

Minutes

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 16 March 2021

Present:-

Councillors Wilson (Convener), McNeese-Mechan (Vice-Convenor), Brown, Doggart, Key, Mitchell, Osler, Rae, Staniforth and Ethan Young.

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 26 January 2021 as a correct record.

2. Work Programme

Decision

To approve the minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 26 January 2021 as a correct record.

3. Rolling Actions Log

The Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log was presented.

Decision

1) To agree to close the following action:

Action 7 – Review of the Community Council Complaints Procedure.

2) To agree to update Committee on City Centre Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM), and possibilities that HVM assets which were located in Edinburgh, may need to be reallocated in line with national policing priorities.

3) To agree to circulate the correspondence responses regarding HVM from Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Kate Forbes MSP, at Holyrood, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Barclay MP and Baroness Williams, at the Home Office in Westminster.

- 4) To update the rolling actions log to reflect decisions taken at this meeting and otherwise note the outstanding actions.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log 16 March 2021, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin

The Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log was presented.

Decision

To note the business bulletin.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Business Bulletin 16 March 2021, submitted.)

5. Public Space Management Plan

An update was provided on the collaborative on-line engagement which had taken place with events, festivals and filming stakeholders between 14 October 2020 and 20 January 2021 and this engagement had provided comment, advice and ideas for the development of the Public Spaces Management Plan (PSMP). It was recommended that due to the complex nature of managing events and filming in public open spaces and the high level of engagement by stakeholders, there was an opportunity to develop this further through the creation of a short-life working group involving stakeholders and officers to develop a management plan for the use of public spaces for events and filming. The outputs from the working group would be reported to Culture and Communities Committee in September 2021.

Decision

- 1) To note the collaborative engagement with stakeholders who provided extensive comment, advice and ideas for the development of the Public Space Management Plan (PSMP).
- 2) To agree to the establishment of a working group of stakeholders and officers to conclude the development.
- 3) To note that a report on the outputs from the working group would be presented to the 14 September 2021 meeting of this Committee.
- 4) To agree to change the title of the document from ‘Public Space Management Plan’ to ‘Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming’.
- 5) To agree to amend the wording of recommendation 1.1.3 of the report submitted to remove the word “outputs” and to agree to replace with the words: “recommendation” and to insert the words “for Member approval” at the end of the recommendation.
- 6) To agree that the Working Group would be chaired by the Convenor or Vice Convenor of the Culture and Communities Committee.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee, 28 January 2020 (item 3); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted)

6. Grants to Third Parties: Third Sector Interface and Equality and Rights Network 2021/22

The City of Edinburgh Council's proposed funding for the Third Sector Interface (TSI) and Equalities and Rights Network (EaRN) for 2021/22 was presented. The report set out the further work that would be undertaken in the coming financial year to inform approaches to support TSI activity beyond the next financial year.

Decision

- 1) To agree the funding allocations for financial year 2020/21:
 - (a) £53,500 to Edinburgh Voluntary Organisation's Council.
 - (b) £70,907 to Volunteer Edinburgh.
 - (c) £10,000 to Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network.
 - (d) £40,000 to Volunteer Edinburgh for 2020/21 to manage EaRN

- 2) To note the further planned work which would inform the approach to third sector support beyond 2021/22 as set out in the report.

(Reference –report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

Declaration of interests

Councillor Staniforth and Wilson declared non-financial interests in the above item as Directors of Edinburgh Science Festival.

7. Third Party Cultural Grants Funding 2021/22

An update on the third-party cultural grants fund 2020/21 was provided and approval was sought for funding which would be allocated in 2021/22. The impacts of COVID-19 on the cultural sector reinforced the need for continued proactive support and retention actions to contribute to the stability and recovery of the city's cultural sector. The strategy reflected the Council's vital partnership role with stakeholders, Strategic Partners, communities and creative practitioners to achieve this.

Decision

- 1) To note the on-going impact of COVID-19 on the cultural sector and importance of continuing the cultural grant funding programme.
- 2) To note the update on the cultural grants fund in 2020/21.
- 3) To agree the continuation of Strategic Partnership, flexible and project funding recommendations for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report submitted.
- 4) To agree the procurement and continuation of the multi-cultural event introduced in 2019 for two years.

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

Declaration of interests

Councillor Wilson declared non-financial interests in the above item as a Director of Dancebase, Imagine, Edinburgh International Festival, Edinburgh Festivals Centres Limited, Edinburgh International Jazz and Blues Festival, Edinburgh Festivals City Trust, Capital Theatres Trust, Queens Hall, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Scottish Indian Arts Council.

Councillor McNeese-Mechan declared non-financial interests in the above item as a Director of Edinburgh International Science Festival, Edinburgh International Festival and as a Trustee of Capital Theatres Trust.

Councillor Mitchell declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Trustee of Capital Theatres Trust.

Councillor Staniforth declared a non-financial interest in the above item as a Director of Edinburgh Science Festival.

8. Locality Improvement Plans

Revised Locality Plans were presented for approval by Committee, together with providing a summary of next steps in the review process. Locality improvement plans were a legislative requirement of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and provided a framework for supporting the delivery of improved locality working across the city. The plans were originally approved by the Culture and Communities Committee and the Edinburgh Partnership in 2017. In December 2019 the Edinburgh Partnership agreed to carry out a review of the plans to address challenges identified through the annual reporting process. This review activity was paused in March 2020 as a result of the pandemic but resumed in September 2020. The revised plans were subsequently presented and agreed by the Edinburgh Partnership at its meeting in December 2020.

Decision

- 1) To agree the locality improvement plans as set out in appendices 1 to 4 of the report submitted.
- 2) To note the next steps in the review process set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3 of the report submitted.
- 3) To agree that business growth colleagues would speak with Locality Managers to ensure the economic recovery component was contained within the Locality Improvement Plans.
- 4) To agree that The Strategy Manager for Communities would speak with the Convenor and Vice-Convenor to consider how Committee could have further input to priority setting for Locality Planning and also to give consideration to reporting frequencies.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

9. Community Councillor Complaints Procedure and Funding

Minor changes were proposed to the Community Councillor Complaints Procedure to provide additional clarity and strengthen existing procedures. In November 2020 the Committee agreed that proposals be brought back in two cycles to allow for further consultation with Community Councils. This consultation concluded on 21 January 2021 and minor additional changes were proposed as a result of the consultation.

Decision

- 1) To agree that proposed changes to the Community Councillor Complaints Procedure as detailed at Appendix 1 would take effect for complaints received from 17 March 2021 onwards.
- 2) To note the information provided in relation to Community Council funding and support in response to the Motion approved by Council on 17 September 2020.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

Declaration of interests

Councillor Osler declared a non-financial interest in the above item as, at the time of the meeting, her husband was a Community Councillor.

10. Developing Trauma Informed Services

Work that had taken place in Criminal Justice Social Work services to develop trauma informed service provision had been highly successful. This work met Council priorities in line with the Community Justice Outcome Improvement plan (CJOIP) 2019-2022. It proposed next steps to improve service and protect health and safety such as the reintroduction of online reservations; upgrade of the current Library App to allow self-service from customer's own smart devices (i.e. mobile phone); resource request service from Central Library Art and Design, Music and Edinburgh and Scottish Libraries.

Decision

- 1) To note the content of the report.
- 2) To note the progress which was being made in Edinburgh Justice Social Work Services in relation to the Scottish Government priority for a trauma informed workforce.
- 3) To agree that an updated progress report would be presented to Committee in 12 months' time.
- 4) To agree that the Sector Manager for Community Justice: Groupwork Services would make relevant links available to members to the Scottish Government report, the Evaluation report, the presentation slides and the NHS video, on Trauma, for information.

(Reference: report by the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities and Chief Social Work Officer, submitted.)

11. Filming in Edinburgh 2020

An annual report on the economic value of filming in Edinburgh for 2020 was presented, outlining the benefits filming in the city and the effect of the Coronavirus pandemic on the sector. The reintroduction of filming in 2020 under Coronavirus restrictions ensured Edinburgh's continued positive reputation as a filming location and pointed to the assurance of safe production management protocols for both those working on the production and the public. The strict protocols under Coronavirus restrictions were directly informed by Scottish Government Public Health Guidelines. The continuation of filming in the city formed a significant strand of business activity and city income which did, and would, contribute to the economic activity and recovery of the city.

Decision

- 1) To note the direct economic benefit of filming in Edinburgh in 2020 and the effect of the Coronavirus pandemic on the sector.
- 2) To note the strict filming management procedures which were in place and were designed to follow Scottish Government Public Health Guidelines to ensure the safety of the production and the public.
- 3) To note the contributory role of filming in the economic recovery of the city.

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

12. Service payment to Edinburgh Leisure – 2021/22

An update on Council sport facility projects including Meadowbank Sports Centre and Hunter's Hall Park was presented.

Decision

To note the update on sport facility projects.

(Reference- report by the Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted.)

Declaration of interests

Councillor Osler and Staniforth declared non-financial interests in the above item as Directors of Edinburgh Leisure.

13. Service payment to Edinburgh Leisure – 2021/22

The details of the proposed Council Service Payment to Edinburgh Leisure following approval of the Council's budget on 18 February 2021 was presented and sought approval from the Culture and Communities Committee to make payment.

Decision

- 1) To approve the service payment of £7,012,661 to Edinburgh Leisure for 2021/22.
- 2) To approve 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 Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, submitted.)

Declaration of interests

Councillor Staniforth and Osler declared non-financial interests in the above item as Directors of Edinburgh Leisure.