

10am, Thursday, 20 September 2018

## Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Tramways Act 1920

Item number	8.3
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Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	<a href="#">Delivering a Council that works for all</a>

### Executive Summary

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The Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Tramways Act of 1920 was an important piece of legislation which led to a major expansion of the city's boundaries. This report sets out a project proposal and associated costs to ensure this event can be celebrated through a series of outreach and community focused events.

## Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Tramways Act 1920

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 To note project proposals and business case to celebrate the centenary of the Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Tramways Act 1920.
- 1.2 To agree in principle to underwrite the project to a maximum of £100,000. Any Council spend required above that achieved through sponsorship will be approved by the Finance and Resources Committee.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 The Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Tramways Act 1920 was an important piece of legislation which created a major expansion of the city's boundaries. For the first time the Barony of Corstorphine, the Burgh of Leith and civil parishes of Colinton (including Longstone), Cramond and Liberton (including Gilmerton) were incorporated into the city's boundaries.
- 2.2 Given the major significance of the event and forthcoming centenary, a Member/Officer Working Group has been established to explore how the extension's anniversary can be celebrated in 2020. The Group is chaired by the Lord Provost and includes elected members who represent each of the Political Groups, and officers from the Council's Records and Archives Section.
- 2.3 As part of the work of the Member/Officer Working Group, a business case has been developed which sets out how the City of Edinburgh Council proposes to celebrate the centenary of the Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Tramways Act of 1920. The business case is attached as an appendix to this report.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 The business case details several core deliverables, but the overall aim is to create a series of events and resources that will show visitors and residents alike what life was like across the city in 1920. This will include the development of physical and on-line exhibitions, resource packs for schools, competitions, and a series of planned civic events throughout 2020.

- 3.2 These outreach initiatives will be complimented through collaboration and engagement with local history and community groups to encourage the sharing and celebration of heritage, with the aim of increasing community cohesion and identity.
- 3.3 To make this happen, a temporary project officer would need to be recruited to undertake the research, stakeholder management and collaborative resource development. Including costs for materials, it is estimated that the project could cost approximately £100,000.

#### **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 A series of events and resources that celebrate the centenary of the Edinburgh Boundaries Extension Act of 1920, with high levels of community engagement.

#### **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 It is proposed that the Council will underwrite the project to a maximum of £100,000 which will be met from the Council's Priorities Fund. It is anticipated that this figure will be at least partly off-set through external funding and sponsorship opportunities.

#### **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 To ensure appropriate levels of oversight and scrutiny, it is proposed that the current Member/Officer Working Group acts as the project board for the duration of the project, and that the project continues to be led by the Records and Archives Section.

#### **7. Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 As a community engagement exercise that will support, celebrate and seek to preserve local heritage and promote access to city wide heritage resources, it is anticipated that the project will have a positive impact of the cultural rights of Edinburgh's citizens and communities.
- 7.2 Success in this project will therefore support outcome 1.4 of the Council's "Equality, Diversity and Rights Framework 2017-2021" to improve access to the city's cultural, sporting and physical activity services.

#### **8. Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 There are no sustainability issues arising from this report.

## 9. Consultation and engagement

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- 9.1 Project success will require high levels of community support and engagement (including schools) and would be a central requirement of the project.

## 10. Background reading/external references

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- 10.1 None.

**Andrew Kerr**

Chief Executive

Contact: Kevin Wilbraham, Information Governance and Strategic Complaints Manager

Email: [kevin.wilbraham@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.wilbraham@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 469 6174

Contact: Henry Sullivan, Information Asset Manager

Email: [henry.sullivan@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:henry.sullivan@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 469 6174

## 11. Appendix

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- 11.1 Business Case - Edinburgh Boundaries Extension Centenary 2020

## **Appendix: Business Case - Edinburgh Boundaries Extension Centenary 2020**

### **1.0 Project Rationale / Purpose**

This initial Business Case has been produced to set out a rationale for how the City of Edinburgh Council proposes to celebrate the centenary of the Edinburgh Boundaries Extension Act of 1920.

It sets out to address in basic terms:

- The initial thinking behind the proposal
- the Business Drivers/Justifications
- the Organisational context of the proposal
- anticipated benefits / outcomes
- Identification of Risks/Constraints to the project

### **2.0 Proposal Description**

The 1920 Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Tramways Act was a pivotal piece of legislation which saw the boundaries of the city expand threefold from 17 square miles to 53 square miles. It extended to incorporate several surrounding burghs and parishes. These were:

- Barony of Corstorphine
- Burgh of Leith
- Colinton Civil Parish, which included Longstone
- Cramond Civil Parish
- Liberton Civil Parish, which included Gilmerton

The centennial gives the city an opportunity to celebrate the separate but interdependent identities and histories of these areas in a community affirming and engaging way.

The core aims of the project therefore will be to celebrate the anniversary within the communities that came into the city in 1920, and to create a series of events and resources that show visitors and residents alike what life was like across the city at the time.

This will be done through outreach initiatives that will be based on research and use of original historical sources. However, this will be complimented through collaboration with local history and community groups to encourage the sharing and celebration of heritage, with the aim of increasing community cohesion and supporting intergenerational engagement.

By showing what each area was like before and after the extension, we can bring to life the experiences of those living there in their work, travel, retail, leisure and education. By focusing on the evolving history of individual streets in these communities we can also tie the experience of the anniversary to a physical continuity that people of all ages and backgrounds can relate to.

Core deliverables of the project would be:

- City-wide 'Edinburgh in 1920' exhibition, which will tour around the city and be accessible online in some form (e.g. mobile app or interactive website) – developed in partnership with other internal and external stakeholders – such as Museums and Libraries, as well as relevant national and city based archive institutions
- Audio / visual element to the exhibitions including moving image archival footage and oral history recordings relevant to each community or the city itself in 1920.

- Localised community focused temporary exhibitions and resources centring on each of the communities that came into the city in 1920 – developed in collaboration with local history / heritage groups and schools with the aim of incorporating an intergenerational approach.
- Oral history and photography projects within each community.
- Classes to local heritage groups around how to collect and preserve local archival material.
- Educational / school resource – a resource for teachers city-wide to explore both source material from 1920 and to discuss what source materials they would preserve to represent their communities today.
- Celebration events in each community on or near the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November date of when the original act came into force to culminate the year of celebrations, with a central civic event held by the Lord Provost.
- School art projects to design new community flags, which would be displayed in the celebration events

To achieve the above deliverables, a temporary project officer would need to be recruited to undertake the research, stakeholder management and collaborative resource development. Ideally the officer should have an archive or heritage background with experience in engagement and outreach.

#### **Project delivery:**

The project would start in January 2019 and finish in December 2020 for 24 months. To ensure appropriate levels of oversight and scrutiny, the current Member/Officer Working Group would act as the project board for the duration of the project. The project would continue to be led by the Records and Archives Section.

During the early part of the project, the project officer could seek additional funding from external funding bodies. If successful, this additional funding could either offset some of the Council's costs or potentially expand the project to create more permanent legacies of the centenary, such as permanent exhibits in community spaces within each area as a cultural place making exercise and a celebration of their local histories.

### **3.0 Business Drivers**

The drivers behind this project include:

- Desire of the city and community to celebrate the centenary of the extension
- Recognition that much of the city's cultural assets are city centre based, but some collections and material have strong connections to the city's communities outside of the centre
- Exploring how to organise and celebrate culture and heritage through the localities model by involving communities within each of the 4 localities
- Supporting schools with the curriculum for excellence's drive for local cultural and heritage awareness in its Social Studies curriculum area
- Improving the sense of belonging and intergenerational engagement within local communities and enhance relations between CEC's cultural services and its residents

### **4.0 Organisational Context**

This project would reflect upon many of the Council's key strategic aims, including that of:

- Wanting Edinburgh to be a vibrant and thriving city with a unique heritage, leading economy and a world-renowned reputation for culture and sport

- For Edinburgh to be a city in which everyone has access to opportunities to live fulfilling lives and ensure no one is left behind
- Wanting Edinburgh to be a city that is resilient with citizens that are protected and supported with access to sustainable and well-maintained facilities
- And for CEC to be a council which empowers our citizens to take action, participate and make decisions for themselves

The project would also require joint partnership working with other internal service providers (Museums and Libraries), as well as external providers such as Midlothian Archives, National Records of Scotland, National Library of Scotland/Moving Image Archive, Edinburgh University Special Collections, Lothian Health Services Archives. Collaboration with and support of the third sector would also be a key theme – with involvement from local history and community groups being integral to the project’s success.

The project would need to be ready to deliver on its outcomes by the beginning of 2020, to continue throughout the year, ending with a reception hosted by the Lord Provost with representatives from each of the key areas amalgamated in 1920.

## 5.0 Anticipated Benefits and Outcomes

Anticipated benefits to the Council include:

- Greater awareness of each area’s community identity and history by visitors and residents alike
- Higher profile for CEC’s cultural assets amongst its communities; helping them see those assets, so often see in national and international contexts, as being theirs
- Greater awareness amongst school children of Edinburgh’s different communities and their history
- Greater awareness amongst school children of Edinburgh’s cultural assets

## 6.0 Research

Some initial research has already been undertaken by Edinburgh City Archives, whereby original unique records on the Extension Act are preserved. These include official Town Council records from the time, as well as various community responses, and Parliamentary proceeding material.

It is known that further materials will be held within the Council’s Library and Museums services, as well as in Midlothian Archives. Resources such as photographs, newspapers, Post Office and Trade Directories, Maps, and local/community collection will all need to be researched and collated to ensure the success of the project.

## 7.0 Risks

The project will follow the approved City of Edinburgh Council’s Risk Management Procedure and use its own risk register to evidence and monitor risk management and to put in place controls to ensure we manage the project’s risk robustly.

Anticipated risks include:

- Lack of adequate funding to allow the project to deliver on its projected outcomes
- Reputational damage to the Council and its cultural services if the project fails to engage fully with local and community groups, and cover a diverse section of the city’s residents

- Potential lack of support or engagement from some local communities/areas of the city which will lead to unbalanced and under-represented areas of the city
- Failure to provide a lasting legacy from the project, with no long-term or permanent means of supporting a more permanent exhibition or ways for the communities to recognise their cultural assets and heritage

## 8.0 Management

The project will be overseen by a Board made up of the Lord Provost, elected members and representatives from the Council's Strategy & Insight Division. The Board may also include representatives from Libraries/Museums as well as community and education representatives from each area.

It is anticipated that the Project Officer will oversee the daily running of the project, with the said Officer reporting to the Information Asset Manager.

In line with the proposed activities and deliverables of the project, it is recommended that the Project Officer is recruited at Grade 7 level. This ensures necessary skills and expertise which are essential to the project will be met, with previous project work being desirable.

## 9.0 Costs

Approximate costs for these deliverables:

- Temporary project officer (Grade 7) - approximately £40,000 for 12 months or approximately £80,000 for 24 months
- Display boards and design for city-wide exhibition - approximately £1,500
- Display boards and design for localised exhibitions - £5,000 (£1,000 for each area)
- Archival / Museum quality display cases for localised exhibitions - approximately £15,000 (2 display cases in each area)
- Website / app design for online city-wide exhibition - approximately £5,000

Not included are any IT equipment costs or travel costs for the project officer, or transport costs for moving exhibitions. Some of the above costs might be reduced or already be covered through spare capacity elsewhere within the Council. Any savings could be kept for grants to community / local history groups.

Additional or matched funding may be available from external funding streams (e.g. HLF).

## 10.0 What does success look like?

A programme of events during 2020 based on a wide variety of historical source material that celebrates and engages with the communities of Colinton, Corstorphine, Cramond, Gilmerton, Leith, Liberton and Longstone on the centennial of their joining Edinburgh. By the end of the programme, each area should have a resource that promotes their identity and their community's ongoing history. Ideally each area should also feel that they can and should contribute to the city's cultural assets and know how to do so.

Finally, the city has an attractive and popular mobile exhibition on what life was like in Edinburgh in 1920 that has toured across the city and could be used again in a variety of corporate, civic and educational settings.