

Customer Ref: Response Ref:

Name

Response Type

On behalf of:

Supporting Info

Email

Choice **1 A**

We want to connect our places, parks and green spaces together as part of a city-wide, regional, and national green network. We want new development to connect to, and deliver this network. Do you agree with this? - Select support / don't support

Short Response

Explanation City Plan 2030 Consultation – EIF submissionIntroductionThe Edinburgh International Festival (EIF) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the City of Edinburgh Council’s (CEC) Choices for City Plan 2030 consultation. EIF is the world’s leading multi-genre arts festival; each year since 1947, Scotland’s capital has hosted an unparalleled celebration of the performing arts which is an annual meeting point for people of all nations. Our impact extends beyond the annual Festival programme to our extensive community learning and engagement activity, as well as professional development programmes which run throughout the year. These reach the widest possible audiences and contribute to the cultural and social life of Edinburgh, Scotland, the UK and beyond.Ensuring that Edinburgh is designed and built to sustain the breadth, vision and ambition of the Festival is essential if our city is to remain the world’s preeminent hub for the performing arts. We present below comments for consideration in the current consultation and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to a broader discussion about the role that culture in general – and EIF in particular – can and already does play in assisting CEC’s goal of building for a future Edinburgh. A sustainable city which supports everyone’s physical and mental wellbeingThere is a growing body of work which asserts to the health and wellbeing impact of engaging with culture, either as a participant or as a consumer. These benefits significantly complement strategies across local and national government, most notably the Scottish Government’s Culture Strategy for Scotland, which notes that:“Culture improves places for individuals and communities. It plays a key role in maintaining good mental health and wellbeing and it has been shown to reduce levels of social isolation, strengthen social networks and increase self-confidence and resilience. It can support good health and wellbeing for all ages.”EIF is sensitive to the timings of the recent publication of the Culture Strategy and how feasible it would have been to incorporate priorities into the draft City Plan consultation. Nevertheless, the centrality of the Culture Strategy’s position with respect to the role of culture in positively affecting wellbeing, arguably makes the case for a substantive reconsideration of how culture should be more comprehensively featured within the City Plan.If we are determined to capitalise on the acknowledged benefits of cultural engagement, it is essential that policies adequately reflect these benefits and appropriately compel officials to include the creative industries into early planning of service provision. Experience has consistently shown that, without an explicit compulsion to do so, the challenge for sectors such as those in the creative industries to engage across local and national government portfolios or departments is extremely challenging. Indeed, the Culture Strategy includes the aim of placing culture as a central consideration across all policy areas. EIF stands ready to support CEC in forming a clearer picture of how planning can more effectively support the objectives of CEC with respect to culture.For those living in less affluent neighbourhoods or where there is less immediate access to cultural services, the necessity of effective planning to ensure they can also benefit from

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00638

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ANON-KU2U-GPU2-5

Supporting Info

Yes

Name

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Email

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Response Type

Organisation / Public Agency

On behalf of:

Edinburgh International Festival

these recognised impacts, is particularly important. EIF already undertakes significant outreach work with communities across Edinburgh on a year-round basis. This activity serves not only to increase participation in, and awareness of, culture and the arts – it also provides a powerful connection for vulnerable, lonely and isolated people from a variety of backgrounds who may not otherwise have the means or opportunity to meet. At the start of this year, EIF commissioned Morrison Hargreaves McIntyre to create an evaluation framework for its activities. This will include an analysis of our learning and engagement work to allow us to add quantitatively to the existing feedback from service participants on the positive outcomes of our programmes and how these activities lead to improved feelings of wellbeing and connectedness.

Choice

1 B

We want to change our policy to require all development (including change of use) to include green and blue infrastructure. Do you agree with this? - Support / Object

Short Response

Yes

Explanation

Choice

1 C

We want to identify areas that can be used for future water management to enable adaptation to climate change. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Not Answered

Explanation

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Choice 1 D

We want to clearly set out under what circumstances the development of poor quality or underused open space will be considered acceptable. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 1 E

We want to introduce a new 'extra-large green space standard' which recognises that as we grow communities will need access to green spaces more than 5 hectares. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 1 F

We want to identify specific sites for new allotments and food growing, both as part of new development sites and within open space in the urban area. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice 1 F

We want to identify specific sites for new allotments and food growing, both as part of new development sites and within open space in the urban area. Do you agree with this? - Upload (max size 3mb)

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 1 G

We want to identify space for additional cemetery provision, including the potential for green and woodland burials. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 1 H

We want to revise our existing policies and green space designations to ensure that new green spaces have long term maintenance and management arrangements in place. Do you agree with this? - Yes/No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice **2 A**

We want all development (including change of use), through design and access statements, to demonstrate how their design will incorporate measures to tackle and adapt to climate change, their future adaptability and measures to address accessibility for people with varying needs, age and mobility issues as a key part of their layouts. - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **2 B**

We want to revise our policies on density to ensure that we make best use of the limited space in our city and that sites are not under-developed. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **2 C**

We want to revise our design and layout policies to achieve ensure their layouts deliver active travel and connectivity links. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice **2 D**

We want all development, including student housing, to deliver quality open space and public realm, useable for a range of activities, including drying space, without losing densities. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **3 A**

We want all buildings and conversions to meet the zero carbon / platinum standards as set out in the current Scottish Building Regulations. Instead we could require new development to meet the bronze, silver or gold standard. Which standard should new development in Edinburgh meet? - Which standard?

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **4 A**

We want to work with local communities to prepare Place Briefs for areas and sites within City Plan 2030 highlighting the key elements of design, layout, and transport, education and healthcare infrastructure development should deliver. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice **4 B**

We want to support Local Place Plans being prepared by our communities. City Plan 2030 will set out how Local Place Plans can help us achieve great places and support community ambitions. - How should the Council work with local communities to prepare Local Place Plans?

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **5 A**

We want City Plan 2030 to direct development to where there is existing infrastructure capacity, including education, healthcare and sustainable transport, or where potential new infrastructure will be accommodated and deliverable within the plan period. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation A city where you don't need to own a car to move around EIF is committed to making changes to the way we do business in order to reduce our carbon emissions and to protect our environment. Clearly, this will be a challenge for an international festival which involves the movement of artists, companies, instruments, sets, and audiences from around the world, as well as locally within and around Edinburgh. We are determined to play our part and would welcome discussion on how bringing about positive change can be realised while maintaining the operational capacity of the Festival and without compromising on the excellence for which the Festival is internationally renowned. City infrastructure which is designed with active travel in mind and which is intuitive for both residents of the city, and its visitors who may be unfamiliar with the layout, is essential if we want people to make the right choices when it comes to deciding on what mode of transport to use. These considerations are essential during the festival period, particularly in our busy city centre and with the added complexity of the architecture and layout of the Old and New Towns. EIF is also, however, continually expanding our reach across the whole of the city and a connected, integrated transport network which is environmentally friendly, safe and affordable is critical if we are to enable people from all social and economic backgrounds to fully participate and feel included.

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Choice 5 B

We want City Plan 2030 to set out where new community facilities are needed, and that these must be well connected to active travel routes and in locations with high accessibility to good sustainable public transport services. Do you agree with this? - Yes / NO

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 5 C

We want to reflect the desire to co-locate our community services close to the communities they serve, supporting a high walk-in population and reducing the need to travel. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 5 D1

We want to set out in the plan where development will be expected to contribute toward new or expanded community infrastructure. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice 5 D2

We want to use cumulative contribution zones to determine infrastructure actions, costs and delivery mechanisms. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 5 E

We want to stop using supplementary guidance and set out guidance for developer contributions within the plan, Action Programme and in non-statutory guidance. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 6 A

We want to create a new policy that assesses development against its ability to meet our targets for public transport usage and walking and cycling. These targets will vary according to the current or planned public transport services and high-quality active travel routes. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice **6 B**

We want to use Place Briefs to set the targets for trips by walking, cycling and public transport based on current and planned transit interventions. This will determine appropriate parking levels to support high use of public transport. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **7 A**

We want to determine parking levels in development based on targets for trips by walking, cycling and public transport. These targets could be set by area, development type, or both and will be supported by other measures to control on-street parking. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **7 B**

We want to protect against the development of additional car parking in the city centre to support the delivery of the Council's city centre transformation programme. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice **7 C**

We want to update our parking policies to control demand and to support parking for bikes, those with disabilities and electric vehicles via charging infrastructure. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **7 D**

We want to support the city's park and ride infrastructure by safeguarding sites for new park and ride and extensions, including any other sites that are identified in the City Mobility Plan or its action plan. Do you agree with this? - We want to support the city's park and ride infrastructure by safeguarding sites for new park and ride and extensions, including any other sites that are identified in the City Mobility Plan or its action plan.

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **8 A**

We want to update our policy on the Cycle and Footpath Network to provide criteria for identifying new routes. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice **8 B**

As part of the City Centre Transformation and other Council and partner projects to improve strategic walking and cycling links around the city, we want to add the following routes (along with our existing safeguards) to our network as active travel proposals to ensure that they are delivered. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **8 C**

We want City Plan 2030 to safeguard and add any other strategic active travel links within any of the proposed options for allocated sites. We also want the City Plan 2030 to include any new strategic active travel links which may be identified in the forthcoming City Plan 2030 Transport Appraisal, the City Mobility Plan, or which are identified through this consultation. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **8 C**

We want City Plan 2030 to safeguard and add any other strategic active travel links within any of the proposed options for allocated sites. We also want the City Plan 2030 to include any new strategic active travel links which may be identified in the forthcoming City Plan 2030 Transport Appraisal, the City Mobility Plan, or which are identified through this consultation. Do you agree with this? - Upload new cycle routes

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice 9 A

We want to consult on designating Edinburgh, or parts of Edinburgh, as a 'Short Term Let Control Area' where planning permission will always be required for the change of use of whole properties for short-term lets. Do you agree with this approach? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation A city in which everyone lives in a home which they can affordThe Scottish Government consultation on the National Planning Framework is touched on very briefly in Choice 12 with respect to housing and infrastructure. EIF intends to work with a variety of partners and stakeholders to encourage the Government to adopt a requirement in the new Framework with respect to cultural provision. This would have the positive effect of ensuring that access to culture would be a necessary consideration for the development and management of community places in the same way as is currently required with, for example, amenities and green spaces. We would encourage CEC to adopt an expansive view of how culture can support the people of Edinburgh and the priorities of the Council across portfolios, as well as the positive effect there is from enabling cultural engagement and participation. A place-based approach to local planning that is inclusive, integrated, and puts the needs of individual communities more to the fore would see social, cultural and environmental impacts put on an equal footing with economic benefit.

Choice 9 B

We want to create a new policy on the loss of homes to alternative uses. This new policy will be used when planning permission is required for a change of use of residential flats and houses to short-stay commercial visitor accommodation or other uses. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice **10 A**

We want to revise our policy on purpose-built student housing. We want to ensure that student housing is delivered at the right scale and in the right locations, helps create sustainable communities and looks after student's wellbeing. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **10 B**

We want to create a new policy framework which sets out a requirement for housing on all sites over a certain size coming forward for development. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **10 C**

We want to create a new policy promoting the better use of stand-alone out of centre retail units and commercial centres, where their redevelopment for mixed use including housing would be supported. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice **11 A**

We want to amend our policy to increase the provision of affordable housing requirement from 25% to 35%. Do you agree with this approach? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **11 B**

We want City Plan 2030 to require a mix of housing types and tenures – we want the plan to be prescriptive on the required mix, including the percentage requirement for family housing and support for the Private Rented Sector. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **12 A**

Which option do you support? - Option 1/2/3

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice **12 B1**

Do you support or object to any of the proposed greenfield areas? (Please tick all that apply) - Support Greenfield - Support - Calderwood

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **12 B2**

Do you support or object to any of the proposed greenfield areas? (Please tick all that apply) - Support Greenfield - Support - Kirkliston

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **12 B3**

Do you support or object to any of the proposed greenfield areas? (Please tick all that apply) - Support Greenfield - Support - West Edinburgh

Short Response

Explanation

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Response Type

On behalf of:

Choice **12 B4**

Do you support or object to any of the proposed greenfield areas? (Please tick all that apply) - Support Greenfield - Support - East of Riccarton

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **12 B5**

Do you support or object to any of the proposed greenfield areas? (Please tick all that apply) - Support Greenfield - Support - South East Edinburgh

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **12 B6**

Do you support or object to any of the proposed greenfield areas? (Please tick all that apply) - Support Greenfield - Object - Calderwood

Short Response

Explanation

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Supporting Info

Email

Choice **12 B7**

Do you support or object to any of the proposed greenfield areas? (Please tick all that apply) - Support Greenfield - Object - Kirkliston

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **12 B8**

Do you support or object to any of the proposed greenfield areas? (Please tick all that apply) - Support Greenfield - Object - West Edinburgh

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **12 B9**

Do you support or object to any of the proposed greenfield areas? (Please tick all that apply) - Support Greenfield - Object - East of Riccarton

Short Response

Explanation

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Supporting Info

Email

Choice **12 B10**

Do you support or object to any of the proposed greenfield areas? (Please tick all that apply) - Support Greenfield - Object - South East Edinburgh

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **12 BX**

Do you support or object to any of the proposed greenfield areas? (Please tick all that apply) - Explain why

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **12 C**

Do you have a greenfield site you wish us to consider in the proposed Plan? - Greenfield file upload

Short Response

Explanation

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Response Type

On behalf of:

Choice 12 C

Do you have a greenfield site you wish us to consider in the proposed Plan? - Greenfield file upload

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 12 C

Do you have a greenfield site you wish us to consider in the proposed Plan? - Greenfield file upload

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 12 D

Do you have a brownfield site you wish us to consider in the proposed Plan? - Brownfield sites upload

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice 13 A

We want to create a new policy that provides support for social enterprises, start-ups, culture and tourism, innovation and learning, and the low carbon sector, where there is a contribution to good growth for Edinburgh. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation A city where everyone shares in its economic success EIF is very pleased that culture features in CEC’s proposed City Plan 2030 which undoubtedly recognises the singular importance of culture for the city, it’s people and our many visitors. It is concerning, however, that the role of culture in supporting the ambitions of the Plan are not further articulated across the Plan as a whole. Furthermore, we feel that the extent to which culture is addressed within the workstream on how the city might achieve economic success, could understate the immense contribution which culture and the International Festival make to the city. Culture certainly does add substantially to economic growth and prosperity, with the festivals in Edinburgh alone adding £280 million to the local economy . The importance of our sector is reflected in the widespread understanding of the creative industries as a growth area for the Scottish and UK economies. Strategies from the Scottish and UK Governments and leaders within the private sector have clearly identified culture and our creative industries (of which the festivals are a sub-sector) as being the potential powerhouses of our future economy. This will not simply happen on its own, however; it will require sustained investment at all levels of government, both directly and indirectly through the levers which can determine the extent of our success in the years ahead. As the Scottish Government’s culture strategy has stated, culture is something which should be valued in and of itself. There is, however, a broader acknowledgment that culture is “central to the future wellbeing and prosperity of Scotland”, whether culturally, socially, economically or environmentally. Taking a view which is too narrowly focussed and fails to reflect how cultural engagement and the arts reaches across multiple areas of public policy, significantly compromises the vision of the City Plan 2030. There is a risk that by viewing culture only in respect of the basis of its contribution to the economy, the Council may not fully adapt or prepare future service delivery in a way that anticipates demand from both residents and visitors to the city alike. Edinburgh’s festivals are central to the popular perception of our city as an inviting, dynamic and exciting city in which to live, work or do business. For these reasons, we feel it is essential that greater consideration is given across the whole City Plan to ensure that the Edinburgh International Festival together with its sister festivals should be a key consideration in the development of policy and planning. This is all the more urgent in the context of the coronavirus outbreak, which will demand urgent planning across a range of timescales to ensure that Edinburgh is ready, when the time eventually comes and it is appropriate to do so, to confidently open its doors and once again welcome the many visitors to our city.

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Choice 14 A

We want City Plan 2030 to support the best use of existing public transport infrastructure in West Edinburgh and accommodate the development of a mix of uses to support inclusive, sustainable growth. We will do this through ‘an area of search’ which allows a wide consideration of future uses within West Edinburgh without being tied to individual sites. Do you support this approach? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 14 B

We want to remove the safeguard in the existing plan for the Royal Highland Showground site to the south of the A8 at Norton Park and allocate the site for other uses. Do you agree with this approach? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 14 C

We want City Plan 2030 to allocate the Airport’s contingency runway, the “crosswinds runway” for the development of alternative uses next to the Edinburgh Gateway interchange. Do you agree with this approach? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice 15 A

We want to continue to use the national 'town centre first' approach. City Plan 2030 will protect and enhance the city centre as the regional core of south east Scotland providing shopping, commercial leisure, and entertainment and tourism activities. Do you agree with this? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 15 B

New shopping and leisure development will only be allowed within our town and local centres (including any new local centres) justified by the Commercial Needs study. Outwith local centres, small scale proposals will be permitted only in areas where there is evidence of a lack of food shopping within walking distance. Do you agree? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 15 C

We want to review our existing town and local centres including the potential for new identified centres and boundary changes where they support walking and cycling access to local services in outer areas, consistent with the outcomes of the City Mobility Plan. Do you agree? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice 15 D

We want to continue to prepare and update supplementary guidance for our town centres to adapt to changing retail patterns and trends, and ensure an appropriate balance of uses within our centres to maintain their vitality, viability and deliver good placemaking. Instead we could stop using supplementary guidance for town centres and set out guidance within the plan. Which approach do you support? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 15 E

We want to support new hotel provision in local, town, commercial centres and other locations with good public transport access throughout Edinburgh. Do you agree with this approach? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 15 G

We could also seek to reduce the quantity of retail floorspace within centres in favour of alternative uses such as increased leisure provision and permit commercial centres to accommodate any growing demand. Do you agree with this approach? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice 16 A1

We want to continue to support office use at strategic office locations at Edinburgh Park/South Gyle, the International Business Gateway, Leith, the city centre, and in town and local centres. Do you agree? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 16 A2

We want to support office development at commercial centres as these also provide accessible locations. - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 16 A3

We want to strengthen the requirement within the city centre to provide significant office floorspace within major mixed-use developments. Do you agree? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice 16 A4

We want to amend the boundary of the Leith strategic office location to remove areas with residential development consent. Do you agree? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 16 A5

We want to continue to support office development in other accessible locations elsewhere in the urban area. Do you agree? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 16 A5

We want to continue to support office development in other accessible locations elsewhere in the urban area. Do you agree? - Do you have an office site you wish us to consider in the proposed Plan?

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice 16 B

We want to identify sites and locations within Edinburgh with potential for office development. Do you agree with this? - Yes/No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 16 C

We want to introduce a loss of office policy to retain accessible office accommodation. This would not permit the redevelopment of office buildings other than for office use, unless existing office space is provided as part of denser development. This would apply across the city to recognise that office locations outwith the city centre and strategic office locations are important in meeting the needs of the mid-market. Or we could Introduce a 'loss of office' policy only in the city centre. - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 16 E1

We want to identify proposals for new modern business and industrial sites to provide necessary floorspace at the following locations. Do you agree? - Yes / No - Support - Leith Strategic Business Centre

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice 16 E2

We want to identify proposals for new modern business and industrial sites to provide necessary floorspace at the following locations. Do you agree? - Yes / No - Support - Newbridge

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 16 E3

We want to identify proposals for new modern business and industrial sites to provide necessary floorspace at the following locations. Do you agree? - Yes / No - Support - Newcraighall Industrial Estate.

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 16 E4

We want to identify proposals for new modern business and industrial sites to provide necessary floorspace at the following locations. Do you agree? - Yes / No - Support - The Crosswinds Runway

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice 16 E5

We want to identify proposals for new modern business and industrial sites to provide necessary floorspace at the following locations. Do you agree? - Yes / No - Do not support - Leith Strategic Business Centre

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 16 E6

We want to identify proposals for new modern business and industrial sites to provide necessary floorspace at the following locations. Do you agree? - Yes / No - Do not support - Newbridge

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 16 E7

We want to identify proposals for new modern business and industrial sites to provide necessary floorspace at the following locations. Do you agree? - Yes / No - Do not support - Newcraighall Industrial Estate.

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice 16 E8

We want to identify proposals for new modern business and industrial sites to provide necessary floorspace at the following locations. Do you agree? - Yes / No - Do not support - The Crosswinds Runway

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 16 EX

We want to identify proposals for new modern business and industrial sites to provide necessary floorspace at the following locations. Do you agree? - Explain why

Short Response

Explanation

Choice 16 F

We want to ensure new business space is provided as part of the redevelopment of urban sites and considered in Place Briefs for greenfield sites. We want to set out the amount expected to be re-provided, clearer criteria on what constitutes flexible business space, and how to deliver it, including the location on-site, and considering adjacent uses, servicing and visibility. Do you agree? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

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Choice **16 G**

We want to continue to protect industrial estates that are designated under our current policy on Employment Sites and Premises (Emp 8). Do you agree? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

Choice **16 H**

We want to introduce a policy that provides criteria for locations that we would support city-wide and neighbourhood goods distribution hubs. Do you agree? - Yes / No

Short Response

Explanation

City Plan 2030 Consultation – EIF submission

Introduction

The Edinburgh International Festival (EIF) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC) Choices for City Plan 2030 consultation. EIF is the world's leading multi-genre arts festival; each year since 1947, Scotland's capital has hosted an unparalleled celebration of the performing arts which is an annual meeting point for people of all nations. Our impact extends beyond the annual Festival programme to our extensive community learning and engagement activity, as well as professional development programmes which run throughout the year. These reach the widest possible audiences and contribute to the cultural and social life of Edinburgh, Scotland, the UK and beyond.

Ensuring that Edinburgh is designed and built to sustain the breadth, vision and ambition of the Festival is essential if our city is to remain the world's preeminent hub for the performing arts. We present below comments for consideration in the current consultation and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to a broader discussion about the role that culture in general – and EIF in particular – can and already does play in assisting CEC's goal of building for a future Edinburgh.

A city where everyone shares in its economic success

EIF is very pleased that culture features in CEC's proposed City Plan 2030 which undoubtedly recognises the singular importance of culture for the city, its people and our many visitors. It is concerning, however, that the role of culture in supporting the ambitions of the Plan are not further articulated across the Plan as a whole. Furthermore, we feel that the extent to which culture is addressed within the workstream on how the city might achieve economic success, could understate the immense contribution which culture and the International Festival make to the city.

Culture certainly does add substantially to economic growth and prosperity, with the festivals in Edinburgh alone adding £280 million to the local economy¹. The importance of our sector is reflected in the widespread understanding of the creative industries as a growth area for the Scottish and UK economies. Strategies from the Scottish and UK Governments and leaders within the private sector² have clearly identified culture and our creative industries (of which the festivals are a sub-sector) as being the potential powerhouses of our future economy. This will not simply happen on its own, however; it will require sustained investment at all levels of government, both directly and indirectly through the levers which can determine the extent of our success in the years ahead.

As the Scottish Government's culture strategy has stated, culture is something which should be valued in and of itself. There is, however, a broader acknowledgment that culture is "central to the future wellbeing and prosperity of Scotland", whether culturally, socially, economically or environmentally. Taking a view which is too narrowly focussed

¹ <https://bit.ly/3bo1m0t>

² [UK Government Industrial Strategy](#); [Scottish Government Creative Industry Policy](#); [Bank of England](#)

and fails to reflect how cultural engagement and the arts reaches across multiple areas of public policy, significantly compromises the vision of the City Plan 2030.

There is a risk that by viewing culture only in respect of the basis of its contribution to the economy, the Council may not fully adapt or prepare future service delivery in a way that anticipates demand from both residents and visitors to the city alike. Edinburgh's festivals are central to the popular perception of our city as an inviting, dynamic and exciting city in which to live, work or do business. For these reasons, we feel it is essential that greater consideration is given across the whole City Plan to ensure that the Edinburgh International Festival together with its sister festivals should be a key consideration in the development of policy and planning.

This is all the more urgent in the context of the coronavirus outbreak, which will demand urgent planning across a range of timescales to ensure that Edinburgh is ready, when the time eventually comes and it is appropriate to do so, to confidently open its doors and once again welcome the many visitors to our city.

A sustainable city which supports everyone's physical and mental wellbeing

There is a growing body of work which asserts to the health and wellbeing impact of engaging with culture, either as a participant or as a consumer. These benefits significantly complement strategies across local and national government, most notably the Scottish Government's Culture Strategy for Scotland, which notes that:

"Culture improves places for individuals and communities. It plays a key role in maintaining good mental health and wellbeing and it has been shown to reduce levels of social isolation, strengthen social networks and increase self-confidence and resilience. It can support good health and wellbeing for all ages."³

EIF is sensitive to the timings of the recent publication of the Culture Strategy and how feasible it would have been to incorporate priorities into the draft City Plan consultation. Nevertheless, the centrality of the Culture Strategy's position with respect to the role of culture in positively affecting wellbeing, arguably makes the case for a substantive reconsideration of how culture should be more comprehensively featured within the City Plan.

If we are determined to capitalise on the acknowledged benefits of cultural engagement, it is essential that policies adequately reflect these benefits and appropriately compel officials to include the creative industries into early planning of service provision. Experience has consistently shown that, without an explicit compulsion to do so, the challenge for sectors such as those in the creative industries to engage across local and national government portfolios or departments is extremely challenging. Indeed, the Culture Strategy includes the aim of placing culture as a central consideration across all policy areas. EIF stands ready to support CEC in forming a clearer picture of how planning can more effectively support the objectives of CEC with respect to culture.

³ A Culture Strategy for Scotland, P.35

For those living in less affluent neighbourhoods or where there is less immediate access to cultural services, the necessity of effective planning to ensure they can also benefit from these recognised impacts, is particularly important. EIF already undertakes significant outreach work with communities across Edinburgh on a year-round basis. This activity serves not only to increase participation in, and awareness of, culture and the arts – it also provides a powerful connection for vulnerable, lonely and isolated people from a variety of backgrounds who may not otherwise have the means or opportunity to meet.

At the start of this year, EIF commissioned Morrison Hargreaves McIntyre to create an evaluation framework for its activities. This will include an analysis of our learning and engagement work to allow us to add quantitatively to the existing feedback from service participants on the positive outcomes of our programmes and how these activities lead to improved feelings of wellbeing and connectedness.

A city in which everyone lives in a home which they can afford

The Scottish Government consultation on the National Planning Framework⁴ is touched on very briefly in Choice 12 with respect to housing and infrastructure. EIF intends to work with a variety of partners and stakeholders to encourage the Government to adopt a requirement in the new Framework with respect to cultural provision. This would have the positive effect of ensuring that access to culture would be a necessary consideration for the development and management of community places in the same way as is currently required with, for example, amenities and green spaces.

We would encourage CEC to adopt an expansive view of how culture can support the people of Edinburgh and the priorities of the Council across portfolios, as well as the positive effect there is from enabling cultural engagement and participation. A place-based approach to local planning that is inclusive, integrated, and puts the needs of individual communities more to the fore would see social, cultural and environmental impacts put on an equal footing with economic benefit.

A city where you don't need to own a car to move around

EIF is committed to making changes to the way we do business in order to reduce our carbon emissions and to protect our environment. Clearly, this will be a challenge for an international festival which involves the movement of artists, companies, instruments, sets, and audiences from around the world, as well as locally within and around Edinburgh. We are determined to play our part and would welcome discussion on how bringing about positive change can be realised while maintaining the operational capacity of the Festival and without compromising on the excellence for which the Festival is internationally renowned.

City infrastructure which is designed with active travel in mind and which is intuitive for both residents of the city, and its visitors who may be unfamiliar with the layout, is essential if we want people to make the right choices when it comes to deciding on what

⁴ <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/>

mode of transport to use. These considerations are essential during the festival period, particularly in our busy city centre and with the added complexity of the architecture and layout of the Old and New Towns. EIF is also, however, continually expanding our reach across the whole of the city and a connected, integrated transport network which is environmentally friendly, safe and affordable is critical if we are to enable people from all social and economic backgrounds to fully participate and feel included.