

Minutes

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 14 September 2021

Present:-

Councillors Wilson (Convener), McNeese-Mechan (Vice-Convenor), Booth, Brown, Doran, Key, McLellan (substituting for Councillor Doggart), Mitchell, Osler, Staniforth and Ethan Young

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 15 June 2021 as a correct record.

2. Work Programme

Decision

To note the work programme of the Culture and Communities Committee of 14 September 2021.

3. Rolling Actions Log

The Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following action:
Action 21 (2) – Locality Improvement Plans
- 2) To circulate responses to Committee in respect of **Action 8 (2) - City Centre Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Measures Update Report**.
- 3) To note that there had been ongoing dialogue with the police and other bodies about the strategy, to address hostile vehicle mitigation measures and include this in the Business bulletin for the next meeting of the Committee.
- 4) To provide an update in the Business Bulletin for Committee on 16 November 2021 on discussions which were underway concerning possible replacements for the hostile vehicle mitigation barriers which were in situ on the Royal Mile.

- 5) 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 14 September 2021, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin

The Culture and Communities business bulletin was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the business bulletin.
- 2) To thank the teams from across the Council, for the work that they carried out in relation to the Tour of Britain, which was a great success.
- 3) To note the extensive work of Claire Miller, the Public Safety Team and all those involved in Festivals and Events and to thank them for their work in helping with the Return of the Summer Festivals.
- 4) To agree that the Wellbeing booklist was promoted on Twitter.

(Reference – Culture and Communities Committee Business Bulletin 14 September 2021, submitted.)

5. Presentation on Thriving Green Spaces

David Jamieson (Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Manager) gave a presentation on Thriving Green Spaces. He outlined the following themes on the Thriving Green Space Project:

- **The Project**
 - Award of funding of £899,500
 - Aim of Future Parks Accelerator programme
 - Agreement to extend programme till March 2022
 - The project was being delivered by a partnership
 - Councillor McNeese-Mechan was project champion
- **Twofold Vision and Strategy**
 - Citywide vision for Edinburgh's green and blue spaces
 - Council Parks Greenspaces Strategy and Action Plan
 - Vision and strategy would deliver green spaces that were at the heart of the city and help create an Edinburgh that was an exemplary city for wellbeing, quality of life, heritage and quality of green space.
 - Green spaces that were connected, thriving, valued and resourced – four themes that had emerged from work carried out so far.
- **Connected**

- Greenspaces that thread their way through the city, connecting communities and nature
- **Thriving**
 - Green spaces that were thriving green spaces, that reflected the diversity, values and interests of local communities that were vital to health and wellbeing
- **Valued**
 - Green spaces that were valued and celebrated for their cultural and natural heritage
- **Resourced**
 - Green spaces that were resourced sustainably with a committed and resilient workforce working in partnership with residents, organisations and businesses
- **Funding Model**
 - Expenditure
 - Funding target
 - Income
- **Next Steps**
 - Work to complete all work streams to continue until 31 March 2022
 - Report to Culture and Communities Committee on 1 February 2022
 - Project completion - 31 March 2022

Decision

- 1) To note the presentation.
- 2) To note the breadth of issues in relation to green spaces, such as antisocial behaviour and for the Parks and Green Space Manager to have discussions with the Green Team to address this.
- 3) To note the existing joint working between planning and parks and greenspace, and the mutual will which existed to build on this collaboration.
- 4) To agree that small green spaces were given specific reference within the Public Spaces Strategy which would be presented to the Culture and Communities Committee in February 2022.
- 5) To consider access requirements to public conveniences out with café opening hours in parks.

6. Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming

The recommended key principles for the use of public open space for events and filming in Edinburgh were presented and it was proposed that these be progressed to public consultation.

Background information was provided on the work of stakeholders on the working group which had convened during April 2021 to August 2021 and its sub-groups in developing these key principles.

Decision

- 1) To approve the recommended key principles on the Use of Public Spaces for Events and Filming (as set out in Appendix 2 of the report by the Executive Director of Space) for public consultation.
- 2) To note that, following the public consultation and analysis of the response, finalised principles and associated guidelines would be submitted to Committee for approval by Summer 2022.
- 3) To thank the 50 stakeholder groups and all parties involved in the working group activity during Summer 2021.
- 4) To agree that the report which returned to committee following the consultation articulated the impact on residents and discharged the motions which had been brought to full Council:
 - Council Approved Motion – 19 September 2019 Greening the Fringe (Originally submitted by Councillor Rae):
 - Summertime Streets Programme Motion- 22 August 2010 (originally submitted by Councillor Mowat)
 - Amplification of Noise in Public Spaces Motion - 22 August 2010 (originally submitted by Councillor Neil Ross)
 - Events and Attractions in Parks Motion – 22 November 2018 (originally submitted by Councillor Miller)
 - Princes Street Gardens Christmas Market Motion – 22 November 2018 (originally submitted by Councillor Doggart)

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

7. Edinburgh's Sixth Makar

The background to the civic appointment of the Edinburgh Makar was presented. It noted the achievements of the outgoing Fifth Makar, Alan Spence, whose term of office came to an end on 30 September 2021 and asked Committee to acknowledge those achievements. Hannah Lavery had been nominated as the Sixth Edinburgh Makar, to take up the post from 1 October 2021. Committee was asked to approve her appointment.

Decision

- 1) To agree to acknowledge Alan Spence's achievements as Edinburgh Makar over his extended term from 2017 to 2021, and to extend Committee's thanks and best wishes for the future;
- 2) To approve the appointment of Hannah Lavery as the Sixth Edinburgh Makar, from October 2021 to September 2024.

- 3) To thank the previous Makar for the work he had done for the City and to wish him well for the future.

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

8. Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe Seal for Festival Cities and Regions

The 'Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe' (EFFE) Seal for Festival Cities was an initiative by the European Festivals Association developed in partnership with several European festival communities. The report by the Executive Director of Place set out the principles of the Seal and sought approval from Committee for Edinburgh to become a founding member.

Decision

- 1) To approve Edinburgh's founding membership of the new 'Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe' (EFFE) Seal for Festival Cities.
- 2) That the Executive Director for Place provide a report at a future meeting of the Committee on the benefits and achievements of Europe for Festivals for Europe.

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

9. Appointments to Working Groups 2020/2021

The Culture and Communities Committee was required to appoint the membership of its Working Groups for 2021/22. The proposed membership, structures and remits of each Working Group were detailed in Appendices 1 to 3 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

Decision

To consider the re-appointment of members to Working Groups as set out in Appendices 1 to 3 of the report.

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

10. Revenue Monitoring Update – 2020/2021 Provisional out-turn and 2021/2022 Month three position

The report set out the provisional out-turn for the 2020/2021 financial year and the 2021/2022 projected month three revenue monitoring position for Place Directorate services which were under the remit of this Executive Committee. This was based on the unaudited annual accounts for 2020/2021 in respect of the provisional out-turn and for the month three forecast, an analysis of actual expenditure and income to the end of June 2021 with expenditure and income projections for the remainder of the 2021/2022 financial year.

Decision

- 1) To note that the overall Place provisional revenue out-turn for 2020/2021 was a £31.660m overspend including costs attributable to Covid-19 and £0.531m when Covid-19 net costs were excluded. Services within the remit of the Committee

delivered provisional out-turn underspends in 2020/2021 of £1.820m excluding Covid-19 impacts and £2.498m over including Covid-19.

- 2) To note that the overall Place revenue budget month three position for the 2021/2022 financial year was a projected £1.592m overspend (excluding Covid 19 impact). Services within the remit of the Committee were forecasting an overspend of £0.338m (excluding Covid-19 impact).
- 3) To note that General Fund Covid-19 costs of c. £13.5m in addition to pressure set out at paragraph 1.1.2 had been forecast for the overall Place Directorate at month three with circa £1.5m relating to services within the remit of the Committee.
- 4) To note that the Executive Director of Place was taking measures to address budget pressures and risks. Progress would be reported to Committee at agreed frequencies.

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

11. Motion By Hal Osler – Physical Activity

The following motion was submitted by Councillor Hal Osler in terms of Standing Order 17:

The Culture and Communities Committee agreed to note the following:

“No update has been received since November 2019 on any of:

- 1) Establishing a new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy;
- 2) The city-wide action plan for the Edinburgh Physical Activity Partnership;
- 3) A communication plan that celebrates the good practice that already exists across the city; and
- 4) The allocation of CEC officer time to support the Physical Activity Alliance Groups;
- 5) To note with concern, the lack of any progress on these important initiatives, acknowledging some delay due to COVID19;
- 6) To request a further report on each of the above to be provided within one cycle, identifying progress and a timeline to complete in each case.”

Seconded by Councillor Mitchell.

Decision

To approve the motion.