trees / forestry in the Council ought to be revised to commit the Council to targets around not just planting trees but keeping trees alive for years after their initial planting, and that these should be covered as part of routine reports to Committee.
- 14) To further agree that other targets relating to community engagement with tree planting and delivering wider benefits for biodiversity should be developed and included in routine reporting to Committee.
- 15) To note that the update on the Million Tree City was overdue, request that this comes to Committee as soon as is possible and include consideration of all of the above, as well as ideas about what a more robust, routine reporting schedule for tree management might look like, for agreement by Committee.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee of 13 December 2022 (item 15) and 11 May 2023 (item 8); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

## **7. Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming**

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Approval was sought for the Use of Public Spaces policy, supporting guidance documents and next steps for implementation of the policy.

### **Motion**

- 1) To approve the Use of Public Spaces Policy (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place) and the supporting guidance documents (Appendices 3 and 4 of the report).
- 2) To approve the next steps as outlined in Section 5 of the report.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To approve the Use of Public Spaces Policy (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place) and the supporting guidance documents (Appendices 3 and 4 of the report).
- 2) To approve the next steps as outlined in Section 5 of the report.
- 3) Noting the impact that events and filming can have on residents and therefore the importance of this policies success, agrees for a full review of the policy within one calendar year of implementation.
- 4) Requests that a new button is added to the Council's main "Report It" page that directs comments through to the Public Spaces Inbox referenced in the report for public space events and filming complaints.

- moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

### **Amendment 2**

- 1) To approve the Use of Public Spaces Policy (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place) and the supporting guidance documents (Appendices 3 and 4 of the report).
- 2) To approve the next steps as outlined in Section 5 of the report.
- 3) Notes on page 13 of the Guidance for Events Organisers that there is a process to follow if complaints are received.
- 4) Agrees all complaints gathered through [publicspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:publicspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk) will be collated and sent to the relevant service manager for their attention and included in the updates to the Festivals All Party Oversight Group.

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Thornley

### **Amendment 3**

Committee notes that

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

**Thursday, 5th October, 2023**

- 4) To approve the Use of Public Spaces Policy (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place) and the supporting guidance documents (Appendices 3 and 4 of the report) with the following amendments:
  - a) At principle 12, before “built”, insert new sentence “Event organisers should be asked to demonstrate how they going to avoid, entirely where possible, or if not possible, minimise, damage to built and green areas”
  - b) In the section titled “Economic”, insert “and social and community benefits” in title. At end of principle 6, insert a paragraph break and then a new sentence. “Organisers may be asked to provide some Community Benefits. These should be substantial and tangible for the local community and proportionate to the size of the event.”.
  - c) In principle 17, before “living” insert “real” and after “wage” insert “as defined by the Living Wage Foundation”
- 5) To approve the next steps as outlined in Section 5 of the report.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

#### **Amendment 4**

- 1) To approve the Use of Public Spaces Policy (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place) and the supporting guidance documents (Appendices 3 and 4 of the report).
- 2) To approve the next steps as outlined in Section 5 of the report.
- 3) Agrees that the Council’s ‘Report It’ website will have an additional link and ‘Report It’ function page added specifically in relation to events to allow for simple and immediate raising of any issues or disturbances with the Council. Further agrees that this link can be included on the page referenced in 5.1.3.

- moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Mowat

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendment 1 was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the Motion, Amendments 2, and 4 were accepted as addendums to the Motion and Amendment 3 was accepted as an amendment to the motion.

#### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Walker:

Committee notes that

- 1) To note that at the December 2022 meeting, it amended the list of principles as specified in the motion by Councillor Heap in their amendment, available at: [\(Public Pack\)Motions and Amendments Agenda Supplement for Culture and Communities Committee, 13/12/2022 10:00 \(edinburgh.gov.uk\)](#) .

Thursday, 5th October, 2023

- 2) To note that these amendments did not appear in the principles presented at today's meeting (5 October 2023).
- 3) To note that this was the result of a minor administrative error in the production of the papers for this meeting
- 4) To approve the Use of Public Spaces Policy (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place) and the supporting guidance documents (Appendices 3 and 4 of the report) with the following amendments:
  - a) At principle 12, before "built", insert new sentence "Event organisers should be asked to demonstrate how they going to avoid, entirely where possible, or if not possible, minimise, damage to built and green areas"
  - b) In the section titled "Economic", insert "and social and community benefits" in title. At end of principle 6, insert a paragraph break and then a new sentence. "Organisers may be asked to provide some Community Benefits. These should be substantial and tangible for the local community and proportionate to the size of the event."
  - c) In principle 17, before "living" insert "real" and after "wage" insert "as defined by the Living Wage Foundation"
- 5) To approve the next steps as outlined in Section 5 of the report.
- 6) To note the impact that events and filming could have on residents and therefore the importance of this policy's success, agrees for a full review of the policy within one calendar year of implementation.
- 7) To note on page 13 of the Guidance for Events Organisers that there was a process to follow if complaints were received.
- 8) To agree all complaints gathered through [publicspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:publicspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk) would be collated and sent to the relevant service manager for their attention and included in the updates to the Festivals All Party Oversight Group.
- 9) To agree that the Council's 'Report It' website would have an additional link and 'Report It' function page added specifically in relation to events to allow for simple and immediate raising of any issues or disturbances with the Council. To further agree that this link can be included on the page referenced in 5.1.3 of the report.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee of 13 December 2022 (item 1): report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted).

## **8. Third Party Cultural Grants - Strategic Partnerships Funding Programme Review**

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An update was provided on the programme review of the third party cultural grants strategic partnerships together with recommendations for the next steps for grant funding from 1 April 2024 onwards.

### **Motion**

- 1) To approve the continuation of the three-year in principle Strategic Partnerships Funding programme.
- 2) To approve the application process timeline.
- 3) To approve the introduction of a new funding programme strand, established from within the existing revenue grants fund, to provide resources to the city's creative community hubs (specifically to develop and own community-based projects in partnership with established city-based Council funded cultural organisations).
- 4) To approve an additional transition year, if required, to support applicant change management requirements, recognising that this would mean that the programme would therefore run for four years.
- 5) To note that a report would be presented on 29 February 2024 on the recommended Strategic Partnerships grants programme to commence on 1 April 2024.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

### **Amendment**

- 1) To approve the continuation of the three-year in principle Strategic Partnerships Funding programme.
- 2) To approve the application process timeline.
- 3) To approve the introduction of a new funding programme strand, established from within the existing revenue grants fund, to provide resources to the city's creative community hubs (specifically to develop and own community-based projects in partnership with established city-based Council funded cultural organisations).
- 4) To approve an additional transition year, if required, to support applicant change management requirements, recognising that this would mean that the programme would therefore run for four years.
- 5) To note that a report would be presented on 29 February 2024 on the recommended Strategic Partnerships grants programme to commence on 1 April 2024.
- 6) Noting that the budget allocation has been standstill for several years, requests officers produce a short report ahead of the forthcoming budget setting to

outline what Edinburgh Councils Third Party Cultural Grants revenue budget would be if it had increased in-line with inflation.

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

- moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To approve the continuation of the three-year in principle Strategic Partnerships Funding programme.
- 2) To approve the application process timeline.
- 3) To approve the introduction of a new funding programme strand, established from within the existing revenue grants fund, to provide resources to the city's creative community hubs (specifically to develop and own community-based projects in partnership with established city-based Council funded cultural organisations).
- 4) To approve an additional transition year, if required, to support applicant change management requirements, recognising that this would mean that the programme would therefore run for four years.
- 5) To note that a report would be presented on 29 February 2024 on the recommended Strategic Partnerships grants programme to commence on 1 April 2024.
- 6) Noting that the budget allocation had been standstill for several years, to request officers produce a short report ahead of the forthcoming budget setting to outline what Edinburgh Councils Third Party Cultural Grants revenue budget would be if it had increased in-line with inflation.
- 7) To agree this report should include a rough estimate of what impact such an increase would have on the scope and sustainability of the city's key cultural infrastructure and deliverability of the Councils Business Plan and Cultural Strategy.

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

## **9. Bonfire Night**

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**Thursday, 5th October, 2023**

An update was provided on the planning for Bonfire Night 2023 together with an outline of plans for the development of a Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for the city.

### **Motion**

To note the update on current planning for Bonfire Night 2023 and on the development of a Community Safety and Anti-Social Strategy for the city.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

### **Amendment**

- 1) To note the update on current planning for Bonfire Night 2023 and on the development of a Community Safety and Anti-Social Strategy for the city.
- 2) Notes that Bonfire Night falls on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> and therefore we should expect activity throughout the duration of the weekend on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of November.
- 3) Requests Officers engage with colleagues in Parks to put measures in place to ensure health and safety measures are in place for public parks. This should include a focus on restricting vehicle access and ensuring public safety on Calton Hill.
- 4) Notes thanks to Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, LAYC and partners in addition to our own Council teams for their hard work and dedication to keeping people safe at this time of year.

- moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To note the update on current planning for Bonfire Night 2023 and on the development of a Community Safety and Anti-Social Strategy for the city.
- 2) To note that Bonfire Night fell on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> and therefore should expect activity throughout the duration of the weekend on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of November.
- 3) To request Officers engage with colleagues in Parks to put measures in place to ensure health and safety measures were in place for public parks. This should include a focus on restricting vehicle access and ensuring public safety on Calton Hill.

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

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

## **10. WASPS – 2/3 West Park Place**

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In response to a motion by Councillor Heap, details were provided any sale of the property at 2/3 West Park Place by the City of Edinburgh Council and any support that could be provided to WASPS to keep their studio provision at West Park Place or within the Gorgie/Dalry area.

### **Decision**

To note the report by the Executive Director of Place.

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

## **11. Culture and Communities Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Month Three Position**

---

Details were provided on the Culture and Communities Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Month Three Position which forecast adverse outturn variances of £1.5m for the Culture and Wellbeing service and £0.050m for the Parks and Greenspaces service. Measures would continue to be progressed by Place Directorate to offset budget pressures and to fully deliver approved savings targets to achieve outturn expenditure and income in line with the approved revenue budget for 2023/24.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the forecast adverse outturn variances of £1.5m for the Culture and Wellbeing service and £0.050m for the Parks and Greenspaces service, based on the three-month revenue budget monitoring position.
- 2) To note Place Directorate was forecasting a pressure of £1.95m as at month three.
- 3) To note the need for all existing pressures, savings delivery shortfalls and risks to be fully and proactively managed within Directorates.
- 4) To note measures would continue to be progressed by Place Directorate to offset budget pressures and to fully deliver approved savings targets to achieve outturn expenditure and income in line with the approved budget for 2023/24.
- 5) To note the ongoing risks to the achievement of a balanced budget projection for services within the remit of the Culture and Communities Committee.

- 6) To note updates would continue to be provided to members of the Committee during the remainder of the year.

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

## 12. Community Centre Strategy Reporting

---

In response to a motion by Councillor Thornley, an update was provided on the approach being taken to progress community centre strategy reporting.

### Decision

To note the update on the development of a community centre strategy for the city.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee of 7 March 2023 (item 12), 10 August 2023 (item 20); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

## 13. Edinburgh Cemetery Tour Registration Scheme – Update

---

Details were provided on the progress with implementation of changes to the Edinburgh Tour Guide Registration Scheme, specifically in relation to the fees applicable and further engagement with stakeholders with regard to the impact of the scheme.

### Decision

- 1) To note the progress in implementing the revised scheme.
- 2) To note the proposal to carry out further engagement with stakeholders, with the outcome reported to Committee in early 2024.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee of 11 May 2023 (item 7): report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

### Declaration of Interests

Councillors Faccenda and Staniforth declared a financial interest as Edinburgh Cemetery Tour Guides and left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

## 14. Sprint World Orienteering Championships – Budget Update

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Details were provided on the Sprint World Orienteering Championships which Edinburgh were to host the July 2024 with an approved budget allocation of £200,000.

Further approval was sought to allocate an additional £50,000 to deliver the Championships due to significant inflationary increases in the budget, most notably in staffing costs.

### Motion

**Thursday, 5th October, 2023**

To approve a further allocation of £50,000 towards the delivery of the Sprint World Orienteering Championships 2024 from the 2024/25 Events budget.

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Faccenda

### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To approve a further allocation of £50,000 towards the delivery of the Sprint World Orienteering Championships 2024 from the 2024/25 Events budget.
- 2) Agrees the further funding allocation to honour the Councils longstanding historic commitment to the organisers to deliver this event and noting that officers have advised this decision will have no adverse effect on planned events in 2024/25.
- 3) Requests that Council Officers work with Sprint to maximise the community engagement and legacy benefits of the event, keeping the Festivals and Events APOG up to date with developments and with a further report back to Culture and Communities Committee upon the events conclusion detailing how the extent and reach of such activity and what was undertaken.

- moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

### **Amendment 2**

- 1) To approve a further allocation of £50,000 towards the delivery of the Sprint World Orienteering Championships 2024 from the 2024/25 Events budget.
- 2) Notes that it would have benefitted from more opportunities to engage with Edinburgh's involvement in the World Sprint Orienteering Championships as planning developed given concerns about overspend and value for money.
- 3) Expresses concern about whether the scale of the funding provided is justified, as it has received limited information on the case for the Council's financial commitment.
- 4) Regrets that delay to the decision on funding is likely not possible given the advanced nature of the preparations.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addendums to the motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To approve a further allocation of £50,000 towards the delivery of the Sprint World Orienteering Championships 2024 from the 2024/25 Events budget.

**Thursday, 5th October, 2023**

- 2) To agree the further funding allocation to honour the Council's longstanding historic commitment to the organisers to deliver this event and note that officers had advised this decision would have no adverse effect on planned events in 2024/25.
- 3) To request that Council Officers work with Sprint to maximise the community engagement and legacy benefits of the event, keeping the Festivals and Events APOG up to date with developments and with a further report back to Culture and Communities Committee upon the event's conclusion detailing how the extent and reach of such activity and what was undertaken.
- 4) To note that it would have benefitted from more opportunities to engage with Edinburgh's involvement in the World Sprint Orienteering Championships as planning developed given concerns about overspend and value for money.
- 5) To express concern about whether the scale of the funding provided was justified, as it had received limited information on the case for the Council's financial commitment.
- 6) To regret that delay to the decision on funding was likely not possible given the advanced nature of the preparations.

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

## **15. Motion by Councillor Heap - Negotiations with Large Events Organisers (Free and reduced access tickets)**

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

“Committee notes:

- 1) The decision of the Culture and Communities Committee on 10 August 2023 to progress work on how the Council can increase the availability of free and reduced access tickets to cultural events for residents where the event is hosted on Council premises.
- 2) The additional discussion at the Culture and Communities Committee on 10 August 2023 regarding how to increase resident access to free and reduced tickets to cultural events where the Council has no or limited formal route to request that event providers offer such tickets, such as, but not limited to, music events at Murrayfield Stadium.
- 3) That officers indicated that, even in the absence of such formal routes, it might nonetheless be possible to persuade such event providers to offer such tickets.

Committee therefore:

- 4) Requests that officers continue this work.

- 5) Officers include an update on this work at an appropriate juncture and an appropriate time, updating the Committee on all relevant aspects, including but not limited to:
  - a) Which events organisers and/or venues should be prioritised;
  - b) How tickets should be distributed.”

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Staniforth.

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Heap:

## **16. Motion by Councillor Heap - Distribution of free tickets for Edinburgh’s Christmas and Hogmanay Events**

---

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

“Committee notes:

- 1) That the organisers of this year’s Edinburgh’s Christmas and Hogmanay events intend to provide free tickets to paid-for activities.
- 2) Community groups, including Sighthill, Broomhouse and Parkhead Community Council, have expressed concerns about how these were distributed last year, with concerns that tickets were distributed in an ad-hoc fashion to groups that had approached the organisers, with many groups not aware of the availability of free tickets, resulting in some missing out.
- 3) That the organisers have indicated that no major change to the method of distribution is being considered for this year.

Committee therefore:

- 4) Requests that officers meet with the organisers to work on a fairer system of advertising and distributing tickets, and report back on this work to one of Festivals and Events APOG meetings prior to December 2023, and place an update in a Culture and Communities Committee News Bulletin for a Committee meeting prior to December 2023.”

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Heap.

## 17. Motion by Councillor Osler - Use of Council Sport Facilities

---

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

“Committee notes:

- 1) Motion by Cllr Osler on the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy (August 2022)
- 2) Response to the motion (December 2022) - ***That the new strategy and resulting action plan will focus on tackling inequality, with a specific theme expected to be included on improving inclusion and diversity and reducing health inequalities***
- 3) The Workshop on Physical Activity and Sport Strategy (11th August 2023) – priority 7 **Sport & Active Recreation for All**
- 4) That the City of Edinburgh Council, including notably through its Schools Estate, has a large number of sports facilities that are available to hire by the public.
- 5) That the management and booking of these sports facilities is managed by Edinburgh Leisure, and
- 6) That these sports facilities can contribute to the attainment of the aims and objectives referred to above.

Committee therefore:

- 7) Reinforces its commitments to tackling inequality, to improving inclusion, promoting diversity and to reducing health inequality, and
- 8) Asks for a report in three cycles, describing the use profile of those facilities by sports and leisure clubs and associations, including by location and weekday/weekend dates and timings.
- 9) Understands that the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy is still to be agreed and part of that will be engagement and consultation with sports and leisure clubs. So further agrees that as part of the consultation sports and leisure clubs will be consulted upon as to how far their organisation contribute to the attainment of the aims and objectives referred to above and that will be reported back to Committee as part of the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy report.”

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Thornley.

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor Osler.

## 18. Motion by Councillor Mitchell - Stockbridge Clocks

---

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

“Committee:

- 1) Expresses regret that there are persisting issues with the (former) St Stephen’s Church clock and the Stockbridge clock operating.
- 2) Requests that officials investigate a solution to preventing the clocks stopping.

Therefore, Committee agrees that:

- 3) Should a solution be possible within existing budgets that this be actioned, and an update provided to Committee via the Business Bulletin within two cycles.
- 4) Should a solution not be possible within existing budgets that a report outlining options and associated costs will return to Committee within two cycles.”

- moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Munro.

### Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Mitchell.

## 19. Motion by Councillor Osler - Events Budgeting

---

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

“Committee notes:

- 1) The full Events budget (presently) is £356,200 per annum. This is nominally divided 50:50 between culture events and sports events.
- 2) A full summary of the proposed allocations for 2024/25 will be shared with Committee before the end of this financial year.

Committee understands;

That the allocation of funding is aligned to the Council’s Event Strategy which was approved by Culture and Communities on 31st May 2016 and splits the funding into three tiers, Major International, National and Bespoke City Events.

Committee:

Instructs officers bring to Committee in two cycles a report outlining the criteria presently being used to determine funding proposals for the Events Budget, the extent to which they align to Council priorities and any changes they would recommend.”

### Motion

To approve the motion by Councillor Osler.

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Thornley

### **Amendment 1**

Committee recognises:

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

To add to the motion by Councillor Osler follows:

- 3) Insert after “priorities”, including the Net Zero strategy and the Business Plans’ three aims: Create good places to live and work; End Poverty in Edinburgh and Become a Net Zero city,”
- 4) Committee therefore asks for an update from officers on:
  - a) How funding decisions on large events are made, including the criteria and how this relates to the Council’s wider strategic priorities outlined in the Business Plan, including specific consideration of how events contribute to the Council’s actions to meet net zero by 2030.
  - b) Whether what an appropriate balance between local, national and international events is considered, and how local communities are or can be involved in this process
  - c) How the benefits for the city are assessed and presented for scrutiny, taking into account the new use of public spaces for filming and event policy, if passed.
  - d) How Councillors are kept informed about large events that Council funding is being provided for, especially in cases where event costs are escalating.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

### **Amendment 2**

To add to the motion by Councillor Osler:

- 1) Recognises that the funding priorities and financial climate of the Council have substantially changed since the decision to proceed with the World Orienteering Championships alongside the cost of hosting such events due to inflationary pressure.
- 2) Therefore agrees that a review of the aims and values that guide allocation of funds from the Events Budget, in terms of what projects the Council decides to proceed with is required and should be undertaken alongside the work

underway to create a Physical activity and sports strategy for the city. This could provide a way to ensure tangible community benefit to the city's sports clubs and communities.

- moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addendums to the Motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Osler.

- 1) To note the full Events budget (presently) was £356,200 per annum. This was nominally divided 50:50 between culture events and sports events.
- 2) To note a full summary of the proposed allocations for 2024/25 would be shared with Committee before the end of this financial year.
- 3) To understand that the allocation of funding was aligned to the Council's Event Strategy which was approved by Culture and Communities on 31st May 2016 and split the funding into three tiers, Major International, National and Bespoke City Events.
- 4) To instruct officers bring to Committee in two cycles a report outlining the criteria presently being used to determine funding proposals for the Events Budget, the extent to which they aligned to Council priorities including the Net Zero strategy and the Business Plans' three aims: Create good places to live and work; End Poverty in Edinburgh and Become a Net Zero city and any changes they would recommend.
- 5) To recognise that there was a Climate Emergency.
- 6) To recognise the climate and environmental impact of large events.
- 7) To therefore ask for an update from officers on:
  - a) How funding decisions on large events were made, including the criteria and how this related to the Council's wider strategic priorities outlined in the Business Plan, including specific consideration of how events contributed to the Council's actions to meet net zero by 2030.
  - b) Whether what an appropriate balance between local, national and international events was considered, and how local communities were or could be involved in this process
  - c) How the benefits for the city were assessed and presented for scrutiny, taking into account the new use of public spaces for filming and event policy, if passed.

- d) How Councillors were kept informed about large events that Council funding was being provided for, especially in cases where event costs were escalating.
- 8) To recognise that the funding priorities and financial climate of the Council had substantially changed since the decision to proceed with the World Orienteering Championships alongside the cost of hosting such events due to inflationary pressure.
- 9) To therefore agree that a review of the aims and values that guided allocation of funds from the Events Budget, in terms of what projects the Council decided to proceed with was required and should be undertaken alongside the work underway to create a Physical activity and sports strategy for the city. This could provide a way to ensure tangible community benefit to the city's sports clubs and communities.

## 20. Emergency Motions by Councillors Walker and Mitchell – Creative Scotland Funding

---

The Convener ruled that the following item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, be considered as a matter of urgency to allow the Committee to give early consideration to this matter.

The following motions by Councillor Walker and Mitchell were submitted in terms of Standing Order 17:

### a) Motion submitted by Councillor Walker

“Committee:

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

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

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

Asks the Council Leader:

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

To host an urgent summit which brings together representatives from the creative industry and cultural sector to discuss the impact this Scottish Government decision to cut funding will have upon the creative industry sector,

and upon citizen and community access to, and participation in, the cultural offering of Edinburgh.”

**b) Motion submitted by Councillor Mitchell**

Committee:

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

Committee therefore agrees that:

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

**Motion**

The following composite motion was proposed:

“Committee:

- 1) Is alarmed by the Scottish Government’s last-minute decision to reimpose a budget reduction on Creative Scotland of £6.6m and the negative impact and risks this may have on Edinburgh’s cultural industries as well as those across Scotland.
- 2) Is concerned that Creative Scotland is having to use more than a third of its National Lottery reserves.
- 3) Notes the importance of access to and participation in of culture for Edinburgh residents.
- 4) Thanks the over 14,000 signatories of Campaign for the Arts’ petition.

Committee therefore agrees that:

- 5) The Council Leader and the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee will
  - a) write to the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture to:
    - (i) express the Committee's dismay at and opposition to the Scottish Government's decision to reduce Creative Scotland's budget by £6.6million,
    - (ii) insist he and the Scottish Government honour the commitment made in February 2023 to "uplift" Creative Scotland's budget and urgently reinstate the £6.6m in full, and
    - (iii) encourage him to commit to increasing, or at the very least maintaining, Creative Scotland funding from 2024/25,
  - b) write to Edinburgh's MPs, and Edinburgh and Lothian region MSPs to convey the Council's concern and enlist their support; and
  - c) will host an urgent summit which brings together representatives from the creative industry and cultural sector to discuss the impact this Scottish Government decision to cut funding will have upon the creative industry sector, and upon citizen and community access to, and participation in, the cultural offering of Edinburgh."

- moved by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mitchell

### **Amendment**

"Committee:

Understands that since 2018 the Scottish Government has provided Creative Scotland with £6.6m per year due to reductions in their income from the National Lottery, enabling them to build their reserves.

Thanks Creative Scotland's Board for the confirmation they will use a portion of these reserves this year to ensure the impact will not be passed on to actors, audiences, and regularly funded organisations.

Regrets the news that the Scottish Government has been forced to review its spending commitments this year in the Autumn Budget Revisions due to the economic and financial carnage of Brexit and rising inflationary pressures.

However, notes that it is the view of this Committee that even within incredibly difficult financial contexts, the Arts should be a funding priority at UK, Scottish and Local Government levels, and that this reflects the value and importance of the Arts to the economy and wellbeing of the citizens of Edinburgh.

Understands that this is something that all councillors will have to consider when setting our budget next year.

Agrees that in his letter to the Cabinet Secretary, the Council Leader should confirm support for the Cabinet Secretary's commitment to look to reinstate the funding in 2024-5 subject to Parliamentary procedures."

- moved by Councillor Campbell seconded by Councillor McNeese-Mechan

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the motion.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(12), the motion was adjusted and accepted as an addendum to the amendment.

### **Voting**

The voting was as follows:

For the motion (as adjusted)	-	8 votes
For the amendment (as adjusted) -	-	3 votes

(For the motion (as adjusted): Councillors Faccenda, Mitchell, Munro Osler, Parker, Staniforth and Thornley.

For the amendment (as adjusted): Councillors Campbell, Graham and McNeese-Mechan.).

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To note that Committee was alarmed by the Scottish Government's last-minute decision to reimpose a budget reduction on Creative Scotland of £6.6m and the negative impact and risks this might have on Edinburgh's cultural industries as well as those across Scotland.
- 2) To note that Committee was concerned that Creative Scotland was having to use more than a third of its National Lottery reserves.
- 3) To note the importance of access to and participation in of culture for Edinburgh residents.
- 4) To thank the over 14,000 signatories of Campaign for the Arts' petition.
- 5) However, to note that it was the view of the Committee that even within incredibly difficult financial contexts, the Arts should be a funding priority at UK, Scottish and Local Government levels, and that this reflected the value and importance of the Arts to the economy and wellbeing of the citizens of Edinburgh.

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- 6) To understand that this was something that all councillors would have to consider when setting the budget next year.
- 7) To agree the Council Leader and the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee would:
  - a) write to the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture to:
    - (i) express the Committee's dismay at and opposition to the Scottish Government's decision to reduce Creative Scotland's budget by £6.6million;
    - (ii) insist he and the Scottish Government honour the commitment made in February 2023 to "uplift" Creative Scotland's budget and urgently reinstate the £6.6m in full: and
    - (iii) encourage him to commit to increasing, or at the very least maintaining, Creative Scotland funding from 2024/25,
  - b) write to Edinburgh's MPs, and Edinburgh and Lothian region MSPs to convey the Council's concern and enlist their support; and
  - c) host an urgent summit which brings together representatives from the creative industry and cultural sector to discuss the impact this Scottish Government decision to cut funding will have upon the creative industry sector, and upon citizen and community access to, and participation in, the cultural offering of Edinburgh.

### **Declaration of Interests**

Councillor McFarlane declared a financial interest as he worked part-time for an MSP. and left the meeting during consideration of the above item.