

Motion by the Administration

Culture and Communities Committee

8 June 2023

Item 4.1 - Response to Motion by Councillor McVey – Edinburgh's Christmas

Committee notes the report and recommends a shorter contract duration of 3 years with appropriate break clauses.

Committee calls for a further report to the August meeting of the Culture and Communities Committee which should include:

Detailed KPIs for the Christmas and Hogmanay Festivals 2024 and beyond which are in keeping with, and promote Council policies on accessibility, inclusion and sustainability; active travel; fair work and community benefit;

Ways in which in house capacity can be developed, including the establishment of an in-house coordination and oversight team to monitor the KPIs and to explore models of provision in more detail to include information on case studies from other cities which deliver Christmas and New Year events;

Options for encouraging events to be located in spaces and places out with the city centre which are close to public transport and active travel routes;

Ways in which local businesses, social enterprises and cooperatives will have opportunities to be part of the contract supply chain and delivery model;

Consideration of investment in sustainable temporary infrastructure, suitable for use in the delivery of Christmas, Hogmanay, and other city festivals and events throughout the year, including possibilities to support in-house delivery.

Moved by: Councillor Val Walker

Seconded by: Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron

Amendment by the SNP Group

Culture and Communities Committee

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Replaces recommendations with:

1.1 Agrees the importance of ensuring the winter events follow the views captured in the consultation with local residents and businesses set out in 3.11

1.2 Agrees that the 2 options set out in the report doesn’t offer a full spectrum of viable, sustainable models which can deliver most public good for the City.

1.3 Notes the recommendations do not include the KPIs of the contract which would be essential for progressing a contract procurement model

1.4 Agrees the most effective way to maintain public control and maximise benefit while delivering viable, sustainable events are through a joint venture.

1.5 Agrees to procure an operating partner on a 50/50 ownership basis which will be able to deliver high quality events, bringing skills and delivery capacity from a long-term relationship with an operator and utilising the Council’s assets as well as publicly owned space to deliver events that are supported by Edinburgh residents.

1.6 Agrees that this model would help retain a city ownership for Hogmanay to retain cultural ownership for the City and of the City.

1.7.1 Agrees the exercise to secure a joint venture partner will report back to Culture and Communities Committee as soon as practicable to agree the process for deciding which partner to work with, identifying what they are offering in terms of capacity and creativity and this will clarify the Council’s commitments within the joint venture, following the commitments already outlined in this report and any other appropriate supports.

1.7.2 Further agrees this model should be created to allow the Council to participate with minimal investment for maximum public return and provide the partner organisation with a structure where they can use non-council and non-winter based personal and assets to support the rest of the business.

Moved by: Councillor McNeese-Mechan

Seconded by: Councillor McFarlane

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

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Committee

Notes with regret that on balance it is not possible at present for the Council to deliver the Winter Festivals in house

Adds

1.1.3 Agrees that options for the Break Clause will be circulated along with matters set out at 5.6

1.1.4 Agrees that all material discussed in 5.6 will be returned to Committee for final approval prior to publication.

Moved by: Councillor Hal Osler

Seconded by: Councillor Ed Thornley

Amendment by the Green Group

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Committee:

1. Welcomes the report but believes the decision for a 5 year contract should not be justified predominantly on the grounds of market preferences and therefore believes that the case for a 5-year contract has not been made strongly enough
2. Notes the Local Government Association report *Festive Cheer: The local impact of Christmas Markets* details Christmas Markets successfully run by public and third sector operators, and believes that the In-House and Partial In-House delivery models merit further investigation of their feasibility
3. Believes the decision to change to a new contact structure and length would benefit from scrutiny by Full Council

Therefore committee:

1. Agrees in principle the decision noted in 1.1 with the modification that the Contract length be changed to 2 years with a possible extension of a further 2
2. requests that, ahead of any contract extension or retendering being brought to the appropriate Committee, a report laying out how (i) an-house model could be adopted (ii) How a partially in-house model could be adopted is provided is provided
3. Refers the report to August Full Council for a formal agreement of the recommendations in the report.

Moved by: Councillor Dan Heap

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Conservative Group

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Adds as recommendation 1.1.3

Agree that a 'wash-up' should take place between the Council and the contractor within two months of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, and a performance and improvement report produced for Culture and Communities Committee, and Finance and Resources Committee prior to summer to assess the successes, shortcomings, lessons learnt, KPIs, and any identified actions required to improve both Edinburgh's Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay each year in preparation for the next staging of the events.

Moved by: Councillor Max Mitchell

Seconded by: Councillor Marie-Clair Munro