

# Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 7 March 2023

## Centre for Moving Image (Edinburgh Filmhouse and Edinburgh International Film Festival)

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Executive All
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### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that Culture and Communities Committee:
  - 1.1.1 Notes the current position with regard to Edinburgh Filmhouse and Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF); and
  - 1.1.2 Discharges the motion by Councillor Walker.

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

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# Report

## Centre for Moving Image (Edinburgh Filmhouse and Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF))

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report provides an update on the current position, at the time of writing, regarding the Edinburgh Filmhouse and Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF) following the closure of the Centre for Moving Images (CMI) group who operated the Edinburgh Filmhouse and EIFF. This report has been prepared in response to an emergency motion approved by Committee on [13 October 2022](#).

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 On 6 October 2022 the CMI group, operator of the EIFF and Edinburgh Filmhouse cinema, announced it had gone into administration. Several factors led to the organisation making the decision to cease operating, including reduced audience attendances which failed to recover post pandemic, rising energy bills and the cost-of-living crisis. The closure of the organisation resulted in over 100 staff becoming redundant and a potential gap in the provision of cultural and community cinema in Edinburgh.

### 4. Main report

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#### **Funding**

- 4.1 The CMI (Edinburgh Filmhouse and EIFF) received £476,998 Council funding from over the past five years. The breakdown of funding received can be found in Appendix 1.

#### **Support for CMI Staff**

- 4.2 The Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) (which includes Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) (through Jobcentre Plus), local authorities, Citizens Advice, colleges, and training providers) led on providing support to the staff affected by the closure of CMI. The main PACE service for Edinburgh is delivered by [Community Renewal](#), a charitable organisation which is supported by City of Edinburgh Council along with other partners.

- 4.3 Skills Development Scotland and DWP representatives delivered a PACE Introduction to Redundancy Support webinar to CMI staff on 7 October 2022. All staff were sent out a PACE resources pack and PACE information was also sent out via the CMI 'WhatsApp' group which was set up by the staff.
- 4.4 Festivals Edinburgh have established a webpage (via the Festivals Edinburgh website) specifically for CMI staff which lists vacancies across the Edinburgh Festivals. In addition, four festivals have committed to guaranteed interviews for CMI staff if they meet the minimum criteria of the any vacancy listed. All CMI staff were provided with the link to this resource.

### **Future of EIFF and Edinburgh Filmhouse**

- 4.5 Council Officers are working together with Creative Scotland and Screen Scotland to scope provision of cultural and community cinema across Edinburgh in the short-term.
- 4.6 This will look at delivery of community cinema via cultural community hubs across the city and will bridge the gap in the short term while further longer term viable and sustainable mechanisms for delivery can be explored.
- 4.7 Creative Scotland/Screen Scotland are currently exploring potential delivery options of an edition of EIFF 2023. Senior Council officers are also engaged in these conversations.
- 4.8 The sale of the Filmhouse property at 88 Lothian Road is being handled by Savills. A closing date for bids was set and several bids received. To date the preferred bidder for the Filmhouse property is unknown.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Council Officers will continue to meet with Creative Scotland, Screen Scotland to develop a plan for the provision of cultural and community cinema for Edinburgh initially in the short term which will allow for a longer-term strategy to be developed.
- 5.2 A plan of action will be agreed by the end of March 2023.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 The scoping and implementation plan of delivery cost will be met by the Culture Service budget, with £30,000 reallocated from the unreleased balance of the CMI grant for 2022/23. The £100,000 earmarked for CMI for the financial year 2023/24 is also currently being retained.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 Plans will be designed, agreed, and implemented with sector and resident input and consultation.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 None.

## **9. Appendices**

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- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Council Funding Five Year Breakdown.

**Appendix 1 – Breakdown of Funding to CMI 2018/19 – 2022/23**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Breakdown</b>
<b>2018/19</b>	£104,077	Filmhouse Cinema £27,097 - EIFF £76,980
<b>2019/20</b>	£102,921	Filmhouse Cinema £26,800 - EIFF £76,121
<b>2020/21</b>	£100,000	New SP programme. No defined split between Filmhouse and EIFF
<b>2021/22</b>	£100,000	New SP programme - No defined split between Filmhouse and EIFF
<b>2022/23</b>	£70,000	£100,000 was awarded for 22/23. £70,000 was released for the 1 <sup>st</sup> payment at the beginning of the financial year. The final payment due at the end of October 2022 was not released as the organisation went into administration.
<b>Total Paid to CMI over five years.</b>	<b>£476,998</b>	