

Emergency Motion by the Coalition

Culture and Communities Committee

18 June 2019

Emergency Motion – Winter Festivals

Committee:

Notes the ongoing success of Edinburgh's Winter Festivals as measured against the performance criteria set out by the council;

Notes that in order to safeguard the improvements to East Princes Street Gardens being delivered by the National Galleries of Scotland as part of the wider Gallery refurbishment programme, there is a significant additional cost to holding the Christmas Market there;

Notes that officers entered into discussion with Underbelly, the winter festivals contractor, to assess how best to meet that additional cost;

Notes that officers and Underbelly reached a conditional agreement to extend Underbelly's contract for two of the optional three years extension, to enable Underbelly to meet this additional cost;

Notes that officers have informed Underbelly that the contract in its current form will not be extended into the third year of the possible extension, and that instead, the approach to delivering events for Christmas and Hogmanay will be reviewed through a process of public and stakeholder consultation and subsequent procurement or commissioning, for introduction from 2022;

Notes that owing to time constraints, and in accordance with the contractual decision previously made by the Council, officers made this decision under delegated authority but Councillors on the Culture and Communities Committee and other interested Councillors were briefed on the decision.

Moved by Councillor Donald Wilson

Seconded by Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan