

Minutes

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 16 November 2021

Present:-

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

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Culture and Communities Committee of 14 September 2021 as a correct record.

2. Work Programme

Decision

To note the work programme of the Culture and Communities Committee of 16 November 2021.

3. Rolling Actions Log

The Culture and Communities Committee Rolling Actions Log was presented.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close the following actions:
 - **Action 2** - Edinburgh People Survey – People Results
 - **Action 12** - Development of a Public Spaces Management Plan for closure
 - **Action 19** - Development of a Public Spaces Management Plan – Collaborative Development for closure
 - **Action 22** - Business Bulletin

- 2) To ask officers to check outstanding actions and for action 30, to review why it was permitted to erect large structures in Princess Street Gardens, particularly the wheel in advance of Remembrance Sunday and to instruct that this would not take place in future.

- 3) 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 November 2021, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin

The Culture and Communities business bulletin was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the business bulletin.
- 2) To attach the link for the 2021 Parks Quality Assessment results for 2021, when the statistics were available, and to circulate to members.

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

5. Deputation - Fields in Trust, in respect of item 7.2 Fields in Trust Protected Public Parks and Green Spaces

Fields in Trust had been legally protecting parks and green spaces for almost 100 years. The charity worked with local authorities across the UK to protect green spaces in perpetuity ensuring those spaces were there for future generations and continue to bring benefit for people and the planet.

Fields in Trust had worked with Edinburgh City Council over many years to protect the City's parks and green spaces and in recent months has partnered to protect 25 more spaces. The portfolio of spaces to be discussed at the Culture and Communities Committee (item 6 refers) had been carefully mapped by Fields in Trust to increase the percentage of Edinburgh's population living within a 10minute walk of a green space that had been protected forever. Fields in Trust explained that protecting green spaces had never been more important highlighting their importance during the Covid-19 pandemic and for health, fitness and mental wellbeing. Fields in Trust asked that the Committee agreed to the protection of the further 25 spaces as outlined in the report

Decision

- 1) To agree to hear the deputation.
- 2) To note that Fields in Trust would work with officers to ensure that Cavalry Park was given protection.
- 3) To thank the deputation for coming to the meeting along and to look forward to collaborating with them in future.

6. Presentation - Underbelly

Underbelly had the contract to deliver Edinburgh's Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay and gave an overview of the programme which was proposed for the festive period.

The presentation emphasised that risks associated with Covid would be managed. The activities would be situated in George Street, Princes Street East and Princes Street West. Edinburgh's Christmas and Hogmanay plans had been considered by multiagency partners and would be subject to ongoing scrutiny during the delivery period of Edinburgh's Christmas. There were Covid mitigations in place such as ventilation, staff lateral flow testing, wearing of facemasks where appropriate and good hand hygiene.

The activities required to be pre-booked therefore Underbelly had robust arrangements for contacting participants and for information cascade purposes.

The Torchlight Procession which was planned had been altered significantly to respond to Covid concerns and minimise opportunities for people to assemble and to ensure dispersal of participants. Participants were also required to show their vaccination status to ensure their participation.

The Hogmanay street party had been condensed in terms of timescale and volume of tickets available.

Decision

- 1) To note the presentation.
- 2) Underbelly to circulate photos to members to illustrate that they were complying with their access statement and had removed containers from trunks of trees and would protect the trunks of trees with Heras fencing.

7. Fields in Trust Protected Public Parks and Green Spaces

It was reported that the City of Edinburgh Council had an opportunity to strengthen its commitment to protect and improve its public parks by supporting the creation of a Minute of Agreement with Fields in Trust for a further 25 parks and green spaces.

If approved, this would bring the total number of Edinburgh parks and green spaces protected through this mechanism to 61, serving communities who did not already have a safeguarded space close to home and ensuring that almost everyone in the city lived no more than a ten-minute walk from a park or green space which was protected for good. In making this commitment, the City of Edinburgh Council would become the first local authority in Scotland to adopt such a bold vision for their public green spaces.

Decision

- 1) To agree to continue consideration of the report until the next meeting of the Culture and Communities committee on 1 February 2022, and to clarify within the report:
 - The legal protection afforded to Fields in Trust.
 - Under which mechanisms Fields in Trust status be removed by the Council.
 - How residents would be advised about changes to Fields in Trust.
 - Proposals for robust governance arrangements which could be put in place by the Council to safeguard Fields in Trust, particularly to ensure any change

or plan for land disposal aligned with policies and strategies approved by the Culture and Communities Committee.

- 2) To agree that a draft minute of agreement would be shared with Elected Members prior to officers processing the agreement, and that the draft minute detailed the process for how future changes to Fields in Trust would be considered.
- 3) To make the minute of agreement accessible on the Council's website.
- 4) To agree that the minute of agreement would specify that accessibility changes were considered sympathetic development, to promote accessibility for all.
- 5) To agree to raise with officers the possibility of adding Cavalry Park to the list of Fields in Trust.
- 6) To agree to clarify if there was development in Moredun Park which would threaten Moredun Park being a Field in Trust.

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

8. Capital Theatres Company Performance Report 2020/21

It was detailed that this was the eighth annual performance report prepared as a requirement of the Services and Funding Agreement process adopted in 2013/14. The report by the Executive Director of Place encompassed 18 months from 16 March 2020 to September 2021.

Decision

- 1) To note the positive performance of Capital Theatres during 2020/21.
- 2) To note that whilst the report focus is on 2020/21 company performance, the context of COVID-19 should be acknowledged and therefore the impact, mitigation, advocacy and recovery planning implemented by Capital Theatres as a result.
- 3) To refer the report to Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee.
- 4) To request Capital Theatres Company to paste link to the video, so that it was available to the public.

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

Declaration of interests

Councillors McNeese Mechan, Mitchell and Wilson declared non-financial interests in the above item as Directors of Capital Theatres Trust.

9. Physical Activity and Sport Strategy – Planning Ahead

The report by the Interim Director of Education and Children's Services had been written in response a motion submitted by Cllr Osler at the Culture and Communities

Committee on 14th September 2021 concerning a new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy, The city-wide action plan for the Edinburgh Physical Activity Partnership, a communication plan which celebrated the good practice that existed across the city and the allocation of City of Edinburgh Council officer time to support the Physical Activity Alliance Groups. An update was presented on the progress on these important initiatives alongside a position statement and proposals for approval.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To approve the proposals for officers in the new Culture and Wellbeing Service to lead on re-engaging stakeholders.
- 3) To ask for a further update on the governance and reporting on sport and physical activity in early 2022.
- 4) To plan and initiate a stakeholder engagement exercise resulting in feedback on the priority actions that would support improved outcomes relating to sport and physical activity.
- 5) To note the need for a separate action plan and discussion about sport, involving the key partners, to agree the priorities for sport and report back to Committee separately on issues regarding sport but also to consider the wider benefits of sport on health and wellbeing.
- 6) To agree to consider the provision of improved facilities for sport, including the school estate, and the possible use of facilities that had fallen out of use.

(References – Culture and Communities Committee 14 September 2021 (item 11); report by the Interim Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted).

Declaration of interests

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

10. Public Realm CCTV Update

An update was sought on the progress made towards developing the Public Realm CCTV service in Edinburgh.

Decision

- 1) To approve the update for the upgrade of the Public Realm CCTV service in Edinburgh.
- 2) To note an update would be presented on the Public Realm CCTV upgrade project progress in six months’ time.
- 3) To agree that officers would provide a written update on the resolution of issues relating to Saughton Park to all committee members and local ward members.

- 4) To agree that the mobile CCTV unit would remain operational until the upgrade was complete.
- 5) To agree to explore the possible use of a honing device with the CCTV contractor.

(Reference –report by the Interim Director of Education and Children’s Services, submitted)

11. Community Centres (Update)

The report by the Executive Director of Place outlined the adaptation and renewal arrangements in community centres which were underway. It highlighted the positive successes of reopening community centres following the Covid-19 closure and the extensive efforts of officers and management committees to achieve this.

Decision

- 1) To note that the majority of Council supported community centres were open.
- 2) To note the current Coronavirus guidance as it applied to community centres.
- 3) To note positive progress on the phased approach to safely extend the use of community centres in line with Scottish Government guidelines.
- 4) To agree to ask the Task Group to drive the required changes to open the community centres and to give more recognition to staff that were performing well.
- 5) To agree to ask the locality manager to provide an update concerning the Leith Community Centre re-opening for Councillor Booth.
- 6) To agree to clarify with the Regulatory Services Manager (Andrew Mitchell) if it was possible to use community centres in the evening, which had been used as testing centres (recognising that there might be hygiene issues.)
- 7) To agree to ask the locality officer to draft a briefing note for Councillors Booth and McNeese-Mechan, to be shared with Leith Walk and Leith ward Councillors confirming when there would be repairs to the Kirkgate Community Centre in Leith.

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

12. Cemetery Strategy

An update was provided on the implementation of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 and the expectation that associated regulations would be implemented in 2022. The report also sought approval to progress with development of Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery (phase 2) and for the introduction of Friends of Cemetery Groups Guidance (Appendix 5) of the report by the Executive Director of Place.

Decision

- 1) To note the strategic objectives of the cemeteries service and the likely requirements of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 regulations in 2022.
- 2) To note that officers would engage with Committee members and key stakeholder groups on the creation of proposed draft Cemetery Management Rules and would bring these to Committee on 1 February 2022 to seek approval to commence public consultation.
- 3) To note the update on Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery and the financial analysis set out in paragraph 6.1.2 of the report and note that a report would be prepared for Committee when the funding options had been investigated.
- 4) To recognise the important contribution of Friends of Cemetery groups across the city and approve the guidance for Friends of Cemeteries Groups (Appendix 5) of the report.
- 5) To note that there was a planned workshop with Elected Members to consider an update to cemetery rules, which would be reported to Committee in February 2022. There would also be a further workshop and dialogue with colleagues across Scotland to establish universal cemetery rules.

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

Declaration of interests

Councillor Staniforth declared a financial interests in the above item as he had worked as a cemetery tour guide but did not think that the nature of this interest would prejudice his consideration of this item.

12. Update on the Cultural Strategy Diversity Programme

Continued support had been provided to ethnically diverse artists and creatives since the commencement of the Diversity Officer's post with the Culture Service in September 2019.

The report by the Executive Director of Place was the second comprehensive update on the programme of activities and projects planned, developed and delivered with the aim of ensuring greater visibility and recognition of the diversity of people and narratives in Edinburgh's arts and culture sector. It had also increased cross-sector partnership working and dialogue surrounding diversity and inclusion in the arts and culture sector in Edinburgh.

Given the evident success of the programme to date, the report recommended that the Diversity programme was mainstreamed following the conclusion of the Creative Scotland partnership funding at the end of March 2022.

Decision

- 1) To acknowledge the continued progress of the Diversity Programme through developing the network of ethnically diverse artists and creatives based in Edinburgh; and creating programmes, initiatives and opportunities that responded to the needs of the network.

- 2) To note the partnerships developed with local arts, culture and community organisations with the aim of increasing visibility and representation of ethnically diverse artists and creatives, their work and narratives across the sector; and promoting the importance of diversity and inclusion principles in the workplace and in decision-making processes as well as creating pathways into balanced collaboration and co-curation.
- 3) To agree further monitoring of the introduction and implementation of sector Diversity and Inclusion Plans and a review and potential revision of the general and organisation-specific Equalities Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) priorities.
- 4) To agree to mainstream the Diversity Programme following the conclusion of the partnership funding agreement with Creative Scotland in March 2022.
- 5) To note that a final Diversity Partnership Programme Report would be prepared in April 2022.
- 6) To agree to share the bulletin as widely as possible and to note that funding was available.
- 7) To note that “mainstreaming” meant that diversity and inclusion was integral to the Programme.

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

12. Participatory Budgeting: Progress Update – referral from the Finance and Resources Committee

On 7 October 2021, the Finance and Resources Committee considered a report which agreed the principles set out within the Council’s Participatory Budgeting (PB) framework.

The Finance and Resources Committee agreed to refer the report to the Culture and Communities Committee for information.

Decision

To note the report.

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

13. Internal Audit: Overdue Findings and Key Performance Indicators as at 11 August 2021 – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

On 21 September 2021, the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee considered a report on the outcome of the Internal Audit: Overdue Findings and Key Performance Indicators as at 11 August 2021.

The Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee agreed to refer the report to the relevant Council executive committees and the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board Audit and Assurance Committee for information in relation to the current Health and Social Care Partnership position.

Decision

To note the report.

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