

Culture and Communities Committee

3.00pm, Thursday 11 October 2018

Local Festivals and Events Fund Update

Item number	4.1
Report number	
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Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the local festivals and events programme being delivered through the Council's Culture Service budget.

The programme is aligned with the Council's Events Strategy which was reported and approved at the [Culture and Sport Committee on 31 May 2016](#). The Strategy is designed to provide a positive mix of new and well established cultural and sporting events which promote Edinburgh as a vibrant, contemporary, international city.

Local Festivals and Events Fund Update

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee:
 - 1.1.1 notes the update on the Local Festivals and Events Fund;
 - 1.1.2 approves £50,000 towards Scot:Lands; and
 - 1.1.3 approves £45,000 towards LeithLate Festival (£20,000 in 2018/19; £15,000 in 2019/20; £10,000 in 2020/21).

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Events Strategy, as approved by the [Culture and Sport Committee on 31 May 2016](#), is designed to provide a positive mix of new and well established cultural and sporting events which promote Edinburgh as a vibrant, contemporary international city. The Strategy adopts a 3 tier approach to the development of the city's events programme. The programme of events and festivals for 2018/19 is aligned with the Strategy and has been devised in consultation with the Events Champions.
- 2.2 The main elements of the 2018/19 were approved at the [Culture and Communities Committee of 20 March 2018](#).
- 2.3 At the [20 March 2018](#) meeting of the Culture and Communities Committee, the Convener and Vice Convener agreed to establish the City-wide Festivals and Events Fund. £60,000 was identified to specifically fund local festivals and events.

3. Main report

Local Festival and Events Fund Update

- 3.1 The Local Festivals and Events Fund is a new, £60,000 annual fund to be allocated to established and successful mid-scale Edinburgh festivals and events which are not currently funded by the Council.
- 3.2 This fund identifies and supports local events, responds to requests for funding from local festivals and events, and delivers against tier 3 of the [Events Strategy](#). Any events considered for support must fulfil the criteria listed within the Events Strategy. Under the strategy, in consultation with the Events Champions, officers will have delegated authority to allocate this budget to those projects meeting the criteria for funding.

- 3.3 The funding is intended for festivals and events which have the capacity to make demonstrable developmental use of the funds and have been taking place for a number of years without the resources to further develop to the level of their ambition.
- 3.4 These organisations are carefully chosen to ensure a broad cross section of interest. The recipients are identified and agreed on an annual basis by the Culture and Communities Committee membership. The delivery of fund is supported by Culture Service officers.
- 3.5 In June 2018, the Convener and Vice Convener, on behalf of the Committee, invited organisations to apply for a grant of up to £10,000 each to further develop and realise their programme ambitions. Six organisations successfully applied to the fund and were approved by the Convener and Vice Convener.
- 3.6 The following organisations have received funding of £10,000:
 - 3.6.1 Chinese New Year (9 February 2019);
 - 3.6.2 Edinburgh Pipe Band Championships (23 June 2019);
 - 3.6.3 Edinburgh Riding of the Marches (16 September 2018);
 - 3.6.4 Diwali (3 November 2018);
 - 3.6.5 History Festival (September 2018 - 2019); and
 - 3.6.6 Hidden Door (30 May – 2 June 2019).

Scot:Lands

- 3.7 Scot:Lands was a critically acclaimed element of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, inviting audiences to discover secret venues and curated performances across both the Old and New Town, leading visitors on a cultural journey through Edinburgh's historic city centre.
- 3.8 Delivered by Unique Events, Scot:Lands will return in January 2019 with a new festival and multi-venue culture trail, celebrating the life and legacy of Robert Burns, showcasing specially curated traditional and contemporary arts and culture from Scotland's leading artists and organisations.
- 3.9 A reimagined weekend programme will feature the best of contemporary Scottish culture from across the country, with audiences being invited on a journey of artistic discovery, reflecting on contemporary Scottish culture through the lens of Robert Burns, incorporating themes, ideas and topics that the Baird used in his famous work.

- 3.10 The Scot:Lands culture trail will return as a new stand-alone event on the evening of Saturday 26 January, embracing and collaborating with Edinburgh's landmark buildings and arts organisations into an exhilarating weekend programme of events and activities, showcasing the very best in music, art, theatre and dance, conceived, created and curated by some of Scotland's most innovative artists and musicians, all within alternative venues and spaces within Edinburgh's Old and New Towns.
- 3.11 The full weekend will be launched in November, with a full programme of ticketed, free events and activities taking place over Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 January 2019, including live performance, art, dance, light installations, hands-on activities, workshops and family friendly entertainment for all.
- 3.12 An allocation of £50,000 from the Events Budget is recommended for the delivery of Scot:Lands. Event Scotland is already a partner funder, and the full event delivery will be dependent on match-funding of £50,000 to be considered by Creative Scotland in mid-October 2018.

LeithLate Festival

- 3.13 LeithLate Festival is a programme of visual art, theatre, poetry and live music, as well as mural tours and a public poetry trail. The most recent LeithLate Festival utilised unusual Leith spaces for art and theatre installations, such as a former Police Box, charity shop, Trinity House's underground vaults at the Kirkgate, social enterprise curry house Punjabi Junction, and the Leith Walk Launderette.
- 3.14 The Festival is an important element of the Leith community and has faced financial uncertainty due to its dependence on a freelance practitioner's individual commitment and a volunteering model for delivery.
- 3.15 Investment in Leith Late will acknowledge the impact and relevance of the event and will support their artistic development model for city-based artist participation. It will also provide capacity to deliver partnership funding development and sustainable business modelling including succession planning and event profile/evaluation programmes. While such investment will allow the event to move away from the uncertainty and pressures of a primarily volunteer-based model, volunteers would still be involved as an important element of community participation.
- 3.16 An allocation of £20,000 from the Events Budget in 2018/19, £15,000 in 2019/20 and £10,000 in 2019/20 is recommended for the delivery of LeithLate.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 The success of these events and festivals will be assessed by the most appropriate measures for each individual project, including number of spectators, number of participants, sustained physical activity by residents, social media profile, economic impact and equivalent advertising values of any media coverage and partnership funding.

- 4.2 The programme contributes to the delivery of the Events Strategy and the following Culture Plan objectives:
- 4.2.1 Support greater partnership working in the cultural and creative sectors and maximise resources available to help them thrive all year round; and
 - 4.2.2 Ensure that everyone has access to world class cultural provision.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The contributions to events listed in this report can be contained in the Events budget for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 All the events described in this report meet the Council's Events Strategy criteria and fit with the aims of the National Events Strategy. There are no risk, policy, compliance or governance impacts arising from this report.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 The proposed events described in this report were selected using criteria which include quality of life for people across the city.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The impacts of this report have been considered in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties, and the outcomes are summarised as follows: the proposals in this report will have no significant impact on carbon emissions; be neutral in relation to climate change; and will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh through the promotion of the city nationally and internationally, positive economic impact and contributions to the quality of life and well-being of residents.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The Council has engaged with the relevant partners and event promoters to develop and deliver these proposals.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [Festival and Events Core Programme 2016 and Some Events in 2017 and 2018 report](#) -Culture and Sport Committee, 30 November 2015
- 10.2 [Approved 2017-18 - 2020-21 Revenue Budget and 2017-18 - 2021-22 Capital Investment Programme - plans for supplementary investment report](#) – Finance and Resources Committee, 23 March 2017
- 10.3 [Festival and Events Core Programme 2017-18](#) –Culture and Communities Committee, 14 November 2017

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11. Appendices

None.