

Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee

10am, Tuesday, 26 February 2019

Office of Lord Provost: International and UK Engagements

Item number	7.6
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	City Wide
Council Commitments	2,6,15,18,29,31,43,46 and 51

Executive Summary

The Office of Lord Provost is in receipt of a large number of requests to attend and support a wide range of International and UK wide engagements.

This reflects the civic role of the Lord Provost/Lord Lieutenant in creating, maintaining and nurturing international and national links to the benefit of the city as a whole.

Whilst work is still underway to devise and implement an International Strategy for the Council, this report presents a forward programme of engagements for 2019 under a set of key themes for consideration and approval by the Committee.

Office of Lord Provost: International and UK Engagements

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1.1 notes the intention to develop a new International Strategy for the city in due course;
- 1.2 notes the key role of the Lord Provost as the City's "First Citizen" in the active promotion of Edinburgh at home and abroad;
- 1.3 approves the programme of civic engagements in 2019 set out in Table 1 of this report; and
- 1.4 agrees to consider further external civic engagements as they arise.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Lord Provost's role as the City's 'First Citizen' in the active promotion of Edinburgh at home and abroad was set out in the Office of Lord Provost: Year One Report 2017/18 to Full Council on 23 August 2018.
- 2.2 Measures to promote the city on the international stage were welcomed and the general direction of travel, including the further development of civic links with Shenzhen in China, was endorsed by Council. (see also the Committee's 4 December 2018 Business Bulletin Item 6.1 on the connection with Shenzhen). http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4597/corporate_policy_and_strategy_committee
- 2.3 This report looks forward to prospective international and UK engagements in 2019 and presents these within a strategic context for the Committee to consider. A number of visits which have already been declined are also detailed for background information.

3. Main report

- 3.1 Edinburgh has a highly influential role on the international stage with key reciprocal benefits such as inward investment and tourism. The city is having to compete though to maintain and develop its position in an increasingly globalised and congested market-place.

- 3.2 The consequences of Brexit are also likely to bring significant change and a greater requirement for solid and strategic international connections.
- 3.3 Work is therefore already underway to develop a new International Strategy in a linkage with the Scottish Government’s International Framework. Together with key partners and stakeholders, the Council can contribute significantly at Scottish level whilst driving Edinburgh forward as an internationally outward looking city.
- 3.4 This is especially the case for Edinburgh’s Festivals, businesses and universities which work very closely with the national Scottish agencies. For the Council, a new international approach will help to deliver the coalition commitment to *deliver an economy for all*, and business plan aim that *supports businesses and ensures Edinburgh continues to be a city that provides opportunities for employment, innovation, growth and investment*.
- 3.5 As close working with Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Development International and other key interests goes ahead over a period of time, there is already an imminent programme of international and UK civic engagements in prospect. These reflect the importance of the city’s civic role in creating, maintaining and nurturing international civic links.
- 3.6 Rather than delay any further the decision making on these engagements, the Committee is asked to recognise the “soft power” and value of the Lord Provost (and his/her civic representatives) when engaging directly with interested partners at home and abroad on matters of key importance to the city.
- 3.7 In anticipation of a new International Strategy which will articulate fully the explicit links between civic connections and cultural and economic opportunities, the forthcoming engagements for the Lord Provost (and Lord Lieutenant) are set out under four main themes of:
- Festivals and Civic Events
 - City Partnerships
 - Urban Development; and
 - Urban Heritage Conservation
- 3.8 Detail of the engagements in 2019 which the Lord Provost intends to undertake are set out in Table 1 below, using this classification. Invitations which have already been declined are also included for information in Table 2.

TABLE 1: Lord Provost International and UK Engagements 2019

Destination	Dates	Theme
Brussels - invitation to the 2nd EUROCITIES Mayors' Summit on the future of Europe	20 - 21 March 2019	Urban Development
Portsmouth to Rosyth - HMS Elizabeth - to join the ship in Portsmouth and disembark at Rosyth	1 April - 3 April 2019	Festivals and Civic Events

Krakow, Poland - Invitation to speak at the 5th European Congress of Local Governments	8 - 9 April 2019	City Partnerships
Windsor Guildhall, UK - Guest of Honour Invitation from the Mayor of Windsor and Maidenhead to War Horse Memorial Trust Reception	8 - 9 May 2019	Festivals and Civic Events
Shenzhen, China - Smart City Forum with International Friendship. To include the signing of a Dual City Agreement and continued involvement with Edinburgh International Investments, the University Joint Venture Co.	14 -15 May 2019	City Partnerships
St James's Palace and Buckingham Palace, London – AGM of the Association of Lord Lieutenants and HM's Garden Party	20 - 21 May 2019	Festivals and Civic Events
Oslo, Norway - personal invitation from the Governing Mayor of the City of Oslo to the URBAN FUTURE Global Conference	16 - 18 September	Urban Development
Krakow, Poland - 15th World Congress of the Organisation of World Heritage Cities	2 - 5 June 2019	Urban Heritage Conservation
Avenches, Switzerland - Official invitation to the premiere of the Avenches Tattoo as guest of honour.	5 - 7 September 2019	Festivals and Civic Events
Fabriano, Italy - XIII Annual Conference of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network - theme of "The Ideal City"	10 - 15 June 2019	Urban Heritage Conservation
Sydney, Australia - invitation to the Tattoo	Oct-19	Festivals and Civic Events

Table 2: Declined Visits

Nice, France – Carnival of Nice – personal invitation to the Opening Ceremony	16 February 2019
Taipei – 2019 Smart City Summit and Expo	26 - 29 March 2019
Lebanon – Waste Management Conference 2019. Invited as guest speaker	9 - 10 April 2019
2019 Asia – European Creative Innovative Cities Alliance Mayors' Summit	28 - 30 October 2019

3.9 The Committee is asked to approve the engagements set out in Table 1 above so that the necessary travel and other arrangements can now be put into place.

4. Financial impact

- 4.1 Based on previous visits it is reasonable to assume that the costs of a proportion of these visits will be met by the hosts or event organisers. Otherwise the costs arising from these engagements will be contained within the Lord Provost's agreed civic budget.

5. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 5.1 There are no adverse risks or policy impacts associated with this report. Outputs from the proposed programme of work as outlined in this report, and where appropriate, will be reported to the relevant Committee as required.

6. Equalities impact

- 6.1 There are no equalities impacts as a result of this report.

7. Sustainability impact

- 7.1 Proposals contained in this report, contribute to the delivery of Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 objectives, the advancement of vibrant flourishing communities, social and economic wellbeing and an efficient and effectively managed city.
- 7.2 Travel arrangements associated with the proposed programme of domestic and international civic visits will be undertaken mindful of the Council's commitments on carbon reduction.

8. Consultation and engagement

- 8.1 Programmes for domestic and international civic visits are co-produced with event organisers as required. Any formal inputs from the Lord Provost, including speeches and presentations, are the subject of engagement with the relevant interested parties.

9. Background reading/external references

- 9.1 Scottish Government's International Framework
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-international-framework-9781788514033/>

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10. Appendices

None