

Committee Minutes

Culture and Leisure Committee

Edinburgh, 28 June 2011

Present:- Councillors Brock, Cairns, Elaine Aitken, Barry, Bridgman, Dawe, Dundas, Hart, Johnstone, Lowrie (substituting for Councillor Lang), Mowat (substituting for Councillor Whyte), Munro, Snowden and Thomas.

1 Appointment of Convener and Vice-Convener

Decision

To appoint Councillor Brock as Convener and Councillor Cairns as Vice-Convener for 2011-2012.

2 Minute

Decision

The minute of the Culture and Leisure Committee of 26 April 2011 was approved as a correct record.

3 Culture and Leisure – Performance Report February/March 2011

3.1 Presentation – Edinburgh Leisure

The Committee heard a presentation from John Comiskey, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Leisure, on Edinburgh Leisure's performance, upcoming challenges and their plans for the future.

He particularly highlighted the importance of Edinburgh Leisure's role in encouraging people to be more active in order to improve their health and wellbeing.

3.2 Report by the Director of Children and Families

Performance management information for the period February/March 2011 was presented for Culture and Sport, Edinburgh City Archives and the Library and Information Service within Services for Communities.

Decision

To note the performance of the service areas for the period February/March 2011.

(Reference – joint report by the Directors of Services for Communities and Acting Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

4 Edinburgh Festivals Impact Study

4.1 Presentation – BOP Consulting

The Committee heard a presentation from Richard Naylor and Ulrike Chouguley, BOP Consulting, on the results of an impact study of the 12 Festivals represented by Festivals Edinburgh.

The study looked at the cultural, social, economic and environmental impact of the festivals.

4.2 Report by the Acting Director of Corporate Services

Details were given of research into the city's 12 major Festivals, an update on their development and proposed action to support the continued development.

Decision

- 1) To welcome the result of this groundbreaking study.
- 2) To recognise the enormous contribution made to the city and to Scotland as a whole by the Festivals.
- 3) To approve that the feasibility of including several questions about the Festivals in the annual Edinburgh Residents' Survey from 2011 onwards be explored.

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- 4) To approve in principle to support future work on this study as described in paragraphs 3.19 and 3.20 of the report by the Acting Director of Corporate Services.

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

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Dawe, Mowat, Munro and Thomas declared non-financial interests in the foregoing item as Board members of Edinburgh International Festival Council. Councillor Thomas also declared a non-financial interest as a Board member of Edinburgh International Jazz and Blues Festival.

5 Libraries and Information Service – Customer Research

An update was given on the customer survey findings on library and information services.

It was proposed to develop a marketing strategy to provide information about the range of library and information services available, in order to increase the existing customer base.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To note that a marketing strategy informed by the results of the survey be developed, with any costs to be met from existing budgets.

(References – Policy and Strategy Committee 23 March 2010 (item 3); report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

6 Edinburgh City Libraries' Services for Older People

Information was provided on the wide range of general and targeted access services provided by the Libraries and Information Service to meet the needs of older people, together with those developed with and for people who were older, infirm or frail.

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Decision

To note the extensive range of services provided by the Libraries and Information Service across the city for older people.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

7 Edinburgh's Virtual Library

Details were given of the Libraries and Information Services' online Virtual Library following its launch in February 2010.

Decision

To note the successful development of the Libraries and Information Services' Virtual Library and the increasing take-up of online resources and services.

(Reference – report by the Director of Services for Communities, submitted.)

8 Assembly Rooms Refurbishment Update

Details were given on the progress of the Assembly Rooms refurbishment project and approval was sought for the proposed hire rates to be implemented when the venue re-opened in 2012.

Additional information on the ground floor lease to Jamie's Italian Ltd, the Summer Festival Period hire contract award to Salt 'n' Sauce Promotions Ltd and the ongoing lease agreement negotiations for the George Street retail units were tabled.

Decision

- 1) To note the update on the progress of the project.
- 2) To approve the proposed hire charges pricing structure.

(Reference – Act of Council No 3 of 16 December 2010; joint report by the Director of City Development and Acting Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

9 King's Theatre Refurbishment – Progress Update

Delegated authority was sought to accept the tender and select the main contractor for Phases 1 and 2 of the interim investment works to refurbish the King's Theatre.

Decision

- 1) To delegate authority to the Director of City Development and the Acting Director of Corporate Services to accept the main contract tender, subject to the preferred tender amount being contained within the agreed overall Project Budget of £2.625m.
- 2) To note that any significant changes to the projected budget would be reported to Committee.

(References – Culture and Leisure Committee 26 April 2011 (item 13); joint report by the Director of City Development and Acting Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Elaine Aitken, Brock, Cairns and Munro declared non-financial interests in the foregoing item as Board members of the Festival City Theatre Trust. Councillor Elaine Aitken also declared a non-financial interest as a Board member of Edinburgh Film Focus.

10 Proposed Relocation of Collective Gallery

Approval was sought, in principle, to relocate the Collective Gallery from Cockburn Street to the Old City Observatory on Calton Hill and to prepare a feasibility study to cost this relocation. It was intended that the main terms and conditions of the lease to be drawn up would be reported to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval.

Decision

- 1) To approve the preparation of a feasibility study to relocate the Collective Gallery to the Old City Observatory.
- 2) To approve, in principle, the proposed relocation subject to the findings of the feasibility study.
- 3) To note that the main terms and conditions of the proposed lease would be reported to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval.

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- 4) To approve that an application be made to the appropriate court to seek approval for the lease of the Old City Observatory as it was held on the Common Good Account.

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

11 Edinburgh Makar Update

The Committee had previously approved a 12-month extension of Ron Butlin's term as Edinburgh Makar from 31 May 2011 to 31 May 2012. At that time, it was suggested that the Makar be asked if he would agree to carry out the role for a full second term (1 June 2011 until 31 May 2014).

Decision

- 1) To approve the extension of Ron Butlin's term as Edinburgh Makar from 31 May 2012 to 31 May 2014.
- 2) To approve the discharge of the outstanding remit to commission a commemorative bench as a commemorative plaque had been installed in the recently-refurbished City Chambers.
- 3) That Mr Butlin be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee.

(Reference – Culture and Leisure Committee 26 April 2011 (item 11); report by the Acting Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

12 Pots, Pans and People – Proposed Community-Based Archaeological Project

Details were given of a funding application for a community-based archaeological project involving East Lothian Council and Scottish Borders Council.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To welcome the submission of a two-stage funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

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- 3) To approve the Council's involvement in the project provided Heritage Lottery Funding or alternative external funding was secured.
- 4) To refer the decision to the Council as a recommendation.

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

13 East of Scotland Museums Partnership – Progress Report

Details were given of the activities of the East of Scotland Museums Partnership in 2009/10.

Decision

To welcome the progress of the Partnership and approve the continuing involvement of the Council in its activity.

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

14 Phase 1 of the Museums Hub

Details were given of action taken since 2008 to revitalise the Museums and Galleries estate and of detailed proposals for Phase 1 of the Museums Hub.

Approval was sought to charge for entrance to a new visitor attraction in Acheson House as part of the Museum of Edinburgh and to invest any surplus income from this and other visitor facilities in the continued development of the Museums Hub.

Decision

- 1) To welcome the progress made to date in revitalising the Museums and Galleries estate and the Phase 1 Museums Hub activity.
- 2) To approve the principle of entry charges for the new audio-visual show in Acheson House and to ring-fence surplus income from this and other visitor facilities in the future development and maintenance of Museums Hub, subject to the cost of the Museums' Service remaining within budget.
- 3) That further progress reports on the development of the Museums Hub be submitted to the Committee.

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

15 Edinburgh's Christmas 2010/11

An update was provided on the events, activities and financial outturn of Edinburgh's Christmas 2010/11 and the proposed planning and review activity.

It was proposed that an independent economic impact analysis be commissioned to gather up-to-date information to inform planning of future events.

In addition, Culture and Sport would carry out consultation with stakeholders across the city to assess the value placed on the event by a representative selection of interested parties and to gather views on possible improvements that could be made to the event in future years.

Decision

- 1) To note the improvement in the event's financial outturn over the previous year.
- 2) To approve the further planning activity as described in the report by the Acting Director of Corporate Services.

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

16 Edinburgh's Hogmanay – Results of 2010/11 Event and Review of the Festival

Details were given of the success of Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2010/2011, the outcomes of the review of Edinburgh's Hogmanay and their relevance to future plans.

The main actions taken in response to the review's findings included increasing the administration fee for the Street Party, giving responsibility for key management areas to the Event Producer, reducing arena capacity for Princes Street and directing core funding towards the Street Party.

Details were given of the review of the 2010/11 Festival as follows:-

- the impact of severe winter weather on the programme
- media coverage
- audience views
- findings of the Edinburgh Festivals Impact Study
- outturn of Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2010/11
- the current financial position for Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2011/12

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- a review of Edinburgh's Hogmanay and its outcomes
- the future of Edinburgh's Hogmanay
- the impact of the tram project on the 2011/12 programme.

Decision

- 1) To note the findings of audience research and economic impact in relation to the 2010/11 event and the outcomes of the review as listed in the report by the Acting Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To recognise the progress made to date to deliver a balanced budget.
- 3) To agree to sustain Edinburgh's Hogmanay within the city's festival portfolio on the basis set out in the report by the Acting Director of Corporate Services.

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

17 Completion of the Meadowbank Interim Investment Programme

An update was provided on the interim Investment Programme of works at Meadowbank Sports Centre.

Decision

- 1) To note that the interim investment programme of works at Meadowbank Sports Centre had now been completed.
- 2) To approve the expenditure of £5,000 each year on a condition survey of Meadowbank Sports Centre.

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

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Brock, Cairns, Munro and Thomas declared non-financial interests in the foregoing item as Board members of Edinburgh Leisure.

18 Port Edgar Marina and Sailing School – Update

An update was provided on Edinburgh Leisure's work to develop an investment Plan for the Port Edgar Marina and Sailing School and approval was sought to develop new options that would secure the marina's long-term future.

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The Board of Edinburgh Leisure had developed a plan that detailed a phased approach to investment in the site. During 2010/11, Edinburgh Leisure implemented a number of actions but in light of the ongoing economic downturn, it had revised its financial projects and the Board had now taken the decision to make a planned withdrawal from the management and operation of the marina by the end of 2013/14.

It was now proposed to explore the potential for leasing Port Edgar Marina and Sailing School to a third party willing to invest in those facilities.

Decision

- 1) To note that Edinburgh Leisure's proposed infrastructure development plans were no longer viable.
- 2) To approve the alternative plan to advertise the lease of Port Edgar Marina and Sailing School on the basis of the principles set out in paragraphs 3.6-3.8 of the report by the Acting Director of Corporate Services.
- 3) That a progress report on the procurement process, with recommendations on a way forward, would be submitted by Spring 2012.

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

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Brock, Cairns, Munro and Thomas declared non-financial interests in the foregoing item as Board members of Edinburgh Leisure.

19 Capital Investment Programme 2011-2014: Pitches and Pavilions

An update report gave details of recent investments in sport pitches and pavilions and proposed priority sites for further investment for 2011/12 and 2012/13 and approval was sought for these.

A total of £940,000 was available in the 2011-14 Capital Programme for Pitches and Pavilions. It was proposed to allocate this sum to the upgrade of pavilions and the provision of third generation (3G) synthetic pitches across the city.

Decision

- 1) To approve the use of £940,000 allocated in the Capital Investment Programme for investment in 3G pitches and pavilions across Edinburgh.

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- 2) To approve the sites identified in paragraph 3.7 of the report by the Acting Director of Corporate Services as the priorities for 2011/12 and 2012/13.
- 3) To note that a further set of priority sites for investment in 2013/14 would be submitted in due course.

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

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Brock, Cairns, Munro and Thomas declared non-financial interests in the foregoing item as Board members of Edinburgh Leisure.

20 Outstanding Remits

Decision

To note the outstanding remits still to be addressed and to agree to those outstanding remits recommended for discharge.

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