



Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 12 May 2015

Dean of Guild Courtroom, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Andrew Burns</p>  <p>Vice Convener: Councillor Sandy Howat</p> 	<p>Councillors: Burns (Convener), Howat (Vice Convener), Burgess, Chapman, Child, Nick Cook, Edie, Godzik, Ricky Henderson, Hinds, Lewis, Mowat, Rankin, Rose, Ross</p>	<p>Kirsty-Louise Campbell Governance Manager Tel: 0131 529 3654</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Carbon Management Plan</p> <p>The Council’s first Carbon Management Plan (CMP) was produced in 2008 and ran for five years. A revised draft CMP has been prepared with the assistance of Resource Efficient Scotland (RES) using new carbon foot printing tools and guidance resources which RES has recently published. The RES foot printing tools have been populated, in consultation with colleagues across the Council, to forecast the Council’s carbon footprint in 2020/21. A draft revised CMP will be presented for approval to the Corporate Policy and Strategy</p>	<p>Contact Nick Croft, Corporate Policy & Strategy Manager nick.croft@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>

**UniversCités Meeting, Geneva, 19-20 March 2015 –
Feedback from Cllr Richard Lewis**

Nature of event e.g. conference /seminar, civic event: An invitation from the Mayor of Geneva to cities and universities within their city centre to explore the opportunities and challenges which arise from co-location in terms of physical assets, student population, economic and social impact, internationalisation. Also to determine ways of combining expertise and efforts for mutual benefit.

Purpose of attending: Both the Lord Provost and the Principal of the University of Edinburgh were invited to attend. In discussion it was agreed that this was an interesting proposition and merited both parties accepting the invitation. A pre-meeting was held with the Vice Principal (International) of the University of Edinburgh to discuss approach and benefits of attendance and joint issues and interests. Other cities / universities attending included Basel, Zurich, Barcelona, Beirut, Brussels, Dakar, Nantes, Milan, Lyon, Paris, Beijing, Prague, Rome, Sao Paulo.

Key areas which you found particularly useful:

Presentation in the academic roundtable session, in particular by Columbia University, New York, demonstrating knowledge city trends, cities as interface between the world of information and physical development. The development of ‘silicon alleys’ in urban centres and designs which blur the lines between city and campus to harness opportunity and enhance physical environment.

Benefits of attendance for the Council, including relevance to key Council priorities and Pledges:

Learning and discussions around cities as Living Labs, the opportunities of capturing young talent and harnessing this for the cities’ skills force, the ways in which universities are funded and adaptation in terms of financial and human resources, the opportunity to harness scientific and academic expertise to enhance governance and social development, / quality of life, corporate social responsibility, the role of the UN – not just in Geneva but in working with cities across the world.

Opportunity to present and profile Edinburgh and the University of Edinburgh in terms of skills / talent, academic base and spin out companies; the combining of global and local developments to maximise mutual benefits, for example in close work with the Festivals; the challenge of ensuring diversity in terms of local and international student population, and harnessing space and innovation to best advantage in the city.

It is clear from the joint work undertaken with the University of Edinburgh prior to, and during the UniversCités discussions in Geneva, that there is scope to widen and deepen discussions between the Council and the university to maximise mutual benefits, and also to take relevant learning through the Town and Gown Forum. We await the next steps for the network from Geneva – these will be discussed jointly with the University.

Additional Comments: While the invitation was extended to the University of Edinburgh due to its location in the heart of Edinburgh’s city centre, the Council’s Town and Gown group includes all four of the city’s universities and the learning and value of the discussions has relevance for the wider work between the Council and Higher Education.

Forthcoming activities:
