

# Minutes

## Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday 29 February 2024

**Present:**

Councillors Walker (Convener), Lezley Marion Cameron, Glasgow, Heap, McFarlane, McNeese-Mechan, Mitchell, Munro, Osler, Staniforth and Thornley.

**Also present:**

Councillors Cowdy (item 11), and Councillor McKenzie (item 17).

### 1. Deputations

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**a) Graeme Cruickshank**

**(In relation to item 6.1 – Business Bulletin (Meadows: Jawbone Arch Update))**

The deputation indicated that he wished to be recognised as a stakeholder in regard to the issue of the Jawbone Arch.

(see item 6 below)

**b) Edinburgh Tour Guides Association**

**(In relation to item 8.8 – Edinburgh Cemetery Tour Registration Scheme – Update)**

The deputation indicated that they were in support of 'Option 1', as recommended by Regulatory Services report: the continuation of this year's permit scheme with an inflationary uplift in fees and expressed their desire to work closely and continuously with the Council in ensuring that this scheme worked as effectively as possible to protect the historic spaces.

The deputation stressed that they would be happy to pay the fee and wear the permit. They were keen to see the regulation of commercial activity and were aware that this cost money.

(see item 18 below)

## 2. Fruitmarket New Schools Programme and Fruitmarket Creative Connections – Motion by Councillor Walker

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### a) Presentation by the Fruitmarket Schools Programme

Kathleen Glancy and Hannah Nugent gave a presentation on behalf of the Fruitmarket Schools Programme. They indicated that they had been delivering successful programmes with schools for a number of years, but in 2021 had undertaken a major redevelopment on their building which had now doubled in size and included a learning studio, which was the first time that they had had a dedicated space on site. In terms of delivering a schools programme this had transformed the capacity and the scope of what they could do.

They outlined the work they were currently doing in supporting local schools, the funding that had been made available to them and the Creative Connections Project they were running with 6 Edinburgh primary schools in particular.

Details were provided on the timetable of activities for the coming months and at the end of the programme an evaluation would be carried out with the teachers involved in conjunction with the artists.

### b) Motion by Councillor Walker

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

“Committee

- 1) Values the important role Fruitmarket plays in creating accessible and empowering spaces for artists and audiences in Edinburgh by presenting a diverse programme of free exhibitions, performances and events in the centre of the city.
- 2) Demonstrates a continued commitment to collaborating with communities and local cultural organisations and spreading the positive outcomes of cultural provision across the city.
- 3) Welcomes Fruitmarket’s new engagement programme for schools, Creative Connections.”

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

### Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Walker.

### 3. Minutes

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#### Decision

To approve the minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 7 December 2023 as a correct record.

(Reference – Minute of the Culture and Communities Committee, submitted)

### 4. 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, 29 February 2024, submitted)

### 5. 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 5** – City Centre Street Hockey and Skating Facility
- **Action 14** - Motion by Councillor Heap – Gorgie Farm (Arrangements for the Care of Animals)
- **Action 17** – Edinburgh Cemetery Tour Registration Scheme - Update
- **Action 18(2)** – Response to Motion by Councillor Osler – Tree Protection in East and West Princes Street Gardens
- **Action 19** – Response to motion by Councillor Thornley – Parks and Greenspace Investment following 2023 Council Budget
- **Action 24** – Response to Motion by Councillor Campbell- Lifelong Learning Review
- **Action 26** – Parks and Openspace Investment Update
- **Action 28** - By Councillor Caldwell – Montgomery Street Park Helter Skelter
- **Action 30** – Amplification of Sound in Public Places

- **Action 32(2)** – Third Party Cultural Grants – Strategic Partnerships Funding Programme Review
  - **Action 36** – Motion by Councillor Osler – Events Budgeting
  - **Action 40(1) and (3)** – New Collections Centre and Museums and Galleries
- 2) To leave **Action 16 - Third Party Cultural Grants Funding 2023-24** open until the presentation at part 5 had taken place.
  - 3) To agree to a presentation being organised in respect of **Action 6 – Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan – Meadows and Bruntsfield Links.**
  - 4) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log 29 February 2024, submitted)

## 6. Business Bulletin

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The Culture and Communities business bulletin was presented.

### Decision

- 1) To agree that a further update be provided in the committee's next business Bulletin containing details of a "sustainable solution" and, if not already completed, the timeframe for its completion
- 2) To otherwise note the updates on the business bulletin.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Business Bulletin, 29 February 2024, submitted)

## 7. Capital Theatres Company Performance Report 2022/23.

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### a) Presentation by Fiona Gibson, CEO, Capital Theatres

Fiona Gibson presented the Capital Theatre's annual review 22 23, which she felt had been a year of ambition, achievement and challenge and detailed the variety of shows and arts programmes which had been provided. She updated members on the current position with the Kings Theatre project which had had to overcome a major funding challenge and was now 45% through the project.

### b) Report by the Executive Director of Place

Details were provided on the Capital Theatres Trust company performance period of September 2022 to September 2023. The Trust's activities were designed to offer a broad spectrum of opportunities to all ages to participate in and enjoy which included theatre, dance, opera, comedy, film, children's

shows, musicals, community engagement programmes and weekly venue-based activities.

The King's Theatre capital redevelopment project was also underway and a full update on the capital project was timetabled for Committee in May.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the presentation by Fiona Gibson.
- 2) To note the positive performance of Capital Theatres Trust during 2022/23.
- 3) To refer the report by the Executive Director of Place to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for noting and scrutiny (as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report).

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

## **8. Third Party Cultural Grants Funding 2024-25**

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Approval was sought for the outcomes of the application process for the 2024/27 Strategic Partnerships revenue funding programme (as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place) and for the 2024/25 project funding recommendations.

### **Motion**

- 1) To approve the outcomes of the Strategic Partnership Funding Programme applications process for 2024/27 (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 2) To approve the flexible and project funding recommendations for 2024/25 (Appendix 1 to the report).
- 3) To note the update on the third party cultural grants funding.

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

### **Amendment**

- 1) To approve the outcomes of the Strategic Partnership Funding Programme applications process for 2024/27 (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 2) To approve the flexible and project funding recommendations for 2024/25 (Appendix 1 to the report).
- 3) To note the update on the third party cultural grants funding.

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- 4) Notes that many Strategic Partner Organisations have been struggling with a number of challenges which have meant a reduced income whilst experiencing much higher costs.
- 5) Notes that through the budget setting process it was agreed that funds were allocated to celebrate the Edinburgh 900
- 6) Agrees any monies set aside for the Edinburgh 900 and not required are retained and redistributed to Strategic Partner Organisations (listed in Appendix 1 to the report).

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Thornley

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

### **Decision**

- 1) To approve the outcomes of the Strategic Partnership Funding Programme applications process for 2024/27 (Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Place).
- 2) To approve the flexible and project funding recommendations for 2024/25 (Appendix 1 to the report).
- 3) To note the update on the third party cultural grants funding.
- 4) To note that many Strategic Partner Organisations had been struggling with a number of challenges which had meant a reduced income whilst experiencing much higher costs.
- 5) To note that through the budget setting process it had been agreed that funds be allocated to celebrate the Edinburgh 900
- 6) To agree that any monies set aside for the Edinburgh 900 and not required be retained and redistributed to Strategic Partner Organisations (listed in Appendix 1 to the report).

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

## 9. Grants to Third Parties - Third Sector Interface and Equality and Rights Network 2024-25

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Details were provided on the Council's proposed funding for the Third Sector Interface (TSI) and Equalities and Rights Network (EaRN) for 2024/25 together with a proposal to evaluate the impact this funding had had over successive years and to provide further advice to members in advance of any future grants to the TSI and EaRN.

### Decision

- 1) To agree to grant fund Edinburgh's Third Sector Interface which comprised the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council, Volunteer Edinburgh and Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network.
- 2) To agree that officers should evaluate the role of the Third Sector Interface in Edinburgh and provide further advice to members.
- 3) To agree to grant fund the Equality and Rights Network and that future work delivered through this grant should be aligned with the Equalities Framework for 2025-29 which was under development

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

## 10. Edinburgh Partnership Survey

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Details were provided on the results of the first Edinburgh Partnership Survey, undertaken in 2023, with specific focus on the results of the survey that were relevant to the City of Edinburgh Council

### Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services on the Edinburgh Partnership Survey 2023.
  - 2) To note the draft forward plan for the Edinburgh Partnership Board meetings.
  - 3) To refer the report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for information
- as visitors left the premises via cash or contactless card terminal and that this might

## 11. Playparks Investment

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An update on the Council's play investment programme and the projects delivered in 2023/24 was provided together with the current pipeline projects that had so far been confirmed for 2024/25.

In accordance with Standing Order 33.1, the Convener agreed to hear a presentation from Ward Councillor Cowdy.

## **Motion**

To note the update by the Executive Director of Place on investment in playparks in 2023/24 and the proposed projects for 2024/25.

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

## **Amendment 1**

- 1) To note the update by the Executive Director of Place on investment in playparks in 2023/24 and the proposed projects for 2024/25.
- 2) To agree to receive annual updates going forward (noted in paragraph 5.1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place) on Playparks Investment in the form of a report rather than a Business Bulletin.

- moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor Osler

## **Amendment 2**

- 1) To note the update by the Executive Director of Place on investment in playparks in 2023/24 and the proposed projects for 2024/25.
- 2) Committee notes the particularly poor condition of the Moat Drive Playpark.
- 3) Committee further notes that:
  - a) This playpark serves the 2 high rise blocks of flats, Hutchison House and Moat House where the Council has significant ownership.
  - b) The area suffered from lack of attention leading to a need for significant intervention from Pest Control and that the grassed areas around the blocks of flats have previously been left unmaintained and unusable as play areas.
- 4) Committee therefore asks that the Moat Drive Playpark be assessed.

- moved by Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Munro

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addendums to the Motion.



## Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To note the update by the Executive Director of Place on investment in playparks in 2023/24 and the proposed projects for 2024/25.
- 2) To agree to receive annual updates going forward (noted in paragraph 5.1 of the report by the Executive Director of Place) on Playparks Investment in the form of a report rather than a Business Bulletin.
- 3) To note the particularly poor condition of the Moat Drive Playpark.
- 4) To further note that:
  - a) This playpark served the 2 high rise blocks of flats, Hutchison House and Moat House where the Council had significant ownership.
  - b) The area suffered from lack of attention leading to a need for significant intervention from Pest Control and that the grassed areas around the blocks of flats had previously been left unmaintained and unusable as play areas.
- 5) To therefore ask that the Moat Drive Playpark be assessed.

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

## 12. Fireworks Control Zones

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Details were provided on the current position and proposals for the next steps for the City of Edinburgh Council relating to firework control zones (FCZs) (which were a key provision in the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act 2022).

### Motion

- 1) To note the on-going work of the multi-agency working group set up to consider the implications of Firework Control Zones in Edinburgh and the Citywide Bonfire Strategic Planning Community Improvement Partnership.
- 2) To note the on-going discussions with partners on the potential implementation of the Firework Control Zone arrangements in the city, together with the intention to update the Council website with information on this.
- 3) To note the continued prioritisation of targeted diversionary activities for young people, dispersal zones, and support for Police Scotland's front line policing efforts during the annual fireworks period.

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

## Amendment 1

### Committee:

- 1) Thanks the Working Group for its work and notes its recommendations.
- 2) Further notes widespread public support for controls on the use of fireworks, with concerns that widespread, uncontrolled use of fireworks is bad for the environment, can harm wildlife and pets, and can disturb residents.
- 3) However, also notes that fireworks have cultural and religious significance.
- 4) Notes that the recommended timescale for introduction of a Firework Control Zone (FCZ) from the initial stage until implementation is 32 weeks, and early November, is 35 weeks away.
- 5) Notes that the Working Group needs additional time to explore the possible benefits and challenges of an FCZ, but that this can be done alongside development of a proposal.
- 6) To note the on-going work of the multi-agency working group set up to consider the implications of Firework Control Zones in Edinburgh and the Citywide Bonfire Strategic Planning Community Improvement Partnership.
- 7) To note the on-going discussions with partners on the implementation of the Firework Control Zone arrangements in the city, together with the intention to update the Council website with information on this.
- 8) To note the continued prioritisation of targeted diversionary activities for young people, dispersal zones, and support for Police Scotland's front line policing efforts during the annual fireworks period.
- 9) Request that officers urgently begin the preparation of a Firework Control Zone proposal and for the proposal to be progressed through the necessary stages in time for use from November 1 this year at the latest.
- 10) Requests updates via Business Bulletin item or report at every Committee meeting until an FCZ proposal is approved and implemented, or is not approved, with updates to include
  - a) Proposals for the geographical scope of the zone and when it will operate;
  - b) How the public will be consulted;
  - c) Any recommendations in relation to appropriate exemptions;
  - d) How the £25,000 grant per zone is proposed to be spent;

- e) What scope there is for the Council to fund and support public firework displays.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was adjusted and accepted as an amendment to the motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To thank the Working Group for its work and note its recommendations.
- 2) To further note widespread public support for controls on the use of fireworks, with concerns that widespread, uncontrolled use of fireworks was bad for the environment, could harm wildlife and pets, and could disturb residents.
- 3) However, to also note that fireworks had cultural and religious significance.
- 4) To note that the recommended timescale for introduction of a Firework Control Zone (FCZ) from the initial stage until implementation is 32 weeks, and early November, was 35 weeks away.
- 5) To note that the Working Group needed additional time to explore the possible benefits and challenges of an FCZ, but that this could be done alongside development of a proposal.
- 6) To note the on-going work of the multi-agency working group set up to consider the implications of Firework Control Zones in Edinburgh and the Citywide Bonfire Strategic Planning Community Improvement Partnership.
- 7) To note the on-going discussions with partners on the implementation of the Firework Control Zone arrangements in the city, together with the intention to update the Council website with information on this.
- 8) To note the continued prioritisation of targeted diversionary activities for young people, dispersal zones, and support for Police Scotland's front line policing efforts during the annual fireworks period.
- 9) To request that officers urgently begin the preparation of a Firework Control Zone proposal and for the proposal to be progressed through the necessary stages in time for use from November 1 this year at the latest.
- 10) To request updates via Business Bulletin item or report at every relevant Committee meeting until an FCZ proposal was approved and implemented, or was not approved, with updates to include
  - a) Proposals for the geographical scope of the zone and when it will operate;

- b) How the public will be consulted;
- c) Any recommendations in relation to appropriate exemptions;
- d) How the £25,000 grant per zone is proposed to be spent;
- e) What scope there is for the Council to fund and support public firework displays.

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

### **13. Edinburgh Leisure Annual Report 2022-23**

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Details were provided on the annual performance of Edinburgh Leisure, prepared as a requirement of the Services and Funding Agreement and the Council's governance arrangements for scrutiny of Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs).

#### **Motion**

- 1) To note the performance of Edinburgh Leisure during 2022/23.
- 2) To refer the report by the Executive Director of Place to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for noting and scrutiny.

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

#### **Amendment**

- 1) To note the performance of Edinburgh Leisure during 2022/23.
- 2) To refer the report by the Executive Director of Place to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for noting and scrutiny.
- 3) Welcomes the new Chief Executive to their role and recognises the fresh opportunity to look at service delivery and potential options to increase revenue and the sustainability of the organisation.
- 4) Recognises that political groups outwith their representatives on the board may wish to engage with the incoming CEO of Edinburgh Leisure and therefore requests that officers seek to set up meetings with the new Chief Executive within the first quarter of their appointment.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

## Decision

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To note the performance of Edinburgh Leisure during 2022/23.
- 2) To refer the report by the Executive Director of Place to the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee for noting and scrutiny.
- 3) To welcome the new Chief Executive to their role and recognise the fresh opportunity to look at service delivery and potential options to increase revenue and the sustainability of the organisation.
- 4) To recognise that political groups outwith their representatives on the board may wish to engage with the incoming CEO of Edinburgh Leisure and therefore request that officers seek to set up meetings with the new Chief Executive within the first quarter of their appointment.

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

## 14. Service Payment to Edinburgh Leisure 2024/25

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Details were provided of the proposed Council Service Payment to Edinburgh Leisure following approval of the Council's budget on 22 February 2024 and approval sought from the Culture and Communities Committee to make that payment.

## Decision

- 1) To note the service payment of £10,985,286 to Edinburgh Leisure for 2024/25.
- 2) To note a further payment of £165,000 to Edinburgh Leisure towards capital improvements across the Council's sport and leisure facility estate.

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

## 15. Culture and Communities: Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 – Month Eight Position

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Details were provided on the Culture and Communities Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 - Month Eight Position which forecast an overspend of £1.77m for the Culture and Wellbeing service and a forecast underspend of £0.15m for the Parks and Greenspaces service, based on expenditure and income at 30 November 2023. The forecast Council-wide revenue budget position, based on expenditure and income at 30 November 2023, was reported to the Finance and Resources Committee on 25 January 2024 and a Council-wide underspend of £0.825m was projected which included a forecast overspend of £2.601m for the Place Directorate.

## Decision

- 1) To note the forecast overspend of £1.77m for the Culture and Wellbeing service and a forecast underspend of £0.15m for the Parks and Greenspaces service, based on expenditure and income at 30 November 2023.
- 2) To note that Place Directorate was forecasting a year-end overspend of £2.601m.
- 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 that plans for full mitigation of Directorate overspends would be developed before the beginning of the 2024/25 financial year.
- 5) To note the ongoing risks to the achievement of a balanced budget for services within the remit of the Culture and Communities Committee.
- 6) To agree that a Policy Document be submitted on the issue of items not being returned to libraries, the asset then being lost and no fine imposed, to the next meeting of the Committee.

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

## 16. Events Budgeting

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The Council's Events Strategy required to be refreshed to more fully reflect the Council's Business Plan, the declaration of a climate emergency, the Culture Strategy and other recent policies. It was proposed that the strategy would be developed in consultation with the events sector and a final strategy be presented back to this Committee in Autumn 2024.

## Motion

- 1) To note that the current Events Strategy was valid until 2025 but required to be refreshed.
- 2) To note that work on a refreshed Events Strategy would be undertaken in Spring 2024 in consultation with key stakeholders and the events sector.
- 3) To note that a further report would be presented to Committee with a new Events Strategy in Autumn 2024.

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

**Amendment 1**

- 1) To note that the current Events Strategy was valid until 2025 but required to be refreshed.
- 2) To help guide the consultation agrees prior to communication with key stakeholders and the events sector, the approach to developing the new Events Strategy will be discussed by the Culture and Communities Committee.
- 3) To note that a further report would be presented to Committee with a new Events Strategy in Autumn 2024.

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Thornley

**Amendment 2**

- 1) To note that the current Events Strategy was valid until 2025 but required to be refreshed.
- 2) To note that work on a refreshed Events Strategy would be undertaken in Spring 2024 in consultation with key stakeholders and the events sector.
- 3) To note that a further report would be presented to Committee with a new Events Strategy in Autumn 2024.
  - a) The strategy should additionally seek alignment with the aims and outcomes of the forthcoming Physical Activity and Sports Strategy, a draft of which is expected in Autumn 2024.
  - b) The strategy should seek a greater spread of supported cultural and sports events taking place outwith the City Centre Ward 11.
  - c) The strategy should seek ways of supporting / bringing cultural and sports events to areas of high SIMD 1 to 41).

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

**Amendment 3**

- 1) To note that the current Events Strategy was valid until 2025 but required to be refreshed.
- 2) To note that work on a refreshed Events Strategy would be undertaken in Spring 2024 in consultation with key stakeholders and the events sector.
- 3) To note that a further report would be presented to Committee with a new Events Strategy in Autumn 2024.
- 4) Officers should consider including in the Events Strategy:

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- a) How the city's funding and hosting of events should take into account the impact of events on the climate and nature;
- b) The appropriate balance between larger national and international events, and local events;
- c) How the strategy can support local events organisers and other relevant businesses and social enterprises, reducing reliance on large, national and international corporate events organisers and keeping economic benefit within the city as much as possible.

- moved by Councillor Heap, seconded by Councillor Staniforth

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1, 2 and 3 were accepted as addendums to the motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To note that the current Events Strategy was valid until 2025 but required to be refreshed.
- 2) To note that work on a refreshed Events Strategy would be undertaken in Spring 2024 in consultation with key stakeholders and the events sector.
- 3) To help guide the consultation to agree prior to communication with key stakeholders and the events sector, the approach to developing the new Events Strategy would be discussed by the Culture and Communities Committee.
- 4) To note that a further report would be presented to Committee with a new Events Strategy in Autumn 2024.
  - a) The strategy should additionally seek alignment with the aims and outcomes of the forthcoming Physical Activity and Sports Strategy, a draft of which was expected in Autumn 2024.
  - b) The strategy should seek a greater spread of supported cultural and sports events taking place outwith the City Centre Ward 11.
  - c) The strategy should seek ways of supporting / bringing cultural and sports events to areas of high SIMD 1 to 41.
- 5) Officers should consider including in the Events Strategy:
  - a) How the city's funding and hosting of events should take into account the impact of events on the climate and nature;
  - b) The appropriate balance between larger national and international events, and local events;



- c) How the strategy could support local events organisers and other relevant businesses and social enterprises, reducing reliance on large, national and international corporate events organisers and keeping economic benefit within the city as much as possible.

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

## 17. Gorgie Farm Site Update

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In response to a motion by Councillor Heap, an update was provided on the current position on the Gorgie Farm site.

In accordance with Standing Order 33.1, the Convener agreed to hear a presentation from Ward Councillor McKenzie.

### **Motion**

To note the update on the Gorgie Farm site, as requested by the Council on 31 August 2023.

### **Amendment**

Committee notes:

- 1) That Gorgie Farm has been closed for around 1 year.
- 2) That close to £142,000 of public funds will have been used to develop a new vision for the farm and to upkeep the site whilst remaining closed to the public.
- 3) The importance of Gorgie Farm, both to Gorgie and to the whole city.
- 4) That local Councillor involvement in the Steering Group has been declined.

Committee believes:

- 5) Considering points 2 and 3, not re-opening the farm soon, even if only partially at first, would represent a significant reputation risk to the Council.
- 6) That the farm should re-open, even if only partially at first, as soon as possible
- 7) Local Councillor involvement in the Steering Group and any successor body will be beneficial.

Recommendations therefore amended as follows:

- 8) To note the update on the Gorgie Farm site, as requested by the Council on 31 August 2023
- 9) That officers contact the steering group to request that a Sighthill/Gorgie Councillor is able to join it, and any successor body.

- 10) That officers work with the steering group to ensure that the final recommendation includes provision for the farm to re-open to the public as soon as possible, even if this may mean initially partial or limited access, ahead of new arrangements for the farm being put in place.

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was adjusted and approved as an addendum to the motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor Walker

- 1) To note that Gorgie Farm had been closed for around 1 year.
- 2) To note that close to £142,000 of public funds would have been used to develop a new vision for the farm and to upkeep the site whilst remaining closed to the public.
- 3) To note the importance of Gorgie Farm, both to Gorgie and to the whole city.
- 4) To note that local Councillor involvement in the Steering Group may have been declined as inappropriate because it was a company limited by guarantee.
- 5) To believe that considering points 2 and 3, not re-opening the farm soon, even if only partially at first, would represent a significant reputation risk to the Council.
- 6) To believe that the farm should re-open, even if only partially at first, as soon as possible
- 7) To believe that Local Councillor involvement in a broader advisory group would be beneficial.
- 8) To note the update on the Gorgie Farm site, as requested by the Council on 31 August 2023
- 9) To ask that officers take legal and governance advice on the composition of any steering or advisory body and to ensure better briefings so ward councillors can feedback from and to the community.
- 10) To agree that officers work with the steering group to bring forward proposals for the farm to re-open to the public as soon as possible, even if this might mean initially partial or limited access, ahead of new arrangements for the farm being put in place.

(References – Act of Council No 24 of 31 August 2023; report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

## 17. Parks and Open Space Investment Update

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An update was provided on the Parks and Open Space investment programme for 2023/24.

### **Motion**

To note the update on the Parks and Open Space investment programme.

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

### **Amendment 1**

- 1) To note the update on the Parks and Open Space investment programme.
- 2) Notes the Glasgow trial of two outdoor litter picking hubs which provide a lockable bespoke storage unit which contains litter pickers, disposable gloves, high-vis vests, bag hoops, refuse bags and disinfectant wipes.
- 3) Understands that in this trial, local community groups manage the clean-up equipment and storage units and that volunteers can request access to the equipment by emailing them.
- 4) Agrees as part of the investment programme to consider a similar trial, perhaps working with a Friends Group to allow those who wish to enhance the work of Edinburgh Park Officers on a voluntary basis when visiting our parks to do so.

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

### **Amendment 2**

- 1) To note the update on the Parks and Open Space investment programme.
- 2) Agrees to receive annual updates going forward on Parks and Greenspace Investment in the form of a report rather than in the Business Bulletin.
- 3) Agrees that updates/delays on substantial individual projects should be included in the Business Bulletin when appropriate.

- moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor Osler

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1 and 2 were accepted as addendums to the Motion.

## Decision

To approve the following adjusted Motion by Councillor Walker:

- 1) To note the update on the Parks and Open Space investment programme.
- 2) To note the Glasgow trial of two outdoor litter picking hubs which provided a lockable bespoke storage unit which contained litter pickers, disposable gloves, high-vis vests, bag hoops, refuse bags and disinfectant wipes.
- 3) To understand that in this trial, local community groups managed the clean-up equipment and storage units and that volunteers could request access to the equipment by emailing them.
- 4) To agree as part of the investment programme to consider a similar trial, perhaps working with a Friends Group to allow those who wished to enhance the work of Edinburgh Park Officers on a voluntary basis when visiting parks to do so.
- 5) To agree to receive annual updates going forward on Parks and Greenspace Investment in the form of a report rather than in the Business Bulletin.
- 6) To agree that updates/delays on substantial individual projects should be included in the Business Bulletin when appropriate.

## 18. Edinburgh Cemetery Tour Registration Scheme - Update

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The Committee had agreed to amend the Edinburgh Tour Guide Registration Scheme, specifically in relation to the fees applicable and that officers should further engage with the guides and report back on any further amendments to the fee structure once completed.

An update was provided on further engagement with stakeholders with regard to the impact of the scheme and proposed further amendments to the scheme.

## Decision

- 1) To note the outcome of further engagement with stakeholders and the responses received.
- 2) To agree the revised fee structure for the Cemetery Tour Guide Registration Scheme, as set out in paragraphs 4.17 and 4.18 of the report by the Executive Director of Place.

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

## Declaration of Interests

Councillor Staniforth made a financial declaration of interest as a Registered Edinburgh Cemetery Tour Guide and left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

## 19. New Calton Burial Ground Watchtower – Proposals for Repair and Reuse

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Details were provided on the New Calton Burial Ground watchtower which was a B-listed building owned by the Council that was currently in poor condition with options for the refurbishment of the watchtower; to deliver urgent and necessary repairs to the watchtower, including works to allow occasional use of the watchtower's ground floor as an events/exhibition space.

### Decision

To agree in principle that officers proceed with option B for the repair and reuse of the New Calton Burial Ground watchtower, as set out in the report by the Executive Director of Place, subject to funding being secured.

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

## 20. Moredun Community Centre

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An update was provided on Moredun Community Centre, following a fire in May 2023.

### Motion

To note the update on Moredun Community Centre, following a fire in May 2023.

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

### Amendment 1

- 1) To note the update on Moredun Community Centre, following a fire in May 2023.
- 2) Committee requests that officers ensure that appropriate mitigations are put in place to safeguard the site from damage or further anti-social behaviour following its evacuation and that progressing securing the future of the site should be prioritised to minimise the amount of time the site is vacant.
- 3) Committee agrees that seeking an expression of interest from Housing regarding the site being obtained for the small sites affordable housing delivery programme is the preferred option.

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

## Amendment 2

- 1) To note the update on Moredun Community Centre, following a fire in May 2023.
- 2) Notes that a number of community assets across the city are in a poor state of repair and/or closed, such as Blackhall Library.
- 3) Notes the huge importance all these assets have to the communities they serve.
- 4) Committee also notes that a final decision will be taken by Finance and Resources Committee, and requests the report regarding that decision be then referred to Culture and Communities Committee for oversight.
- 5) Notes the ongoing work on property condition being undertaken as part of the Community Centre Strategy, and requests a detailed update on the condition of our community centres be brought to the next meeting of the Community Centre Strategy APOG for discussion.

- moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor Osler

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), Amendments 1 and 2 were adjusted and accepted as addendums to the Motion.

## Decision

- 1) To note the update on Moredun Community Centre, following a fire in May 2023.
- 2) To request that officers ensure that appropriate mitigations be put in place to safeguard the site from damage or further anti-social behaviour following its evacuation and that progressing securing the future of the site should be prioritised to minimise the amount of time the site is vacant.
- 3) To agree that seeking an expression of interest from Housing regarding the site being obtained for the small sites affordable housing delivery programme was the preferred option and note that this decision would be submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee.
- 4) To note that a number of community assets across the city were in a poor state of repair and/or closed, such as Blackhall Library.
- 5) To note the huge importance all these assets had to the communities they served.
- 6) To also note that a final decision would be taken by Finance and Resources Committee, and request the report regarding that decision be then referred to Culture and Communities Committee for oversight.

- 7) To note the ongoing work on property condition being undertaken as part of the Community Centre Strategy, and request a detailed update on the condition of the Council's community centres be brought to the next meeting of the Community Centre Strategy APOG for discussion and that all members be invited to attend the meeting of the APOG on 8 March 2023.

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

## **21. Million Tree City – Consideration of Allergens – Motion by Councillor McFarlane**

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

“Committee:

- 1) Welcomes the continued commitment and aims of the Million Tree City Project.
- 2) Notes the advice from Allergy UK to avoid planting certain tree species near homes or in school grounds where the pollens can sensitise susceptible people leading to worsening symptoms of allergy including hay fever and asthma.
- 3) Understands that several of the tree species featured in the 2024 planting season free tree giveaway are potential problem species, such as Alder, Hazel and Silver Birch which is considered to be the most allergenic of these species.
- 4) Therefore committee requests that officers work with the Lothian Green Space Trust and other partners involved in the Million Tree City project to increase diversity of tree species to avoid excessive quantities of a specific pollen type at any one time, and to consider allergenicity in the selection and prioritisation of tree species for planting, prioritising low allergen species such as insect pollinated trees, where possible but especially in giveaways for domestic and school properties.”

### **Motion**

To approve the motion by Councillor McFarlane.

- moved by Councillor McFarlane, seconded by Councillor Glasgow

### **Amendment**

“Committee:

- 1) Adds after 1) in the motion by Councillor McFarlane:
  - “2) Notes the multiple benefits of planting a variety of tree species such as mental health, canopy cover and increasing biodiversity.

- 3) Notes there are comparatively few native Scottish species, and that this restricts the number of species suitable for giveaways.”
- 2) Adds after 3) in the motion:
  - “4) Notes the need to plant trees which establish themselves and grow quickly, including pioneer species such as silver birch, to swiftly increase the number of trees in the city.
  - 5) That there are many locations where high allergenicity trees can be planted with minimal impact on residential areas.”

And renumbers accordingly

- 3) Adds at the end of the motion:
  - “7) Asks that the possibility of providing information on allergenicity of trees provided at giveaways be explored so that informed decisions can be made by those taking away trees.
  - 8) Asks that consideration be given to including fruit trees in giveaways, enabling residents to grow their own fruit.”

- moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor Osler

In accordance with Standing Order 22(13), the amendment was accepted as an addendum to the motion.

### **Decision**

To approve the following adjusted motion by Councillor McFarlane:

- 1) To welcome the continued commitment and aims of the Million Tree City Project.
- 2) To note the multiple benefits of planting a variety of tree species such as mental health, canopy cover and increasing biodiversity.
- 3) To note there were comparatively few native Scottish species, and that this restricted the number of species suitable for giveaways.
- 4) To note the advice from Allergy UK to avoid planting certain tree species near homes or in school grounds where the pollens could sensitise susceptible people leading to worsening symptoms of allergy including hay fever and asthma.
- 5) To understand that several of the tree species featured in the 2024 planting season free tree giveaway were potential problem species, such as Alder, Hazel and Silver Birch which was considered to be the most allergenic of these species.



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- 6) To note the need to plant trees which established themselves and grew quickly, including pioneer species such as silver birch, to swiftly increase the number of trees in the city.
- 7) To note that there were many locations where high allergenicity trees could be planted with minimal impact on residential areas
- 8) To therefore request that officers work with the Lothian Green Space Trust and other partners involved in the Million Tree City project to increase diversity of tree species to avoid excessive quantities of a specific pollen type at any one time, and to consider allergenicity in the selection and prioritisation of tree species for planting, prioritising low allergen species such as insect pollinated trees, where possible but especially in giveaways for domestic and school properties.
- 9) To ask that the possibility of providing information on allergenicity of trees provided at giveaways be explored so that informed decisions could be made by those taking away trees.
- 10) To ask that consideration be given to including fruit trees in giveaways, enabling residents to grow their own fruit.

## **22. Edinburgh Deaf Festival - Motion by Councillor McFarlane**

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

“Committee:

- 1) Understands that The Edinburgh Deaf Festival was established by charity Deaf Action in 2022 to celebrate deaf culture and promote a positive deaf identity, and agrees that over the last three years the festival has created invaluable opportunities to showcase deaf talent; raise awareness of creativity in sign language use and promote inclusive communication strategies.
- 2) Notes that the festival delivers a 10-day programme of theatre, storytelling, cabaret, visual art and visual vernacular in August each year, which: - meet the needs of the diversity of deaf people, with an important focus on children and families. - finds and works with deaf talent and supports them to develop their material at the festival. - provides an accessibility toolkit to allow hearing/’mainstream’ performers to reach deaf audiences, and for deaf performers to reach hearing audiences in turn.
- 3) Further notes that the festival is accessible for all, and therefore also gives hearing audiences the opportunity to learn more about deaf culture and gain an increased understanding and appreciation of the deaf community.
- 4) Committee agrees that Edinburgh’s Deaf Festival closely aligns with Aim 1, 2 and 3 of the Citywide Culture Strategy 2023-30, particularly by supporting a

broad spectrum of creative and cultural practitioners to develop their careers and providing a platform to celebrate the diversity of Edinburgh's residents. Further agrees that the work Deaf Action have undertaken including supporting BSL interpretation on the Fringe High Street is innovative and has the potential to increase Edinburgh's international reputation as a welcoming and accessible city.

- 5) Considering the above, committee agrees that Council Officers should seek to build our partnership and relationship with the festival, and should explore ways (financial or otherwise) in which we can support it's sustainable development in the years to come with committee being updated on significant developments in future business bulletin updates."

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

### **Decision**

To approve the motion by Councillor McFarlane.

### **23. Temporary Toilet Facilities (in Parks) - Motion by Councillor Osler**

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

"Committee

- 1) Notes that on Thursday 22 February 2024 Council agreed through its budget-setting process to continue to fund some temporary public toilet facilities in parks for another year.
- 2) Notes that in previous years the three parks that benefited from this temporary toilet facilities provision were Inverleith Park, Leith Links and The Meadows.
- 3) Notes that due to £3m investment in Parks and Greenspace from the Lib Dem budget passing in February 2023, £600,000 was allocated for permanent, publicly accessible toilets in the three Parks mentioned in 2. above.
- 4) Notes that work is currently progressing to deliver semi-permanent facilities in all three Parks mentioned above and the hope is the majority will be delivered Summer 2024.

Therefore Committee

- 5) Agrees to a report in one cycle setting out the timelines for establishment of semi-permanent facilities in each of Inverleith Park, Leith Links and The Meadows and setting out other parks that could be considered for temporary facilities if they are not required in any such locations on account of semi-permanent facilities actually being installed."

- moved by Councillor Osler, seconded by Councillor Thornley

## Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Osler.

## 24 Safety of the Off-Street Path Network - Motion by Councillor Thornley

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

“Committee:

- 1) Notes that recent discussion around the potential routes for tram line extensions have highlighted the lack of safety across much of our off-street path network
- 2) Agrees that whatever the outcome regarding tram extensions, the off-street path network should be safe for users and residents.
- 3) Notes the Council’s aim to reduce car usage in the city, and the role that safe pedestrian routes are vital to encourage walking, wheeling and cycling.
- 4) Further notes ongoing lighting projects in parks across the city, and the inclusion of path lighting in projects such as the West Edinburgh Link. Committee therefore requests a report in two cycles outlining;
  - which parts of the off-street path network are currently lit, and to what standard, and which parts are not lit.
  - what options are available beyond lighting to improve the safety of the off-street path network, such as CCTV or cutting back overgrown foliage to improve sightlines.
  - How any additional monies allocated for the 2024/25 budget for the purpose of improving the safety of the offstreet path network can be best spent.“

- moved by Councillor Thornley, seconded by Councillor Osler

## Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Thornley.