

Leith Chooses meeting 28 August 2024

Present: Abby, Bruce (minutes), Don, Douglas, Naomi, Jack, Sally, Susan

Apologies: Tremaine

Actions are green-highlighted

1 Transient visitor levy and PB in Edinburgh

- Susan and Jack reported that CEC has decided to allocate 2% of the TVL revenue via PB.
 - Susan and Jack were congratulated on getting this through.
 - The total TVL revenue is estimated at £38,000,000. Hence 2% is £760,000.
 - CEC is due to consult on exactly where this money should go. However, it has already decided to allocate 55% to city operations, 30% to culture and communities (community grants is part of this CEC division), 10% to destination management and 5% to housing. These total 100%, so it is unclear how the 2% might arrive at.¹
 - Suggestions included a PB stream for arts, given that art projects tend not to win LC funding due to more immediate needs being priorities by LC votes.
 - Given there are 13 Neighbourhood Networks², if all of the 2% was allocated by community grant PB exercises, this would be about £58,000 on average per NP. That would double the amount LeithChooses allocates.
- There was strong concern that, welcome though it is, the amount to be allocated via PB does not come anywhere near the longstanding promise of 1% of discretionary budgets made by [COSLA](#) and the Scottish Government.
- It was therefore suggested that LC needs to firstly **influence the consultation document** and then **respond to the consultation**, potentially including making a **deputation**. It should also **co-ordinate lobbying**, because this has had welcome outcomes.
 - For the above, steering group members may wish to read the legislation that enables local authorities to implement TVLs: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2024/8/contents/enacted>.
 - Action: Sally (?) to contact David Reilly about use of TVL revenue for PB
 - Action: steering group (who?) to ascertain which other places disburse TVL revenue via PB
 - Action: steering group (who?) to arrange a day-session to settle on its response(s).

2 2024-25 instance

2.1 Emailing Tremaine and Naomi

- To ensure that both Tremaine and Naomi (and Jade if/when she returns, and any other CEC who later join the steering group) can access emails to the group, without needing to get into the other's emails, group emails should also be sent to leithchooses@edinburgh.gov.uk as well as group members' individual addresses.

2.2 Voting day

- Action: Tremaine to continue to try to obtain confirmation that janitorial support is in place

¹ Bruce-thought: might it be 2% of each of the CEC channels?

- 2% of 55% for city operations = $0.02 * 0.55 * £38m = £418,000$
- 2% of 30% for culture and communities = $0.02 * 0.30 * £38m = £228,000$
- 2% of 10% for destination management = $0.02 * 0.10 * £38m = £76,000$
- 2% of 5% for housing = $0.02 * 0.05 * £38m = £38,000$

² Almond, City Centre, Craigmillar, Duddingston, Forth, Inverleith, Leith, Liberton and Gilmerton, Morningside, Pentlands, Portobello and Craigmillar, Southside/Newington, South West, Western Edinburgh, [according to Edinburgh Partnership website](#)

2.3 Support for potential applicants

- Naomi has added list of potential applicants to Dropbox, i.e. the mailing list Tremaine inherited from Jade
 - Action: steering group to add any relevant other organisations to this list
 - Action: steering group to highlight groups that might need extra support
- There have been two requests for meetings/support:
 - An unnamed individual (no further detail supplied)
 - Hibernian Community Foundation, requesting an online meeting
 - Action: Naomi to respond, asking when would suit HCF.
 - Action: Naomi, Sally, Susan to be in this meeting.
- Heart of Newhaven has asked if it would be eligible: it would if the project would benefit residents of that area, no matter where HoN's HQ is.
 - Also HoN's HQ is within LC's area, because that is the outermost of the boundaries of Leith neighbourhood network's area³ and the three Leith community councils' areas
- During the above discussion it was noted that the map on LC's website is small and low resolution.
 - Action: Bruce to prepare a new version, using screenshots of the CEC map.

2.4 T-shirts

- Sally has resent her email asking for clarity on what t-shirt sizes would definitely be available, and which brand of shirt would be used.

3 2022-23 reports

- Sikh Sanjog has promised its report asap – internal issues caused a delay.
- Himalayan Centre has not responded to any attempt to contact them, neither about them reportedly not being able to start the project funded in the 2023-24 instance, nor about reporting on the project funded by the 2022-23 instance. It was noted
 - They still have 8 months to complete the former, but given summer is nearly over and this is a project about growing plants, time is not on their side.
 - The report on the latter is 5 months overdue, leading to serious concerns.

³ These are called Neighbourhood Partnerships on the [CEC online map](#).