

# Culture & Communities Committee

10am, Tuesday, 15 June

## ReDrawing Edinburgh (Edinburgh Boundaries Extension & Tramways Act 1920 Centennial) Update Report

Executive/routine

Wards

Council Commitments [2](#), [15](#), [46](#)

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Note the outcomes of the ReDrawing Edinburgh online activity programme commemorating the centennial of the city's 1920 boundary extension.
- 1.2 Note the intention to hold outdoor events in September to conclude the commemoration, subject to external funding, with any required contingency to be requested from the Finance & Resources Committee.

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## ReDrawing Edinburgh (Edinburgh Boundaries Extension & Tramways Act 1920 Centennial) Update Report

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report outlines the success of the ReDrawing Edinburgh online programme of events, which commemorates the 1920 boundary extension of the city. It sets out the proposal to end this programme with a series of five outdoor evening events in September 2021 spread across Leith, Cramond, Corstorphine, Colinton, and Liberton, as well as the funding plan to finance it.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 In September 2018, Full Council agreed in principle to a commemoration project for the 1920 centennial of the city's most significant expansion, which brought into the city the communities of Leith, Cramond, Corstorphine, Colinton, Longstone, Liberton and Gilmerton, as a result of the Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Tramways Act 1920.
- 3.2 The approval came with the requirement to seek external funding in the first instance, while any internal funding would require additional Finance & Resources Committee approval.
- 3.3 Finance & Resources Committee then approved on 26 September 2019 a £10,000 spend for the commissioning of a consultant to engage in a community engagement exercise on the commemoration of the centennial.
- 3.4 Between December 2019 and February 2020, the consultant undertook four consultation exercises in different parts of the city to identify priorities and opinions from the communities themselves on the centennial. They also facilitated a workshop with teachers on what educational outcomes could come from the commemoration.
- 3.5 While the consultation identified community interest in a commemoration as the means to celebrate local identities and connect residents to their heritage, COVID-19 was rapidly becoming a major challenge by the time the consultant had finished their report in April 2020 (see Appendix 1).

- 3.6 However, a key project milestone was met in February 2020 with the formation of a community steering group of relevant community and heritage organisations (see Appendix 2), with Council representation from its Archives and Libraries services. This group was supported by an officer working group that included officers from the Council's Archives, Libraries and Museums & Galleries services, as well as Communications.

## 4. Main report

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### Online Activity

- 4.1 In April 2020, the community steering group adopted the findings of the consultant's report. They agreed to pursue an online activity programme instead of the originally envisaged physical activity focussed plan, with the ambition to shift to physical events when restrictions would allow.
- 4.2 The online activity programme, marketed as 'ReDrawing Edinburgh', started in July 2020 and is concluding in May 2021. It has resulted in an online exhibition hosted on the Council's Capital Collections website and 19 videos on a range of community heritage topics.
- 4.3 All of these have been collaborations between local figures and community organisations, and the Council's Archives, Libraries and Museums & Galleries services.
- 4.4 In total, the online content has been viewed (as of May 2021) by over 24,500 people and reached nearly 40,000 people.
- 4.5 The content has been promoted on social media by the Council, as well as by community partners and stakeholders, including Lothian Buses.
- 4.6 Local media also picked up the ReDrawing Edinburgh programme in the run up to and during November 2020, when the new expanded Council first met 100 years ago.

### Physical Events

- 4.7 While the online activity programme has been a success in terms of viewing and community engagement, the original plans for a physical exhibition in Central Library and a civic event in November 2020 were first delayed and then cancelled as the realities of COVID-19 extended through 2020 and into 2021.
- 4.8 The community steering group, which has met monthly throughout the programme, has been consistent in its ambition to organise a physical event in each community to commemorate the centennial and celebrate their identities and heritage.
- 4.9 This has coalesced around the proposal of an outdoor film projection consisting of images and film of the past from each community in combination with music and spoken word relevant to those communities.
- 4.10 The film will be projected onto a building or wall in an outdoor public space in each community as the centre piece of a one-night event in mid to late September 2021.

Each community will have their own event (5 in total) on different nights, though the film will be the same in each.

- 4.11 Each event will last an hour long, looping the film four times, but also giving space for other activities organised by local community partners. It is estimated that about 100 residents will be able to attend each live event, which would be free but ticketed to ensure audience numbers are controlled, in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions. Subsequent online publishing and promotion will ensure that this reach will be greater.
- 4.12 The film itself will consist of images and film from local heritage organisations, as well as from the City Collections. A call out for creative work on their community's past and present has gone out to both local schools and artists, with the aim of incorporating their submissions into the film.

### **Event Costs**

- 4.13 The Council Archives service has been working with community and project partners to identify sites, dates and estimated costs for these events.
- 4.14 The estimated cost for the five events is £35,000. This covers both the creative and design aspects, as well as the event running costs.
- 4.15 These costs are based on the expertise of project partner, Cinetopia Ltd. who were commissioned to produce the *Messages from the Skies* outdoor projection as part of Edinburgh's 2019/2020 Hogmanay celebrations.

### **Funding**

- 4.16 To fund these events, an external funding plan has been agreed between the partners, with the Council Archives service and key community and project partners applying for different sources of external funding. This is as per the direction of the Council's decision on this project at its meeting of 20 September 2018.
- 4.17 Event Scotland has already granted the Council £4,950 through its Recovery Fund. This will be used to cover some of the initial creative costs.
- 4.18 Other applications are going in to the Council's own Community Grant Fund, Creative Scotland and the British Film Institute (BFI).
- 4.19 Sponsorship is also being pursued with relevant local and heritage related businesses.
- 4.20 While the aim is for external funding and sponsorship to cover the full cost of the events, there is the risk that any one of these funds will reject the application(s) made to them. This would create a shortfall that endangers the events.
- 4.21 To mitigate against this risk, a report to F&R will be submitted at its 12 August 2021 meeting for contingency funds.
- 4.22 Aside from the stability that such contingency will provide, it will also demonstrate the Council's commitment to these community events to external funders and sponsors when they are considering our applications for funding.

## 5. Next Steps

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- 5.1 Subject to funding, the events will be project managed by the City Archives Service, with advice from the Culture Strategy team and support from a coordinating group of key community and project stakeholders.
- 5.2 Discussions on the public safety aspects of the events are ongoing with the relevant teams in Estates, Culture Strategy and Health & Safety. These will feed into the community partners putting in Public Space Events applications for their events in due course.
- 5.3 The Council will be responsible for the overall project management and allocation of the funds it has received, as well as the provision of content from the City Collections, and event promotion coordination. Other partners will be responsible for the collation and licensing of non-Council content, the design and production of the film, obtaining site permissions and the running of the events.
- 5.4 Funding agreements will be established between the Council and community partners that will outline expectations around the running of the events.
- 5.5 Audience numbers of the events will be calculated through ticketing data, with subsequent online engagement tracked using the methodology used throughout the ReDrawing Edinburgh programme.

## 6. Financial impact

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- 6.1 Currently there is no financial impact upon the Council, as the aim is to fund these entirely through external funding and sponsorship.
- 6.2 If contingency is needed, it will only affect the 2021/2022 budget position, with no ongoing revenue or capital commitments. In this instance, any required contingency will be subject to approval from the Finance & Resources Committee.
- 6.3 External funding has been sought by either the Council or its community partners from the following funds:
  - 6.3.1 British Film Institute (decision pending June)
  - 6.3.2 City of Edinburgh Council Community Grant Fund (decisions pending June)
  - 6.3.3 Creative Scotland Open Fund (decision pending July / August)
  - 6.3.4 Event Scotland Recovery Fund (successful £4,950)
  - 6.3.5 Postcode Lottery Community Fund (unsuccessful)
- 6.4 Sponsorship is also being actively pursued.
- 6.5 Following standard practice within the Culture Strategy team, any funds granted to community partners will require a funding agreement and evidence that they have sufficient total funding to cover the costs of their part of the project.

## 7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

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### Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1 The drive for these five events has been entirely community led, coming from the ReDrawing Edinburgh Community Steering Group, which is made up of community and heritage organisations in the areas that came into the city in 1920.
- 7.2 In the consultant's report (see Appendix 1), they identified a desire from consultation participants to celebrate and strengthen their community identities as distinct places with their own stories, as opposed to simply being outlying areas of the city. Interest was also expressed in learning more about the City Collections, especially material from that had ties to the communities. Finally, the commemorative activity had to be rooted in the communities themselves rather than in the city centre, whatever form it took.
- 7.3 The five outdoor events follow these themes by being held in public spaces in each community, with content for the film being provided by both local heritage organisations as well as from the City Collections.

### Risk, Policy, Compliance and Governance Impact

- 7.4 The Council's involvement in these events help meet its policy commitment to supporting local festivals and events. Local artists and creative businesses are at the heart of the creative and design aspects of the project and will be the main recipients of any funding, meeting yet another policy commitment.
- 7.5 The events also support placemaking policy priorities by enabling communities to share their history and promote their identity as distinct parts of the city. By showcasing such local stories, Edinburgh's heritage can be shown to extend well beyond the Old and New Towns, with a multi layered civic identity.
- 7.6 Finally, working with such community partners and local creative professionals to promote local heritage and culture in an innovative way also meets all the core objectives of the Council's Culture Plan.
- 7.7 In terms of risks to the Council, project risks around cost and event logistics will be managed by the City Archives Service, which has experience in managing externally funded heritage projects, with advice from the Culture Strategy team. Contingency funds have also been incorporated into the project budget.
- 7.8 A major risk is the ongoing impact of COVID-19 restrictions. Level 1 restrictions, or lower, need to be in place in Edinburgh for the five events to happen. Currently, the Scottish Government target date for this level is 7 June 2021, well in advance of the planned September dates. However, if the easing of restrictions slows down for whatever reason, the events can be shifted to later dates in the year. The design and creative work can still occur as planned.

## 8. Background reading/external references

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- 8.1 [City of Edinburgh Council Minute \(item 6\) 20 September 2018](#)

8.1.1 [Report](#)

8.2 [Finance & Resources Committee Minute \(item 10\) 26 September 2019](#)

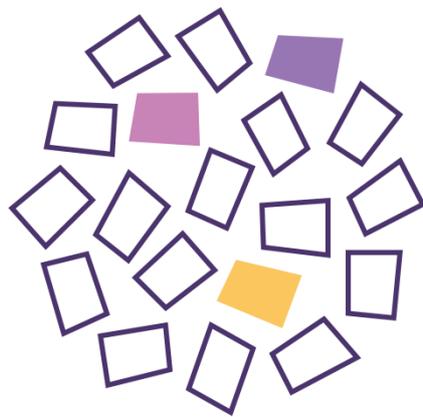
8.2.1 [Report](#)

## **9. Appendices**

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9.1 Appendix 1 – Consultation Plan for the Commemoration of the Extension of Edinburgh City; Executive Summary, April 2020 (see separate document)

9.2 Appendix 2 – ReDrawing Edinburgh Community and Project Partners



**JANICE**  
**TULLOCK**  
**ASSOCIATES**

**Consultation plan**  
**For the**  
**Commemoration of the Extension**  
**of Edinburgh City**

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## Introduction

This report<sup>1</sup> summarises a project which examined how the City of Edinburgh could commemorate the expansion of the City of Edinburgh (to include the communities of Leith, Corstorphine, Colinton, Longstone, Cramond, Granton, Liberton and Gilmerton) in 1920. In September 2018 the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) agreed to further investigate how to commemorate the centenary in 2020. A research and consultation process was undertaken to develop understanding of views of local residents, discuss ways of working and develop potential partnerships. The result of this process was an activity plan outlining potential activity, alongside a potential timeline and a case for support that can be used for funding applications. This process has been directed by staff of the City of Edinburgh Archives, Libraries, Museum and Creative Learning staff and this final report responds to the views of the project steering group.

It is important to note that following the consultation and development process and as this report was being written, Covid19 hit the UK. As a result, the final section of the report proposes a way forward for the activity plan, given the circumstances that the project now finds itself in.

### The consultation

The consultation took place between December 2019 and February 2020 and comprised of:

- A general survey
- A public workshop at Gilmerton Library
- A public workshop at Leith Library
- A public workshop at Westerhailes Library
- A public workshop at the City Archives, City Chambers
- A teacher and school librarian workshop at the City Archives

The objectives of the process were to:

- Gather views and ideas on how the extension should and can be commemorated

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<sup>1</sup> This is an executive summary of the longer report which describes the full project in detail.



- Identify what was important about each local area in 1920
- Identify potential members of a smaller stakeholder group
- Discuss which activities people might like to get involved in that would meet the project aims and principles
- Reach a wider range of people
- Develop partnerships with community groups that could deliver the project
- Record activities that have already been planned
- Inform people about the current status of the project as an unfunded project in development

Key findings from the consultation were:

- Overall reactions to the commemoration project were positive. For these people the expansion of the city and resultant changes had been mainly positive
- In some locations, particularly Leith, reactions were less positive, with people resistant to commemorating the 1920 Act but interested in celebrating and sharing the history and identity of their communities. There was a strong desire across the consultation to explore the full story of the 1920 Act and its implementation,
- Each community identified a range of stories and unique features from their communities. It was a common theme that participants expressed a worry that not everyone knew about the history of their communities,
- Overall, the groups wanted the commemoration to:
  - *“Build identity- help people to understand where they live and its history.*
  - *This is what forms the character of the area, it isn’t just a dormitory suburb.”*
- The groups identified a range of possible activities that they could undertake to share the history and identity of their communities, from developing plays, walks, tours to online museums and longer-term projects.
- Teachers and school librarians expressed overwhelming support for the project and discussed how it had made them think about teaching local history in a different way concentrating more on the hyper local story.
- Teachers saw the project as a good way to create pride in local areas, to explore political issues and to encourage young people to express their political views.



- The project also had potential for the delivery of the geography, citizenship and drama curriculums.

## Recommendations arising from the consultation

As a result of the consultation process a series of intended outcomes of the commemoration have been developed. The commemoration of the 1920 Act should:

1. Bring heritage and history to a diverse range of people living locally who may not have previously engaged with history and heritage. This could include/focus on those previously overlooked by council services or newer residents, including refugees and asylum seekers.
2. Enable people to share pride in their local areas and their identity in the City of Edinburgh area.
3. Support people to learn more about the history and development of their local areas. Other areas of Edinburgh learn more about the history of these areas.
4. Making connections – between communities, between council services and between services and communities. Bridging gaps between generations.
5. Enable people to explore how the specific localities and Edinburgh were in 1920 and how they have changed since the extension.
6. Tell and share stories of these localities, digitising collections are digitised and making them available to all.
7. Recognise the contribution of these communities to the city from before the point of the enlargement onwards.
8. Support events and activities in non-city centre localities.

The consultation has indicated that there are several ways that the commemoration could ensure that it meets the needs of the consultees. These have been summarised in a series of principles for activity for the commemoration:



- The council should support communities to design, deliver and promote the activity. Activity should be the result of community/council service collaboration.
- Activity should take place in the individual communities and not centrally, except for one joint civic event. Activity need not be the same in each locality.
- Activities should celebrate the local communities and their contribution to Edinburgh, rather than the City of Edinburgh as a whole or city centre.
- Activities should be inter-generational.
- Activities should have a long lead in time, not necessarily finish in 2020 and grow from the bottom up.
- Activities should involve increasing access to local heritage information, archives and objects.
- Activity should not be aimed at tourists.
- Space should be provided in the project for critical analysis. Participants in the consultation were open to exploring the negative connotations to the extension. *"This should be an opportunity to re-enter the debate about the extension, to explore the issues that were raised at the time and what these shed on life today. We should explore what the aims of the extension were and what actually happened. "*
- Activity for schools should focus on a wide range of curriculum areas and be developed in partnership with teachers and school librarians.



## Activity plan

9 Activities are proposed:

Ref	Activity Description
1	1920 development officer tasked with supporting and encouraging activity.
2	Providing support for community led projects which are funded by external sources e.g. support for funding applications, marketing, public relations and project development.
3	<b>1920 Collections Reaching Out:</b> Programme of activities by City of Edinburgh Council services including Archives, Libraries, Museum and Creative Learning.
4	<p><b>Voices of 1920:</b> Development of workshop programme, joint activities and teaching resources relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Each locality in 1920 aimed at primary schools</li> <li>b. Citizenship and political science for year 1-3 secondary school</li> <li>c. Human geography for Higher assessments</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Link 1920:</b> Community led and researched exhibition on each area in 1920 to take place in each area. Culminating in a joint, centrally held exhibition at Central Library in November 2020.</p>
6	<p><b>Join 1920:</b> A project to bring local people together to explore their area in 1920 and its contribution to the City. Outputs – Activities which become part of everyday life e.g. exhibitions on the No 21 bus</p>
7	<p><b>Explore 1920:</b> Development of Edinburgh Collected to create a community archive in each area.</p>
8	<p><b>Walk 1920:</b> Develop a series of walking tours of the borders of the city in 1920, one for each area that run on consecutive weeks. Research for the tours undertaken by community groups in partnership with CEC services. Linked online guides</p>



9	<p><b>Inspire 1920:</b> Programme of creative and cultural activities inspired by 1920 and the era since in each locality</p>
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Several of the activities listed above could be combined and/or delivered using the same group of people. However, this approach would limit the numbers of people that the project could reach. For this reason, we would recommend that there was a local co-ordinating group in each area that worked with the 1920 officer to deliver the activities.

Whatever the format, the commemoration will need substantial additional resources to deliver a project that meets the needs and desires expressed by the public during this consultation process. Without this level of commitment, the project will look tokenistic, have limited impact and risk increasing the sense of injustice that some people still feel about the 1920 Act, rather than achieving the outcomes listed above.

The full detail of the evaluation of the project depends on the requirements of the funder, which is as yet unknown. Consequently, at this point we have created an evaluation framework based on the needs of the project and connected to the intended outcome of the project.

## Project plan in the time of Covid 19

Covid 19 will have a range of impacts for the project:

- Inability of people to meet to plan and deliver activity;
- Inability to hold mass gatherings;
- Cancellation of festivals and events already planned for summer 2020;
- Closure of schools, possibly until at least August/September;
- Inability to create new groups to deliver the project;
- Inability to develop arts projects;
- Inability to rehearse and perform artistic works;
- Limitations to film making;



- City of Edinburgh Council staff may be transferred to Covid related tasks at little notice. Those remaining in their roles are home working and communication is limited to digital means;
- City of Edinburgh Council sites are closed and collections are inaccessible for the foreseeable future;
- National Heritage Lottery Fund has ended funding for new projects;
- Probable future restrictions of other funding streams, including Edinburgh City Council funding.

Covid 19 also provides some possibilities for the project, connected to digital access, levels of free time etc. As a result the activity plan has been reviewed and amended to find activities which are now deliverable with little funding and can be delivered within the era of Covid 19 and social distancing and which capitalise on existing digital resources. this approach will limit the reach and impact of the 1920 project and messaging by CEC should reflect this.



The activities identified are:

Ref	Activity Description
1	Providing support for community led projects which are funded by external sources e.g. support for funding applications, marketing, public relations and project development.
2	<p><b>Walk 1920:</b></p> <p>Develop a series of walking tours of the borders of the city in 1920, developed through community contributions of current images via a social media campaign. This would be managed to meet the requirements of social distancing if required. Later the images could be supplemented by archive and local studies images and a walking tour developed.</p>
3	<p><b>1920 Collections Reaching Out:</b> Programme of activities by City of Edinburgh Council services including Archives, Libraries, Museum and Creative Learning. Planned during the next few months and delivered in the winter</p>
4	<p><b>Explore 1920:</b></p> <p>Development of Edinburgh Collected to create a community archive in each area. Planned in the next few months and digitisation when access allows. Restricted to digitisation within current resources.</p>
5	<p><b>Present 1920</b></p> <p>A centrally held exhibition at Central Library in November 2020.</p>

The reduced project that is capable of being delivered during the Covid 19 period will necessarily have a lower level of impact. The lower level of resources will also mean that a reduced evaluation programme is possible. The evaluation of this reduced programme will seek to ascertain the answers to the same questions as the full programme.





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## **Appendix Two – ReDrawing Edinburgh Community & Project Partners**

During the initial consultation 69 community organisations were identified and invited to attend one of the consultation events. In total, 38 individuals attended, representing 31 different community organisations across all target areas.

Out of these organisations, 8 became routine members of the community steering group. These were:

- Bridgend Farmhouse Inspiring Growth
- Colinton Local History Society
- Colinton Amenity Association
- Cramond Association
- Corstorphine Trust
- Leith For Ever
- Leith Civic Trust
- Cinetopia Ltd.

Longstone and Gilmerton have been represented by individuals rather than groups.