EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL CULTURE SUMMIT 2014

Executive Summary

1. This Paper seeks the SPCB’s views on a number of issues relating to the second Edinburgh International Culture Summit (EICS) for International Culture Ministers being held from Sunday 10 to Tuesday 12 August 2014.

Background

2. The Scottish Parliament, working with the 4 partners - Edinburgh International Festival (EIF), British Council, Scottish and UK Governments - hosted the 2012 Summit on Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 August 2012.

The overarching theme of the summit was “Culture as an international dialogue”. It was devised around three strategic and inclusive strands:

- The role of the arts and culture in deepening and broadening our understanding of complex relationships between cultures and nations.
- Sustaining private and public support for culture.
- Skills for the future, for the creative industries and the role of technology.

3. Over the two days 33 countries were represented at the Summit with 24 Ministers in attendance. The Summit was successful and feedback from Ministers and delegates alike was very positive. There was general consensus that the Summit was a great start with potential, provided good networking opportunities, and Edinburgh in August with 7 festivals (EIF; Edinburgh International Book Festival; Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo; Edinburgh Art Festival; Edinburgh Fringe Festival; Festival of Politics; and the Mela) created an ideal backdrop for cultural discussions at an international level. It was also generally felt that hosting the Summit at the Scottish Parliament was key to the overall success.

Issues and options

Venue and programme

4. The mission for future summits is to create an international ministerial forum for discussion on and the role and value of culture and to encourage dialogue amongst and between policy makers, artists and commentators.

5. Building on the success of the 2012 Summit, more countries and delegates are likely to attend future summits bringing many Culture Ministers from across the world and from many different cultures into contact with the Scottish Parliament (and, of course, the building which is itself a prime example of Scotland’s cultural achievements).
6. The mission and broad themes of the 2014 Summit resonate closely with the international objectives of the Scottish Parliament to exchange knowledge and ideas and develop relationships. It also meets the SPCB’s objectives for events in that it provides a platform for the Scottish Parliament at home and abroad. Given the above and the success of hosting the 2012 Summit, we would recommend that the 2014 Summit is also held at the Scottish Parliament with plenary sessions in the Debating Chamber chaired by the Presiding Officers and breakout sessions in Committee Rooms.

7. As the Parliament is sitting during August the programme for the Summit would need to reflect this. It is therefore proposed, if approved by the SPCB, that the Opening Ceremony and discussions for the Summit take place in the Debating Chamber on the afternoon of Sunday 10 August, followed by a full day of discussions and debates at the Parliament on Monday 11 August and a morning only session in the Debating Chamber on Tuesday 12 August. This has minimal impact on parliamentary business as Committees will be able to meet on the Tuesday morning followed by plenary in the afternoon.

The SPCB is asked to consider this and agree that the Edinburgh International Culture Summit 2014 be held at the Scottish Parliament from Sunday 10 to Tuesday 12 August.

Building Closure

8. The building is closed in any event to the public on Sundays. We would also recommend that the building is closed to the public on Monday 11 August. This would assist with the logistics and arrangements around the Summit. A precedent for this already exists as the building was closed to the public during the 2012 Summit. Building users would still be able to sign-in guests as usual although there may be restricted access to certain areas at certain times due to security and logistical issues. The building will be open on Tuesday as normal.

The SPCB is asked to consider this and agree that the building is closed to the public on Monday 11 August.

Governance

9. Following a successful working relationship in 2012, it is now proposed that the Scottish Parliament becomes a full partner for the 2014 Summit along with the Edinburgh International Festival (EIF), British Council (BC) and Scottish and UK Governments. This would allow the Parliament to be fully involved from the outset with the development of the Summit Programme.

10. It is proposed that there should be a Strategic Board established which will advise on the strategic principles, cultural policy objectives and programme of the Summit. The Strategic Board would meet infrequently, but members of this group would be updated primarily via members of the Steering Group. It
is recommended that the Presiding Officer be the Parliament’s member of the Strategic Board along with Cabinet Secretary of Culture and External Affairs; Department for Culture, Media and Sport Minister; Chief Executive, British Council; and EIF Festival Director.

11. The programme for the 2014 Summit 2014 will be developed by the EIF Festival Director to an overall strategic direction established by the Strategic Board, and working with input from other Festival directors and partners and with support from the delivery team. The Strategic Board will have input into and approval of the programme and each of the Summit partners will play a prominent role in the Summit itself.

The SPCB is asked to consider this and agree that the Presiding Officer represents the Scottish Parliament on the Strategic Board.

12. Reporting to the Strategic Board, there will be a Steering Group which will provide oversight on the development of the Summit plans with at least one representative from each partner organisation sitting on this group. It is recommended that the Parliament’s Head of Events and Exhibitions sits on the Steering Group along with representatives from the other 4 partners. Alongside the Steering Group there will be a Communications Group which will support all the communications activity pre and during the Summit. As before, the Parliament’s Media Relations Office will represent the Scottish Parliament on this Group.

The SPCB is asked to consider this and agree that the Head of Events and Exhibitions represents the Scottish Parliament on the Steering Group.

13. It also proposed that a trust with charitable status will be set up to act as a vehicle for applying for and receiving grants and donations for the Edinburgh International Culture Summit (a role currently undertaken by the EIF). We will discuss this in more detail with the SPCB at the meeting on 27 November.

Delivery Team

14. Supporting the Steering Group there will be a Delivery Team which will be responsible for delivering the event. This Team will be managed by a full-time Project Coordinator funded by the EIF and supported by staff seconded from the partners.

15. The costs for delivering the Summit will be met through donations and grants to the charitable trust. All the partners are providing either donations or support-in-kind to the trust accordingly. The SPCB is not asked to provide financial support but instead provide support-in-kind like other partners.

16. As a full partner we would recommend that the SPCB commits resources to support the successful delivery of the Summit. Therefore, in addition to providing the venue for the Summit, we would intend to provide temporary
office accommodation for the Delivery Team for 9 months from January to September 2014.

17. We would also plan to second an events officer from the Events and Exhibitions Team to the Delivery Team as the Logistics Manager.

Staff resources

18. The Events and Exhibitions Team and the Media Relations Office will require additional resource to support the Summit at that time as both teams will be in the middle of a very busy period that comprise a number of major events and exhibitions including the 2014 Festival of Politics, which takes place 3 days after the Summit and the Great Tapestry of Scotland and uniquely next summer will also be supporting parliamentary business over 3 weeks in August.

The SPCB is asked to note that, if they agree to the Summit going ahead, we would deploy additional staff on a temporary basis to support these teams to deliver these events.

Resource Implications

19. We estimate the total costs to be £40k split over two financial years. The costs for this financial year, £10k, can be met from underspends found in the Corporate Events and Exhibitions budget and the costs for next financial year, £30k, can be met from budgets already allocated to the Corporate Events and Exhibitions budget.

Publication Scheme

20. This Paper should be withheld until the Summit has been announced.

Next steps

21. Following approval, if given by the SPCB, on the Summit venue, programme and format, the Media Relations Office will work with colleagues from the other partners to agree a communications plan and news release for the announcement of the 2014 Summit being held at the Scottish Parliament from Sunday 10 to Tuesday 12 August.

22. The Presiding Officer will attend a meeting of the Strategic Board discussing and agreeing the strategic principles, cultural policy objectives and programme of the Summit.

23. The Events and Exhibitions Team will liaise with colleagues in Facilities Management over possible accommodation for the Delivery Team and will continue to take forward the logistics and arrangements supporting the Summit.
Decision

24. The SPCB is asked to consider this paper and to agree:

   o the Edinburgh International Culture Summit 2014 be held at the Scottish Parliament from Sunday 10 to Tuesday 12 August and that the building is closed to the public on Monday 11 August;

   o the Parliament is represented by the Presiding Officer and the Head of Events and Exhibitions on the Strategic Board and Steering Group respectively; and

   o to note, if it agrees to the Summit, the resource implications as detailed in the Paper.

EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS TEAM
November 2013