

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	10 October 2012
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	City of Culture 2017 Sub Committee
REPORT NUMBER:	OCE/12/025

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report sets out the proposed arrangements for the establishment of a City of Culture 2017 Sub Committee, explaining the purpose and remit of the Committee, and the anticipated timescales for the submission of a bid.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Council:

- (a) Approves the establishment of the City of Culture 2017 Sub Committee.
- (b) Approves the remit of the Sub Committee as appended to the report
- (c) Approves the membership of the Committee as comprising group leaders and the Lord Provost, with officer support as described in the body of the report.
- (d) Appoints a Chair of the Sub Committee.
- (e) Agrees that the Sub Committee will meet once per Committee cycle, with the date of the first meeting being set in consultation with the Chair.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012, Council approved revenue expenditure of £149,620 in 2012/13 and £392,370 in 2013/14 in support of the development of a bid for UK City of Culture 2017. The report also identified the following:

Additional support

- Dedicated staff time to support the bid team as required across the directorates.
- The existing contribution to culture and sport commissioned services and staff time.
- The current Council investment in cultural and sports grants valued at £479,029 in 2011/12 will support the community

based cultural organisations to achieve the step change required.

#### External support

- Previous bidding cities have received additional support from their respective national tourism and events bodies: research suggests that this may be the case for Aberdeen bidding for the UK City of Culture 2017 title.
- External staff and in kind support from cultural partners in Scotland's cities, the local Universities, the national performing companies and local cultural organisations.
- The bid development team includes an officer with a specific remit to raise funds from external partners to support the bid development and programme.

The estimated costs of delivering a UK City of Culture programme in 2017 will be included in the draft initial bid, and be brought to a future committee for consideration.

Creative Scotland has committed additional financial support of £250,000 to support the City's placemaking aspirations: this will complement the development of a bid. This funding will also support the current Cultural Asset mapping work commissioned by the Council.

Should the recommendations in this report be approved, the Sub Committee will require the support of Committee Services.

## 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other identified implications at this stage.

## 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

### 5.1 Council approval

5.1.1 On 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012 Council approved a series of recommendations with regard to a bid for UK City of Culture 2017, to be submitted by Aberdeen City Council. The report highlighted the benefits to be gained from the bidding process, and the likely requirement that a bid should be led, coordinated and submitted by Aberdeen City Council to meet the requirements of the DCMS (Department of Culture, Media and Sport)

### 5.2 Timescales

5.2.1 Officers are still awaiting publication of the guidance for the bid process for UK City of Culture 2017. The opening of the competition was expected to have been announced in the summer of 2012 to coincide with the 2012 Olympic celebrations. However, this delay has not affected the Councils ability to progress with implementing the

necessary arrangements which will enable us to develop a bid, with the phased bidding process expected to be completed by winter 2013, with the final stage of the competition to be held in Derry towards the end of their year of UK City of Culture in 2013.

### **5.3 Progress to date**

- 5.3.1 All job descriptions pertaining to the bid team, as described in the Council report of 13<sup>th</sup> June, have been completed and are in the process of being evaluated. The UK City of Culture Bid Manager interviews will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> November, with all further appointments to follow. Officers are currently working on the business case for the UK City of Culture 'public face', and have commissioned research to support the expenditure for the Creative Scotland placemaking funding allocation. This Cultural assets mapping work will be completed in spring 2012 and will significantly inform the programming and capital infrastructure requirements for a bid.

Currently, criteria for the expenditure of cultural grants are being considered for the period 2013/14, which will support the step change required to evidence our capabilities. The EU funded project, Lively Cities, and other international partnership projects are enabling officers to develop innovative and original projects which will also support that step change.

### **5.4 Remit of the UK City of Culture Sub Committee**

- 5.4.1 This Council report provides a remit for the UK City of Culture Sub Committee which will provide a robust framework of governance and reporting for the bid.

The UK City of Culture Sub Committee will have the lead responsibility to monitor and oversee all aspects relating to Aberdeen City Council's lead role in a bid for UK City of Culture 2017. This includes, but is not limited to, monitoring the activity of the UK City of Culture bid project board and working groups, as described in the appendix to this report.

The Sub Committee will have the authority to approve and implement the following in relation to a bid for UK City of Culture:

- A project plan for the delivery of a UK City of Culture bid.
- Financial projections and plans.
- Assessing, agreeing and establishing the infrastructure requirements for the bid and work pertaining, the staff teams attached to the bid, and the work of cultural partners pertaining to bid development.
- Where appropriate, commission research in support of a bid, to support the decision making process.

The Sub Committee will have responsibility to agree and establish the bid project board, the membership of which is proposed below.

The Sub Committee will approve and submit to Council for approval the bid for UK City of Culture according to the timescales (to be published) by the DCMS.

The Sub Committee will ensure the best interests of the cultural sector, in relation to the bid, are represented at Council, and where appropriate may refer items to this, or other relevant committee or sub committee for consideration. The Sub Committee will have the lead role in ensuring a bid for UK City of Culture 2017 is integrated into all aspects of community planning through the 'Smarter' theme. Furthermore, the Sub Committee will ensure that the City's aspirations to ensure all citizens have the opportunity to influence the process, and to benefit from the bid, are integral to all planning and delivery.

## **5.5 Representation on the Sub Committee, officer and external involvement**

5.5.1 Elected member representation on the Sub Committee will comprise group leaders and the Lord Provost. Officer representation will be led by Valerie Watts, Chief Executive, with the Director, Education Culture and Sport, and other officers as required and requested. The Bid Manager, on appointment, will have a day to day role in co-coordinating the work of the Sub Committee.

It is not expected, as the local authority must be the lead body for the submission of a bid, that external organisations will be represented. However, where requested, the Sub Committee will provide a direct interface with particular cultural organisations, locally and nationally.

The proposed composition of the Bid Project Board is attached, for information. This will be considered by the UK City of Culture Sub Committee and approved accordingly.

## **5.6 Proposed structure – Bid project board**

5.6.1 It is proposed that the Bid project board comprises the following partners: Aberdeenshire Council, Creative Scotland, the University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordons University, Aberdeen College, TACA representative, ACVO, the Harbour Board, ACSEF, Aberdeen Performing Arts, Aberdeen Journals, Event Scotland, Visit Scotland, and officers and Elected Members from Aberdeen City Council.

## **6. IMPACT**

This report relates to 'Aberdeen – the Smarter City'

- We will improve access to and increase participation in arts and culture by providing opportunities for citizens and visitors to experience a broad range of high quality arts and cultural activities

- We aspire to be recognised as a City of Culture, a place of excellence for culture and arts by promoting Aberdeen as a cultural centre hosting high quality and diverse cultural events for the whole community and beyond

The scope of this opportunity encompasses culture in its widest sense, including Arts, Sports, Technology, Education, Tourism and heritage.

The report links to Outcome 13 in the Single Outcome Agreement – ‘We will take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity’

The development of the bid will provide opportunities for community engagement with schools and communities to enable citizens to actively shape what the City of Culture can mean for them. This will provide opportunities for innovative approaches to budgeting and decision making to transform local communities. This will link to the city’s Learning Strategy, support the experiences and outcomes of the Curriculum for Excellence and impact on the outcomes of the city’s Anti-poverty strategy.

The report also has a significant impact on our ability to support the delivery of the city’s Cultural Strategy, ‘Vibrant Aberdeen’. This strategy is aspirational in its outlook, ambitious in its plans for improving the cultural life of the City, and the social and economic benefits associated with the arts and cultural activity. The strategy enhances the city’s strong cultural tradition and develops the cultural life and tourism for the benefit of practitioners, residents and visitors.

## 7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

UK City of Culture, Education, Culture and Sport Committee 24<sup>th</sup>  
November 2009  
UK City of Culture 2017, Council, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012

## 8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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