

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Service:</u>	City Growth
<u>Date:</u>	25 April 2019
<u>Title of Update:</u>	World Energy Cities Partnership Presidency
<u>Report Author:</u>	Matt Lockley
<u>Contact Details:</u>	01224 522940 mlockley@aberdeencity.gov.uk

UPDATE:

City Growth and Resources Committee requested a service update on the benefits of Aberdeen holding the World Energy Cities Partnership (WECP) Presidency, should this be secured at the organisation's AGM in September 2019. If it is secured, Aberdeen's holding of the Presidency would commence in January 2020 and conclude in December 2021.

The anticipated benefits of holding the WECP Presidency are:

- Significantly enhanced profile for Aberdeen within the partnership and the wider international networks that it collaborates with;
- Preferential access to new and keynote speaking opportunities, for example to promote Aberdeen at conferences and events that run alongside the WECP's set-piece meetings;
- Preferential access to Ministerial level politicians, Mayors and business leaders from WECP partner countries as the principal representative of the organisation;
- A \$10,000 per year allocation from the partnership to support the travel costs of the President, offering a temporary reduction to the financial burden that the Council has to manage each year;
- The ability to use the partnership's profile to broker new civic and trading relationships for Aberdeen as the partnership seeks to bring in new member cities;
- Strategic influence over the future direction of the partnership, including the use of the partnership's \$250,000 surplus to support economic growth activity between member cities;
- Strengthened working relationships with Scottish Development International and the Department for International Trade, recognising the significant profile of the WECP and the leverage that holding the Presidency will bring