

Item 4.1 - Minutes

Culture and Sport Committee

10.00 am, Tuesday, 31 May 2016

Present

Councillors Lewis (Convener), Austin Hart (Vice-Convener), Cairns, Booth, Cardownie, Donaldson, Doran, Fullerton, Milligan, Mowat (substituting for Councillor Heslop), Munro, Shields and Whyte (substituting for Councillor Paterson).

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Culture and Sport Committee of 8 March 2016 as a correct record, subject to noting that the report at item 11.4 was by the Executive Director of Place.

2. Key Decisions Forward Plan

The Culture and Sport Committee Key Decisions Forward Plan for the period May to August 2016 was presented.

Decision

To note the Key Decisions Forward Plan for May to August 2016.

(Reference – Key Decisions Forward Plan May to August 2016, submitted.)

3. Rolling Actions Log

The Culture and Sport Committee Rolling Actions Log for May 2016 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To approve the closure of action 14.
- 2) To otherwise note the remaining outstanding actions.

(Reference – Rolling Actions Log 31 May 2016, submitted.)

4. Business Bulletin

The Culture and Sport Committee Business Bulletin for May 2016 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the information set out in the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To thank Council Officers for their significant efforts at short notice in the successful organisation of the Scottish Cup Victory Parade for Hibernian Football Club.

5. Julia Amour, Director of Festivals Edinburgh

Julia Amour (Director of Festivals Edinburgh) gave a presentation on the work of Festivals Edinburgh. Her presentation put forward three main points:

- There was unanimous agreement that Edinburgh's festivals were treasured as a rare distinguishing asset for the city.
- The festivals offered significant opportunity to reach out across the varied communities of the city.
- There was a degree of consensus that the festivals had never been more at risk financially.

The following was also highlighted:

- In last 5 years Edinburgh's festivals had increased their earned income by 30%. 70% of overall turnover was from private sources. During an economic downturn this was a success story for the city.
- Finances of the festivals were more stretched than ever before. Extra income was required to maintain programming and engagement with new audiences.
- New business models and markets to help raise additional funds were always being explored.
- Public investment in the festivals provided a significant return. Research demonstrated that local businesses benefitted to the economic value of £50 for every £1 invested by Council and that 5,000 local jobs were maintained in the city by the hosting of the festivals.
- The engine of continuing success was the quality of programming. Ambitions for the year marking the 70th anniversary of the first Edinburgh festival included organising highly accessible spectacles to animate public spaces, the movement of the festival into new areas of the city, to act as an enabler of high quality Scottish works and to take aspects of the festival on tour to advertise the product.
- The festivals currently opened up opportunities for young people city-wide by working with schools and universities through the science, book, film and jazz festivals.
- The festivals in Edinburgh were interdependent with the city's cultural venues, and educational, community and cultural sectors.
- The festivals were an asset that could provide wider skills development opportunities for young people. A new volunteering scheme was scheduled to be launched in 2017.

Decision

To note the presentation and to thank Julia Amour for her contribution.

6. David Greig, Artistic Director of the Royal Lyceum Theatre

David Greig (Artistic Director of the Royal Lyceum Theatre) gave a presentation on the work of the Royal Lyceum Theatre. The following was highlighted.

- The Artistic Director's first programme had been announced the previous day and performances would begin in September 2016.
- In the times of the Ancient Greeks a civic theatre had two purposes, the first was as place to gather and watch plays on issues that were important to that day, the second was as a democratic space to take votes and discuss matters. This meshing of democracy and storytelling was how a civic theatre should work.
- The theatre was one of the last arenas in the age of social media where humans actually encountered each other, therefore providing a rare opportunity to exercise their civic presence.
- Over the previous decade the Royal Lyceum Theatre had operated as a regional British theatre displaying local works for short runs. This model was no longer appropriate as productions were now exported and imported from other cities following their initial run. Devolution had also seen Edinburgh grow into as a capital city.
- It was the vision that the Royal Lyceum Theatre would step-up to being the main civic space of a capital city. Most big city theatres had three spaces, as this allowed for different types of plays to be put on in different sized performance spaces. The Lyceum should reflect this approach.
- It was the desire of the Artistic Director to take productions to people around the city and to throw open the doors of the theatre to engage with other organisations such as the Science Festival.
- The vision for the Royal Lyceum Theatre would require additional funding. At the moment funds came chiefly from private sources. The vision presented was, however, a long term project and it was hoped the Council and Creative Scotland would buy into this.
- There was potential for creativity and flexibility in how building infrastructure was utilised to release funds.

Decision

To note the presentation and to thank David Greig for his contribution.

Declaration of Interests

Councillors Lewis and Doran declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as Non-Executive Directors of the Royal Lyceum Theatre Company.

7. Encouraging Live Music in Edinburgh - Update

An update was provided on activities surrounding Live Music; including a consultation relating to a possible amendment to current licensing policy, steps taken to address the recommendations made in the Music Venues Trust independent report, and actions carried out by the Music is Audible Working Group; covering the period since October 2015.

Decision

- 1) To note that the Licensing Board had agreed to consult on the terms of its current policy on amplified music in licensed premises until 22 July 2016, with results expected in August 2016.
- 2) To note that the Music is Audible Working Group had begun a communication exercise to encourage music sector involvement in the consultation process.
- 3) To note that work was underway to address the recommendations made in an independent report by the Music Venue Trust, commissioned by the Music is Audible Working Group, and that work would continue to implement these as work strands and ensure key milestones were achieved.
- 4) To note the details and outcome of a case taken to the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman by a nightclub venue regarding a planning condition relating to new builds and noise protection.
- 5) To note the work that members of the Music is Audible Working Group had undertaken in presenting and sharing information and findings relating to the provision of live music in the city, with a view to fostering an environment in which live music could flourish.
- 6) To note that due to amendments in Scottish Government legislation, the Edinburgh Licensing Board was no longer required to publish its new Statement of Licensing Policy by 30 November 2016 as previously reported.

(References – minute of the Culture and Sport Committee 8 March 2016 (item 7); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted).

8. A new Events Strategy for Edinburgh

A new Events Strategy for Edinburgh, following an independently led review of the Council's existing Events Strategy, was presented.

Motion

- 1) To approve the adoption of the new Events Strategy.
 - 2) To note that the report on each year's proposed core programme of festivals and events would now include an update on the delivery of the new Events Strategy.
- Moved by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Austin Hart.

Amendment

"Committee:

- 1) Notes that the proposed events strategy has not been to public consultation, despite the fact that many events covered by the strategy will take place in public spaces and will therefore have an impact on the public;
- 2) Therefore agrees to go to public consultation on the draft strategy, and to bring a further report back to committee on the outcome of that public consultation once it has concluded.”

- Moved by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Mowat.

Voting

For the motion	7
For the amendment	5

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Lewis.

(References – minute of the Culture and Sport Committee 8 March 2016 (item 11); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Whyte declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as the Chairman of the Edinburgh March Riding Association.

9. BT Sport Scottish Rugby Academy: proposed lease of pitches and a changing pavilion in Sighthill Park

Approval in principle was sought to lease the five sports pitches and a changing pavilion in Sighthill Park to Edinburgh Napier University to help support the BT Sport Scottish Rugby Academy – a partnership project between Scottish Rugby and Edinburgh Napier University.

Decision

- 1) To note that the Council had upgraded the changing pavilion in Sighthill Park within the previously approved budget of £50,000.
- 2) To note that Edinburgh Leisure, working with the Council’s Parks Service, had changed the layout of the five pitches in the Park to accommodate rugby as well as football.
- 3) To note that the BT Sport Scottish Rugby Academy Edinburgh, a partnership project between Scottish Rugby and Edinburgh Napier University, started operating in April 2015.
- 4) To approve the principle of the Council leasing five pitches and a changing pavilion in Sighthill Park to Edinburgh Napier University.

- 5) To request that full details of the lease were presented to the Culture and Sport Committee for consideration prior to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval of the leasing arrangements.

(References – minute of the Culture and Sport Committee 10 March 2015 (item 6); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Lewis declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as Vice-Chairman of Edinburgh Leisure.

Councillors Booth, Cairns and Doran declared a non-financial interest as Directors of Edinburgh Leisure.

10. Update on Hunter's Hall Project: Cycling Hub, Synthetic Pitches and Upgrading of Jack Kane Centre.

A progress update was provided on the Hunter's Hall Project to develop a cycling hub, synthetic pitches and to upgrade the Jack Kane Sports and Community Education Centre. A public consultation had been carried out in accordance with Planning requirements and results were detailed.

Decision

- 1) To note the progress made on the Hunter's Hall Project since 18 August 2015.
- 2) To note the results of the further public consultation carried out in accordance with Planning requirements.
- 3) To note the fundraising for the project was ongoing to address a funding gap of just over £1.7m

(References – minute of the Culture and Sport Committee 18 August 2015 (item 9); report by the Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Lewis declared a non-financial interest in the foregoing item as Vice-Chairman of Edinburgh Leisure.

Councillors Booth and Cairns declared a non-financial interest as Directors of Edinburgh Leisure.

11. Corporate Performance Framework: Performance to March 2016

An update on Council performance against Culture and Sport strategic outcomes covering the period from April 2015 to March 2016 was provided.

Decision

To note the performance for the period to March 2016.

(References – minute of the Culture and Sport Committee 26 May 2015 (item 8); joint report by the Executive Director of Place and Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families, submitted.)

12. Joanne Lennon

The Convener advised that Joanne Lennon would be leaving the Council and thanked her on behalf of the Committee for her significant contribution she had made in her role as Departmental Assistant to the Committee.