

The City of Edinburgh Council

10.00am, Thursday 17 March 2022

Office of Lord Provost: Year 5 Final Report 2021/22

Item number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All wards
Council Commitments	2, 6, 7, 9, 15, 18, 31, 46, 47, 51, 52

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1.1 notes the continuing impact of COVID restrictions on the operation of the civic diary in 2021/22;
- 1.2 welcomes the partial resumption of civic life in 2021/22 and commends the range and volume of key civic events taking place over the last year;
- 1.3 agrees the need to continue the excellent working relationships between the Lord Provost, Depute Lord Provost and Bailies, as set out in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5;
- 1.4 welcomes the further action taken on specific policy initiatives during this Lord Provostship as set out in paragraphs 4.7 to 4.17;
- 1.5 notes the requirement for the new administration to support core business including succession planning for the monarchy as set out in paragraphs 4.18 to 4.21;
- 1.6 welcomes the opportunity to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in 2022!; and
- 1.7 approves expenditure of up to £30,000 from the reserve fund in Civic Hospitality on Jubilee events taking place on 5 June 2022 as set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.4.

Richard Carr

Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services

Contact: Norma Cuthbertson, Executive Assistant to the Lord Provost/ Clerk to the Lieutenancy, Email: norma.cuthbertson@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3816

Graeme McKechnie, Senior Corporate Policy and Strategy Officer, E-mail: graeme.mckechnie@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel: 0131 553 3861



Office of Lord Provost: Year 5 Final Report 2021/22

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This annual report profiles the work and commitments of the Civic Leadership from June 2021 to March 2022, a period of ongoing restriction in the daily life of the city.
- 2.2 The range of activity undertaken is described in the context of partial recovery and the scope to resume key civic functions in the latter part of 2021.
- 2.3 Further detail is also provided on other policy related initiatives, including the support for the OneCity Trust, City Vision and the Lord Provost's Commission 'The Strategy for Our Ex Forces Personnel'.
- 2.4 Key requirements of the new administration and Civic Leadership are identified along with specific proposals for the marking of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

3 Background

- 3.1 An annual report has been submitted to Council for each year of the current Lord Provostship. For this fifth and final report under the current administration, the timeline has been shortened to the ten month period June 2021 to March 2022.
- 3.2 For the second consecutive year, the civic life of the city has been curtailed by the pandemic with the level of restriction fluctuating at different stages throughout.
- 3.3 Nevertheless, a significant body of civic commitments has been met utilising a range of different engagement methods as and when appropriate.
- 3.4 This work is chronicled in the main report below which covers the major roles of both the Lord Provost and the Lieutenancy. A look ahead to future key events and undertakings under the auspices of the new administration is also included.

4 Main report

- 4.1 A summary of civic activity in 2021/22 is set out in appendix one to this report. The information provided shows that there are definite signs of recovery with an increase of 19% in civic events undertaken compared with the previous COVID affected year 2020/21.

4.2 The resumption of civic undertakings in the City Chambers, the required venue for these gatherings, became possible from late August 2021. Invited participants and guests were able to attend a range of functions in compliance with COVID constraints. This was the case until the end of December when restrictions were tightened again due to the Omicron variant.

Key Civic Events in 2021/22

4.3 Several key civic events went ahead from August to December 2021, including the:

- Inspiring Volunteer Awards Ceremony;
- Presentation of the 2020 Edinburgh Award to Alexander McCall Smith;
- Edinburgh Children’s Panel Reception;
- Peter Sawkins, Great British Bake Off Winner Reception;
- Remembrance Sunday Gathering and Reception;
- North Edinburgh COVID 19 Respond & Recovery Group Reception; and
- Presentation of the 2021 Edinburgh Award to Fergus Linehan.

4.4 Success in meeting the Council’s civic commitments is heavily reliant upon excellent working relationships between the Lord Provost, Depute Lord Provost and Bailies. The collective roles and responsibilities of the Civic Leadership were set out in a report to Council on 25 August 2020.

4.5 It is imperative that the agreed terms of engagement are carried forward into the next administration, particularly the shared responsibility and decision making requirements of the Lord Provost and Depute Lord Provost.

4.6 Other civic highlights that took place in 2021/22 include:

- the holding of the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Lord Lieutenants in the City Chambers on 8 October 2021, the first time outside London since 1908; and
- COP26 going ahead in early November 2021 (when many Heads of State were met on arrival in Edinburgh by the Lord Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenants) with several related events taking place in the City Chambers e.g. visits by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the President of Malawi, the International Legislators’ Summit and the ‘Day for Cities, States and Regions’ Reception.

Lord Provost Initiatives

4.7 Successive Lord Provosts have had the scope to focus on topics and issues of particular concern to the city. A key initiative was taken during the current administration to set up a Lord Provost’s Commission in response to the government’s consultation on “The Strategy for our Veterans”.

4.8 The product of this investigation and potential body of work for the next Lord Provost and Veterans Champion was reported in detail to Council on 10 February 2022.

- 4.9 As well as the interest taken in the needs of Ex Forces Personnel, the Lord Provost has concentrated heavily on furthering the aims of both the OneCity Trust and City Vision. The detail of this work is set out in appendix two to this report.

OneCity Trust

- 4.10 The Lord Provost's stewardship of the One City Trust is an important lever in addressing poverty and inequality across the Capital. Measures to mitigate poverty and inequality are undertaken mostly through investment in community projects. In 2021/22, £131,455 was distributed to 23 organisations.
- 4.11 During the period 2017 to 2022, the Trust has distributed £609,255 to 121 charitable organisations within Edinburgh. Some 44% of this total has been raised through community benefit funding. The remaining 56% of income was generated through investments, fundraising activities and donations.
- 4.12 The fourth book in the anthology 'The People's City' published by Birlinn in January 2022 will be used to promote the OneCity Trust. There are plans to arrange separate book launches within the communities across the city.
- 4.13 A campaign to raise funds for a statue of Dr Elsie Inglis in the city has been able to use the OneCity Trust as a vehicle to receive donations and other income. The aim is to raise £50,000 with fundraising events organised. Plans are in progress to form a separate entity with the formation of a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) to manage the funds raised.

Edinburgh 2050 City Vision

- 4.14 The Lord Provost and Partners have made significant progress in developing the Edinburgh 2050 City Vision through the largest ever public consultation in the city. This has resulted in the finalisation of a 2050 City Vision Strategy, capturing 54,840 visions on the Edinburgh of the future.
- 4.15 This was launched digitally as the Edinburgh 2050 City Vision Charter in July 2020. To date some twenty organisations have signed up to the Charter. As the city emerges from the pandemic, the next steps for this strategic area of work will need to be determined.

Edinburgh Thrive

- 4.16 It is also worth noting that the Lord Provost remains the Chair of the Edinburgh Thrive Assembly, an initiative bringing together mental health and wellbeing services. The first Edinburgh Thrive Conference was held in 2019 and the second in 2021, involving some 200 on-line delegates in driving forward necessary change and improving services for people experiencing poor mental health.
- 4.17 Quarterly meetings of the Thrive Assembly have been postponed during 2021/22 as a result of the COVID19 pandemic but the work continues to be implemented and delivered by NHS Lothian.

Looking Ahead

- 4.18 Whilst the future direction of travel very much rests with the new Lord Provost and Civic Leadership of the Council, there is a substantial body of core business that needs to be supported. This includes, for example, the civic interface with the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland which takes place over the weekend of 19 to 21 May 2022.
- 4.19 Also taking place at an early stage in the new administration is Royal Week in Edinburgh, running from 28 June to 1 July. Several members of the Royal Family will conduct a series of engagements in the city in addition to the formal duties of The Queen. All of this effort is supported by the Lord Provost/Lord Lieutenant with the active involvement of the Council's City Officers.
- 4.20 Beyond Royal Week in 2022, it is important to stress the ongoing succession planning for the Monarchy which has major implications for Edinburgh as the Capital City. There is an increasing likelihood that the Lord Provost in the next administration will have a major responsibility and role to play as these arrangements unfold. The reputation of the city on a world wide basis will be very much at stake here and these events must be taken very seriously by the Council.
- 4.21 More immediately, 2022 marks the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen. This hugely significant milestone will be marked appropriately in the city and specific proposals for doing so are set out in the next section of this report.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 The key dates for the Platinum Jubilee are Thursday 2 June (Trooping the Colour and Lighting of Beacons) to Sunday 5 June (Street Parties and The Big Jubilee Lunch).
- 5.2 In support of the themed events for Sunday 5 June, there are two specific proposals:
- Firstly, to disseminate small grants of up to £500 to local community groups for street parties via (and supplementing any monies already held by) Community Councils up to a total cost of £20,000; and
 - Secondly, to stage a concert at the Ross Bandstand for members of the public who would be invited to bring a Picnic Lunch and view the events from London on a big screen, up to a total cost of £10,000.
- 5.3 The total cost of up to £30,000 would be met from the reserve fund, created from the carry forward of fifty per cent of underspend in the 2020/21 Civic Hospitality Budget. This was approved by the Finance and Resources Committee on 21 January 2021 and, as a result, a £30,000 budget was put to a reserve that can be drawn down now for this purpose.
- 5.4 Council is asked to approve this expenditure on celebrations for The Platinum Jubilee so that the necessary planning and preparation can now commence.

6 Financial impact

- 6.1 The Office of the Lord Provost operates within the budget allocated, amounting to £486,082 in 2021/22.

7 Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The Office of the Lord Provost routinely undertakes engagement and co-production with a broad range of stakeholders, leading community representatives and business organisations.
- 7.2 Speeches and other inputs for events are developed in consultation with the organisers.
- 7.3 The Office of the Lord Provost assists both the Council and city partners to deliver key equality and rights outcomes, and to meet the Equality Act 2010 public sector equality duties to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation, (ii) advance equality of opportunity, and (iii) foster good relations.
- 7.4 The Lord Provost's stewardship of the One City Trust is also an important lever in helping to mitigate the negative impacts of poverty and inequality across the Capital.
- 7.5 The Office of the Lord Provost endeavours to mitigate carbon impacts by utilising public transport where and when appropriate, where any long-distance travelling is required.
- 7.6 The Office of the Lord Provost contributes to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 public sector duties and contributes to the delivery of Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 objectives, the advancement of vibrant flourishing communities, social and economic wellbeing and an efficient and effectively managed city.

8 Background reading/external references

- 8.1 See www.edinburghlordprovost.com

9 Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix One: Summary of Civic Activity June 2021 to March 2022
- 9.2 Appendix Two: Lord Provost Initiatives – One City Trust and City Vision

Summary of Civic Activity June 2021 to March 2022

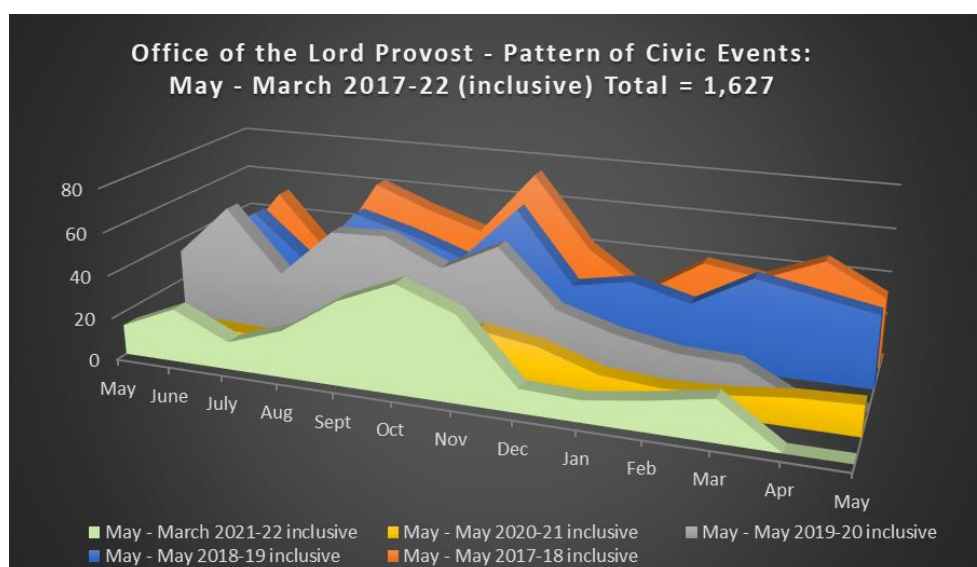
1 Civic Activity

Across the year, a total of 542 engagements have taken place comprising 243 civic events and 299 routine business meetings.

As with the previous year 2020/21, the scale of activity has been negatively impacted by COVID and the consequent restrictions on the use of the City Chambers and holding of in person events.

This pattern is illustrated in the graph below which shows the volume of civic events across the five years of the current Lord Provostship.

In total, 1,627 civic events have taken place over the last five years. Reductions in activity have occurred though during 2020/21 and 2021/22 as a result of COVID mitigations.

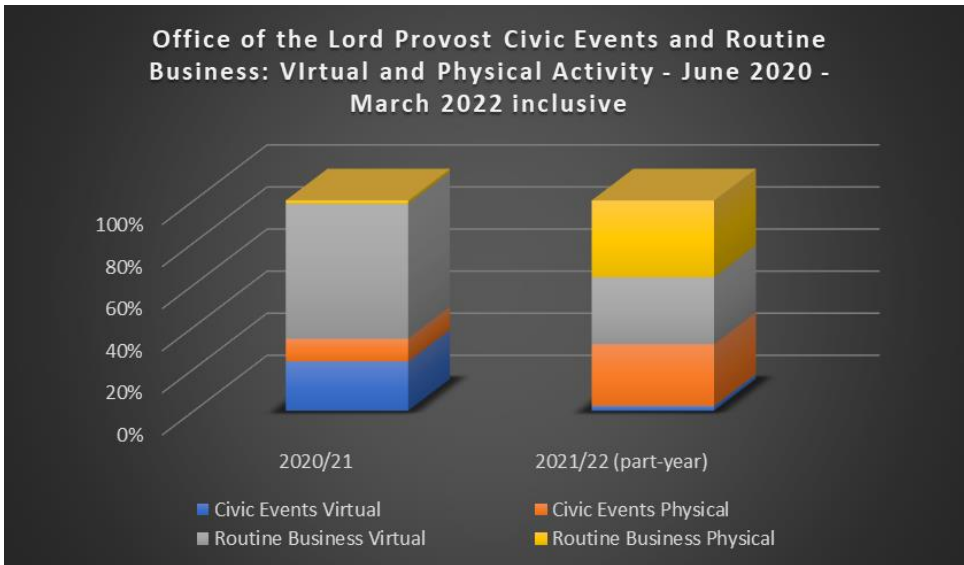


On a positive note though, there has been an increase of 87(19%) in civic events undertaken in 2021/22 compared with the previous COVID affected year 2020/21. This has been due largely to the more recent loosening of restrictions.

2 Virtual and Physical Activity

In order to cope with the impact of COVID lockdowns and security mitigation measures, many civic event and meeting organisers have continued to choose virtual/digital means rather than physical civic events or usual business meetings in the year.

The graphic below indicates the pattern of (i) civic events undertaken by virtual & physical means and (ii) routine business using digital & physical activity, from June 2020 to March 2022.

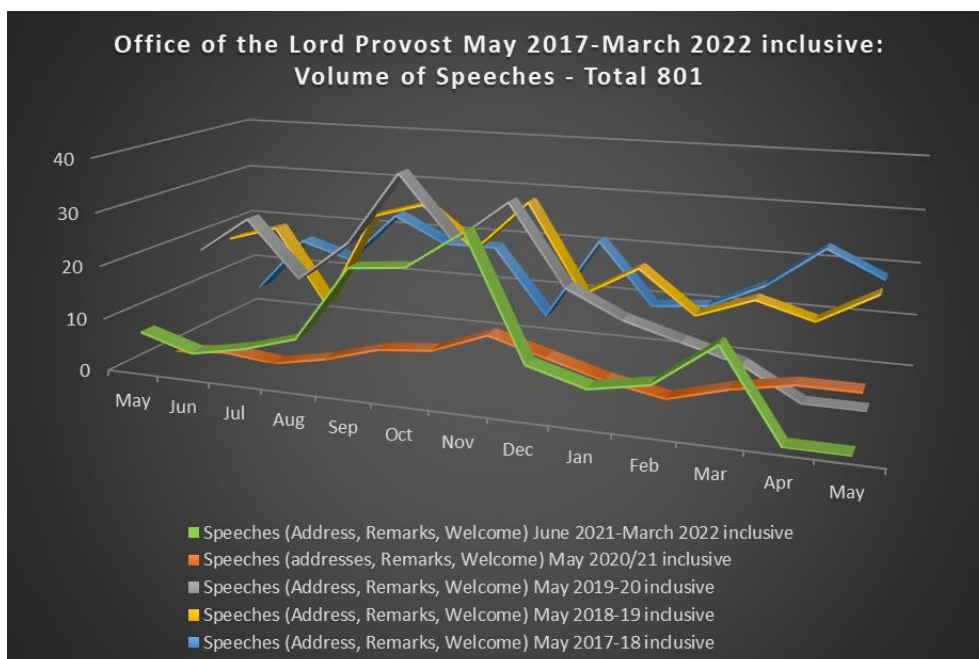


This shows that when compared to 2020/21, there has been a substantial return to physical (rather than virtual/digital activity) with 2021/22 recording a nine-fold increase in physical engagements overall.

3 Speeches

On average, the Lord Provostship delivers some 200 speeches each year across a diverse range of civic events. The graph below shows that:

- 136 speeches were delivered from June 2021 to March 2022; and
- the volume of speeches has increased by 80 (140%) when compared with the previous year 2020/21.



Overall, 801 civic speeches have been undertaken across the five-year period June 2017 to March 2022.

4 Lieutenancy Activity

The Lord Provost is ex officio the Lord Lieutenant of Edinburgh with a key role to support Her Majesty The Queen and to assist other Members of the Royal Family when on official business in the city.

In the period June – March 2021/22, there have been 42 Lieutenancy events including occasions when the Lord Lieutenant or a Deputy Lieutenant has assisted Royal visitors - an increase of 27 upon 2020/21.

Over the last five years, and in particular March 2020 to February 2022, owing to COVID lockdown and other mitigation factors, working Royal visits have been largely abridged across the UK.

Regular events in the Capital though (such as Royal Week, Six Nations Rugby Internationals and a number of key charity anniversaries where there is a Royal Patronage or other specific relationship) have been successfully maintained (except in 2020/21) with a regular Royal presence.

In preparing for Lieutenancy duties, the Office of Lord Provost works closely with the Royal Household, Police Scotland and the plethora of agencies bidding for and/or confirmed for a Royal visit.

Planning for these events and coordinating with the agencies involved continues to be a substantial area of work activity which may well increase in future years.

Uniquely, in 2021, the Lord Lieutenant and Deputy Lieutenants welcomed some 14 Heads of State on arrival in Edinburgh at the outset of COP 26.

This 'meet and greet' exercise was carried out specifically on behalf of HMTQ in the run up to the opening of the Climate Change Conference in Glasgow on 1 November 2021.

Lord Provost Initiatives

OneCity Trust

- The Lord Provost's stewardship of the One City Trust is an important lever in addressing poverty and inequality across the Capital.
- As President of the OneCity Trust, the Lord Provost has actively promoted Edinburgh's Poverty Commission 2020 report 'A Just Capital: Actions to end poverty' and referenced this in the foreword of the new OneCity Trust book 'The Peoples City.'
- Measures to mitigate poverty and inequality are undertaken mostly through investment in community projects and in 2021/22, £131,455 was distributed to 23 organisations.
- During the period 2017 – 2022, the OneCity Trust has distributed £609,255 to 121 charitable organisations within Edinburgh.
- In 2021/22 the Trust received additional amount of funding £60,767, which was 46% income from community benefits contained within council procurement contracts from Travis Perkins Managed Services, CCG (Scotland) Ltd and City Fibre. In addition, pro bono IT support was provided by CGI UK Ltd for four organisations.
- During the period 2017 – 2022, the OneCity Trust has worked with five organisations to deliver community benefit funding across the city to the value of £270,880; equating to 44% of the income received by the Trust and used for grant making purposes.
- The remaining 56% of income is generated through investments, fundraising activities such as crowdfunding, Lord Provosts Burns Supper and dinners, donations from various Edinburgh incorporations, organisations and donors, along with charity partnerships with Underbelly, Edinburgh Trams and DF concerts.
- The OneCity Trust continues to have their Investment Portfolio managed by **abrdn** (formally Aberdeen Standard Capital and Standard Life Wealth) which has seen the value rise by 30% from £645,098 in 2017 to £838,696 as at 30 November 2021.
- The fourth book in the anthology, 'The People's City' published by Birlinn in January 2022 will be used to promote the work and profile of the OneCity Trust with plans to arrange separate book launches within the communities of each of the four Council Localities in the city.
- The Lord Provost began a campaign in 2017 to raise funds to have a statue of Dr Elsie Inglis (1868 - 1917) commissioned in the city. The aim is to raise at least £50,000 and using the OneCity Trust as a vehicle to receive donations and income approximately £2,400 has been raised to date. 2022 will see an increase in funds as a programme of fundraising events has been organised and the campaign has been rejuvenated with the support of local organisations and a group of proactive fundraisers. Due to the monetary value of funds expected to be raised, plans are in progress to form a separate entity with the formation of a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

Edinburgh 2050 City Vision

- The Lord Provost and Partners have made significant progress in developing the Edinburgh 2050 City Vision through the largest ever public consultation in the City. This has resulted in the finalisation of a 2050 City Vision Strategy, capturing 54,840 visions on the Edinburgh of the future.
- As with many work streams, the public launch in March 2020 was put on hold due to the COVID19 pandemic. The Lord Provost launched digitally, the Edinburgh 2050 City Vision Charter on behalf of the Council in July 2020 and engagement with potential key stakeholders has been static since the beginning of the COVID19 pandemic but to date some twenty organisations have signed up to the Charter.
- As the city emerges from the pandemic and a normality returns to a way of life, then steps will be taken to analyse and consider the next steps for this strategic area of work.