

# Policy and Sustainability Committee

10:00am, Tuesday 23 May 2023

## EUROCITIES Urban Summit 2023 - Brussels

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Executive All
---	------------------

### 1. Recommendations

---

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Sustainability Committee:
- 1.1.1 Agrees for the Lord Provost, accompanied and supported by one Council officer, to represent Edinburgh at the EUROCITIES AGM and Brussels Urban Summit (BUS) between 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
  - 1.1.2 Notes that the Brussels Urban Summit will bring together three international city conferences: the 14th Metropolis World Congress, the EUROCITIES Annual Conference and the sixth OECD Champion Mayors Summit for Inclusive Growth Initiative.
  - 1.1.3 Notes the focus of the summit will be on themes including climate change, migration, urban growth, and inequality.

#### Deborah Smart

Executive Director, Corporate Services

Contact: Nick Langan, International Relations Officer

Policy and Insight Team, Corporate Services Directorate

E-mail: [nick.langan@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:nick.langan@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## EUROCITIES Conference 2023

### 2. Executive Summary

---

- 2.1 EUROCITIES is a membership network of European Cities of which Edinburgh has been a member for almost 30 years. The EUROCITIES AGM is being held in Brussels in June 2023 as a part of the Brussels Urban Summit (BUS).
- 2.2 Edinburgh has attended this AGM and conference over a number of years, including hosting the event in 2018. This report recommends that the Council is represented at this year's conference.

### 3. Background

---

- 3.1 EUROCITIES is a network of major European cities, bringing together the local governments of over 130 of Europe's largest cities. It provides a platform for Edinburgh to connect with leading cities across Europe, learn from and find joint solutions to local challenges.
- 3.2 EUROCITIES aims to inspire new thinking and insights into tackling key challenges confronting cities across diverse policy areas including sustainable urban development, employment, energy, youth, culture, social inclusion, and the digital agenda.
- 3.3 Edinburgh has attended the annual EUROCITIES conference over a number of years, including hosting the event in 2018. This attendance supports the goals of the Council's International Framework, helps maintain and develop connections with international partners, and offers peer learning and benchmarking opportunities with other European cities.

### 4. Main report

---

- 4.1 The Brussels Urban Summit (BUS) – held between 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - will bring together three international city conferences: the 14th Metropolis World Congress, the EUROCITIES Annual Conference and the sixth OECD Champion Mayors Summit for Inclusive Growth Initiative. It will gather over 300 cities worldwide and more than 1,000 politicians, experts, and representatives of civil society to exchange ideas and set the priorities for sustainable, affordable, and liveable cities going forward.

- 4.2 This gathering is an initiative of Brussels Capital Region, EUROCITIES, Metropolis and the OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative.
- 4.3 Through a programme of plenary sessions, workshops, side events and site visits, the summit offers an opportunity to engage in a strategic global dialogue on the future of urban areas.
- 4.4 The major topics for knowledge exchanges will be focussed on:
- Tackling inequalities and rebuilding the social contract in cities.
  - OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative focussing on how mayors are confronting the cost-of-living and housing crisis in cities.
  - How migration and growing diversity shapes cities today, and what strategies local governments can develop to turn social, cultural, and economic challenges into opportunities.
  - The EUROCITIES AGM

## **5. Next Steps**

---

- 5.1 As next steps it is recommended that:
- 5.1.1 Agrees the attendance of the Lord Provost at EUROCITIES urban summit and associated events.
- 5.1.2 Provides a summary of the benefits of attending the summit to the Policy and Sustainability Committee

## **6. Financial impact**

---

- 6.1 Delivery of actions outlined in this report will be taken forward within agreed Council budgets. Any additional budget requirements identified will be discussed and agreed through annual budget decision making processes.

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

---

- 7.1 The Lord Provost and accompanying officer will be travelling to Brussels by rail.
- 7.2 This provides a good example of sustainable travel outside the UK and supports the elected member travel guidance for international travel.
- 7.3 The total carbon impact of this journey is estimated at 83 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e. This is estimated at one sixth of the equivalent journey by air, or a carbon saving equivalent to 1,454 miles driven by an average vehicle.

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

---

<https://urbansummit.brussels/index.html>

## **9. Appendices**

---

None