

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing and Infrastructure
DATE	8 th November 2017
REPORT TITLE	World Energy Cities Partnership – Vice Presidency
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/17/256
INTERIM DIRECTOR	Bernadette Marjoram
REPORT AUTHOR	Matt Lockley

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:-

- 1.1 This report is brought to CH&I Committee to seek approval for the Lord Provost to take on the role of Vice President of the World Energy Cities Partnership for two years from January 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

Approve the Lord Provost's acceptance of the Vice Presidency of the World Energy Cities Partnership for a two year period, starting January 2018.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Committee considered the annual update report on the World Energy Cities Partnership (WECP) at its meeting on 29th August and approved recommendations which reaffirmed the Council's commitment to WECP membership and agreed consideration of a future bid to host the WECP AGM.
- 3.2 At that meeting, verbal note was also made of the potential for the Lord Provost to be nominated for the Vice Presidency of the WECP, which will become vacant at the end of the calendar year. It was noted that the WECP secretariat and several partner member cities had approached Aberdeen City Council to suggest that the Lord Provost consider the opportunity.
- 3.3 Subsequently, at the WECP AGM in Halifax, Canada the Board of Directors (i.e. Mayors of member cities) agreed to invite the Lord Provost of Aberdeen to take on the Vice President role from January 2018 for a period of two years. The Lord Provost indicated his willingness to accept, although it was

noted that this would be subject to formal approval by the appropriate Committee of Aberdeen City Council.

- 3.4 The Vice Presidency is an important role within the WECP and will become more so as the organisation moves to implement its new strategy, which was also agreed at the AGM in Halifax. It will also be a contributory factor in terms of any forthcoming Aberdeen bid to host a WECP AGM.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Currently, the costs of WECP membership (approximately £6,500, depending on exchange rates) and travel to the two formal WECP meetings each year (approximately £12,000) are met from the international trade budget which is held by the Economic Development service.
- 4.2 Additional budget may be required depending on the nature of WECP business and the Vice President's role within this. Any additional budget requirements will be considered as part of the Council's budget setting process for 2018-19.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- 6.1 Financial
There are no financial risks associated with this report.
- 6.2 Employee
There are no employee risks associated with this report.
- 6.3 Customer / citizen
There are no customer / citizen risks associated with this report.
- 6.4 Environmental
There are no environmental risks associated with this report.
- 6.5 Technological
There are no technological risks associated with this report.
- 6.6 Legal
There are no legal risks associated with this report.
- 6.7 Reputational
There are no reputational risks associated with this report.

7. IMPACT SECTION

- 7.1 This section demonstrates how the proposals within this report impact on the strategic themes of Aberdeen City Council and Community Planning Aberdeen, as set out in the [Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26](#) and the [Aberdeen City Council Strategic Business Plan](#).

Economy

- 7.2 The Council's participation in the World Energy Cities Partnership (WECP) is fundamentally focussed on driving economic benefit in the city. The WECP provides an international forum for the Council to promote opportunities in Aberdeen and to link Aberdeen businesses to markets in the 18 partner cities. As noted above, over half of the inbound delegations to Aberdeen each year come from WECP partner cities and these are delivering new opportunities (i.e. the potential tie up between the Oil and Gas Technology Centre and an Innovation Centre in Karamay).
- 7.3 The WECP also commits to learning and the sharing of best practice, which enables Aberdeen City Council to learn from initiatives in other cities and, occasionally, to partner with others in international projects (i.e. the Scale Up project led by Esbjerg).

People

- 7.4 Membership of the WECP enables Aberdeen to be promoted in a global partnership and enhances the reputation of the city as a global energy capital. This encourages a sense of pride for local residents and businesses and underpins confidence in the local economy.
- 7.5 Participating in the WECP also enables officers in the economic development service to work with their counterparts from 18 other global energy cities and to experience the dynamics and challenges of partnership working on an international scale. There are significant learning opportunities for officers from their work with the WECP.

Place

- 7.6 Membership of the WECP enables Aberdeen to be promoted in a global partnership and enhances the reputation of the city as a global energy capital. This encourages a sense of pride for local residents and businesses and underpins confidence in the local economy.
- 7.7 Taking on the Vice Presidency will give Aberdeen greater influence within the WECP and also a greater presence on a global stage, enhancing the city's reputation and relationships with international partners which will lead to economic opportunities for the city's businesses.

Technology

- 7.8 There are no technology impacts.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

International Trade and Partnership Proposals (CHI/17/047) – report to Council, 15.03.2017, published.

World Energy Cities Partnership Annual Report (CHI/17/203) – report to CH&I Committee, 29.08.2017, published.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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