

Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 24 October 2023

UKREiiF Feedback Report

Executive/routine
Wards

Routine
All

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Policy and Sustainability Committee are asked to note this update on the UK's Real Estate, Infrastructure and Investment Forum (UKREiiF) in May 2023.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Contact: David Cooper, Head of Development and Regeneration

E-mail: david.cooper@edinburgh.gov.uk

UKREiiF Feedback Report

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 UKREiiF (the UK's Real Estate, Infrastructure and Investment Forum) is an event held in Leeds each year that attracts professionals in the real estate sector. It has grown in popularity in recent years. The Council Leader, accompanied by officials, attended the conference on 16 and 17 May 2023. This report provides feedback on the event.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council has in the past attended events of this type for the purpose of promoting the city, attracting investors, and learning about best practice in other cities in respect of development and regeneration activity.
- 3.2 The event was attended by representatives from most of the UK's cities and regions. The Scottish Cities Alliance (SCA) attended and most of the other Scottish cities had elected member representation.
- 3.3 In total, there were around 6,000 attendees at the conference and a wide ranging programme was provided. Information about the event can be accessed here - <https://www.ukreiiif.com/event/ukreiiif-annual-event-2023/>.
- 3.4 The Council Leader and three Council officers attended the Forum.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Attendance at UKREiiF in 2023 was considered to be worthwhile as it provided good opportunities for learning, promotion of the city and networking with service providers, developers, investors as well as other public sector representatives.
- 4.2 City of Edinburgh Council activity was focussed around an event on the main programme – '*Edinburgh: Delivering New Urban Quarters in 2023: Opportunities and Challenges*' although representatives also took the opportunity to attend a range of events and meetings while at the conference. Appendix 1 contains a table detailing the key events and meetings where the Council was invited to participate.

In addition, officers attended events on the main programme and met with other service providers and practitioners in through the various networking opportunities at the conference.

- 4.3 The Council event was well attended with approximately 60 guests and the space being near to capacity. It was designed to be primarily a 'knowledge sharing' but also served to promote development activity in the city and potential investment opportunity although this was not the focus. The audience responded well to the discussion and a number of questions were asked of the panel members.
- 4.4 Overall, the conference compared well with other similar large scale property related events such as MIPIM. The focus here is arguably more about knowledge sharing as opposed to marketing of investment opportunities as is the case at MIPIM and is less international in terms of attendees. Future attendance at MIPIM would only be recommended if there are propositions that it is desirable to market to a global audience.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 There are no further steps to be taken at this stage. Attendance at next year's conference or other conferences/expositions will be considered and approval for elected members will be sought in advance.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The total cost to the Council for attendance at the conference was £7,058.88 inclusive of travel, accommodation, conference fees and securing an event in the conference programme.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 Attendance at the conference allowed the Council to promote its regeneration activity and desired outcomes. It has helped to foster good relations with potential investors and has resulted in learning that could help inform the Council's approach to development and regeneration. This will all be beneficial in progressing key objectives around equality and poverty reduction although it is not suggested that there is a quantifiable direct benefit.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 As stated above, attendance at the conference allowed for promotion of the Council's plans and to learn from others. In this regard, attendance is considered to be positive although no direct positive impact is suggested.

- 8.2 Travel to and from the conference was by public transport in line with Council policies and did not include any air travel.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 There is no direct impact arising from attendance at this conference although it is hoped that it will help to inform the Council's approach to development and regeneration activity that will in turn have positive benefits for communities.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 UKREiiF Attendance Report – [23 May 2023](#).

11. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Council UKREiiF Activity.

Appendix 1 – Council UKREiiF Activity

Activity	Commentary
Edinburgh: Delivering New Urban Quarters in 2023: Opportunities and Challenges	As stated in the report above, this was the event that the Council sponsored which was used to promote activity in the city.
Unlocking Investment in Scotland's Cities (ARUP SPONSORED)	This was an invite only event with city representatives, investors, developers, and service providers present to discuss ways in which the economic development of cities could be achieved.
UK Government Freeport Reception	This was a reception for key parties involved in Freeport discussions and was a networking session.
Meeting with Legal & General	Discussion with key people from L&G looking at funding solutions for affordable housing.
Meeting with Phoenix Group	Discussion with key people from Phoenix Group looking at funding solutions for affordable housing and infrastructure requirements.
Meet the International Delegation Department – Department of Business and Trade	This was an event organised by DBT where cities were on hand to meet international delegates looking for investment opportunities.
Investment Facilitation Session – Scotland and Northern Ireland	This session was organised by Built Environment Network and brought investors interested in Scotland and Northern Ireland together with representatives from public bodies.