

Culture and Communities Committee

3.00pm, Thursday, 11 October 2018

Invitation to Attend the World Cities Culture Forum

Item number	4.2
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All
Council Commitments	46

Executive Summary

This report provides details of an invitation received by the Lord Provost to attend the World Cities Culture Forum in San Francisco in November 2018. The report asks the Committee for approval to accept the invitation.

Invitation to Attend the World Cities Culture Forum

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to approve the invitation to the Lord Provost to attend the World Cities Culture Forum in San Francisco in November 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 Edinburgh is a member of the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF), an international network of cultural policy-makers that allows members to share research and intelligence. The forum provides a unique platform for Edinburgh to share practice with other major cultural cities while also learning from others what challenges and opportunities they face.
- 2.2 Edinburgh is an active participant within the network, having been invited to join in 2015. At previous meetings, the Director of Culture has presented on the City's Culture Plan, Music is Audible programme, 70th Anniversary of the Edinburgh Festivals and the City Region Deal.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The Lord Provost has received an invitation from the Mayor of San Francisco to attend the WCCF meeting in San Francisco from 14-16 November 2018.
- 3.2 The theme of the meeting will be 'Culture and New Technologies Transforming World Cities'.
- 3.3 Thirty-five cities will be represented at the meeting, which will focus on ways of bringing culture and technology together in a people-centred approach to support sustainable urban development, and delivering equality of access in the cultural sector. The summit will also include a public session open to regional, cultural and creative industry leaders.
- 3.4 The Director of Culture and a representative from the University of Edinburgh have also been invited, and approval from the University and the Executive Director of Place has been granted for their attendance. The University's work on the creative digital economy is a key element of the City Region Deal partnership with the Council and addresses the culture and new technologies theme of this meeting.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 A feedback report on the visit will be provided to the January 2019 meeting of this Committee in accordance with Council procedures.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Accommodation for the three-day duration of the forum will be provided by the City of San Francisco. Costs for travel will be met from within the existing budget for the Lord Provost's office.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The actions and outputs described in this report adhere to the risk compliance policy and governance arrangements. In addition, the recommendations in the report do not impact on any existing policies of the Council.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are no direct equalities impacts arising from this report.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Travel arrangements will be made by the Council and will be in accordance with the Council's Sustainable Travel Plan. While there are adverse impacts on air quality and noise associated with air travel, overland travel is not considered to be practical given the time implications.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 There is no consultation or engagement required for this report.

10. Background reading/external references

10.1 [World Cities Culture Forum site](#)

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11. Appendices

None.