

Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 12 August 2021

Attendance at London Real Estate Forum

Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All
Council Commitments	<u>2</u>

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Finance and Resources Committee:
 - 1.1.1 agrees to the attendance of the Council Leader and Depute Leader at the London Real Estate Forum and wraparound events as detailed in this report.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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Report

Attendance at London Real Estate Forum

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The London Real Estate Forum (LREF) is taking place in London from 28-30 September 2021. The Scottish Cities Alliance (SCA) is staging a programme of wraparound events on the theme of resilient cities. It is recommended that Committee agree to the Council Leader and Depute Leader attending the LREF and the associated SCA events to represent Edinburgh.

3. Background

- 3.1 The LREF is an annual conference held at the Barbican Centre in London. The conference brings together key decision makers from the property industry, the government, and from investment and business communities to discuss urban development and sustainable investment. This year's LREF will take place from 28-30 September 2021.
- 3.2 The SCA is a vehicle for the promotion of Scotland's seven cities as investment opportunities. The SCA considers that it would be beneficial to attend the LREF to engage with its key investor audience. In addition to attending the LREF, the SCA is proposing to stage a series of wraparound events on the theme of resilient cities.

4. Main report

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Council Leader and Depute Leader visit London from 28-30 September 2021 to represent Edinburgh at the LREF and the complementary events being staged by the SCA.
- 4.2 The draft programme for the visit is set out below:
- 4.2.1 Tuesday 28 September 2021, PM: *Scotland showcase event* – a sustainable investment showcase event linked to COP-26 hosted by the Scottish Government at Scotland House with a high-profile audience consisting of diplomats, businesses, and investors. The Council would have the opportunity to highlight any guests it wished to attend. The format will include showcasing stations and networking opportunities.

- 4.2.2 Wednesday 29 September 2021, 12:00 to 15:00: *Investor-targeted lunch* – a networking lunch with potential investors hosted by the SCA at City Social London.
- 4.2.3 Thursday 30 September 2021, 14:00 to 16:00: *SCA roundtable event* – a roundtable on “green investment” staged by the SCA in Scotland House to which potential investors will be invited along with Kate Forbes MSP.
- 4.2.4 Thursday 30 September 2021, PM: *LREF closing event* – the closing event of the LREF.
- 4.3 The Leader and Depute Leader would utilise the above events to build contacts with potential investors in Edinburgh and other stakeholders.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The Leader and Depute Leader would attend the events set out at 4.2. An update on outcomes would be provided to the Committee via the business bulletin.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There would be no attendance fees for the LREF as the SCA has secured sufficient free passes. There would be modest travel expenses and other ancillary expenses which would be met from existing budgets.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The Leader and Depute Leader will travel to and from London via train as the most carbon efficient means of making the journey.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 None.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 None.