



CFO name: Edinburgh International Festival Society	Reference number (GMS): G200701003
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Lead officer's recommendation

Summarise your reasons for assessing the application as you have (drawing out the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal and highlighting any specific risks):

Edinburgh International Festival (EIF) is the foremost international arts event in Scotland and the pre-eminent international festival of performing arts in the world. At the core of EIF's vision is a commitment to reflect international culture to Scottish audiences and Scottish culture in presentation to international audiences. The ability to commission new work and unique artistic experiences that will keep EIF at the forefront of international festivals. The engagement with leading Scottish companies presents and showcase the work of Scottish artists on the international stage.

EIF is the principal vehicle for delivery of international arts to audiences in Scotland. The organisation has demonstrated a commitment in recent years to widening their audiences and specifically targeting underrepresented groups, in particular young people, disabled people and minority ethnic communities. The accessibility of the festival has been increased significantly through the work in Audience and Programme Development and this work permeates with the artistic vision at the core of the festival.

However, despite this success, EIF is in a precarious position. Although the 2005 was a critical success and attracted record audience attendance, it resulted in a significant deficit [REDACTED]. This is despite additional grants amounting to £600k from EventScotland and CEC City's Growth Fund. [REDACTED].

The role of the Board in overseeing the financial management of the organisation needs to be considered, The organisation will be going through a major transition with the appointment of a new Festival Director next year and I would recommend that this is used as an opportunity to review the structure, function and make-up of the Board to ensure it is equipped to provided the necessary leadership of the festival into the future.

EIF is rated as High in terms of Strategic and Artistic performance criteria but lower in the operational criteria, primarily because of its precarious financial position. Overall it is rated Medium because it is an organisation which meets the performance criteria but a small number of development areas, relating to the governance and financial operation of the organisation have been identified.

Assessment:	High	Medium ✓	Low
<p>Areas of concern:</p> <p>Identify areas of concern drawn from the assessment which will inform the funding agreement for 2006/7 and future agreements / 12 month development plan (as applicable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointment of a new Festival Director/Chief Executive to take over after the 2006 Festival and a successful transition. - Strengthened financial position - Board review 			
<p>Development issues:</p> <p>Identify development issues drawn from the assessment which will inform the funding agreement for 2006/7 and future agreements /12 month development plan (as applicable)</p> <p>Artistic: Present a high quality, critically acclaimed and well attended three-week programme of international performing arts. Develop the capacity to initiate and create more productions specifically for the Festival, including site-specific work. Fill the six main theatre and concert venues in Edinburgh with a concentration of quality events to provide the core of the city's summer Festivals.</p> <p>Audiences: Continue to build on recent audience development by increasing the number of attendances by people under the age of 45 (in relation to the available seats) and by people from minority ethnic communities.</p> <p>Education: Offer programmes linked to Festival events and /or Festival artists to schools in Edinburgh. Offer an Insights programme during the Festival to widen the audience's understanding and appreciation of Festival events.</p> <p>Developments: As a key partner in the Association of Edinburgh Festivals, seek to develop this as an appropriate vehicle for collaborations with the other festivals in Edinburgh. Actively participate with AEF and the range of stakeholders in taking forward the ambitions and recommendations from the Thundering Hooves research into maintaining the Global Advantage of Edinburgh's Festivals.</p>			
<p>Lead Officer:</p> <p>Print name: Anita Clark</p>		<p>Date: 30 November 2005</p>	

Stage 2

Decision and authorisation			
CFO name: Edinburgh International Festival Society		Reference number (GMS): G200801003	
Stage 2: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the sector ecosystem			
Category for support	Essential ✓	Important	Partial
<p>Edinburgh International Festival is the foremost, international arts event in Scotland and the pre-eminent international festival of performing arts in the world. At the core of EIF's vision is a commitment to reflecting international culture to Scottish audiences and reflecting Scottish culture in presentation to international audiences.</p> <p>EIF is the principal vehicle for delivery of international arts to audiences in Scotland. The organisation has demonstrated a commitment in recent years to widening their audiences and specifically targeting underrepresented groups, in particular young people, disabled people and minority ethnic communities. The accessibility of the festival has been increased significantly through the work in Audience and Programme Development and this work permeates with the artistic vision at the core of the festival.</p> <p>However, despite this success, EIF is in a precarious position. Although the 2005 was a critical success and attracted record audience attendance, it resulted in a significant deficit [REDACTED]. This is despite additional grants amounting to £600k from EventScotland and CEC City's Growth Fund. [REDACTED]</p> <p>The imminent change in leadership will have a significant impact on the future direction and delivery of EIF and requires careful transitional management.</p> <p>EIF plays a significant role across the performing arts in Scotland and is essential across the Performing Arts Scenarios. The organisation's integrated; artistically led approach means it plays a critical role in meeting all three Scottish Arts Council Aims. It is recommended that our approach in deciding on funding levels, agreements and targets is taken in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council to ensure a secure future for EIF. This may necessitate a joint approach to the Scottish Executive if the funding level required cannot be met through existing budgets.</p> <p>The outcomes and recommendations of the <i>Thundering Hooves</i> report into Maintaining the Global Competitive Advantage of Edinburgh's Festival will be instrumental in this.</p>			
Decision authorised:			
Head of Department:	Dance	By 2 December 2005	
Print name:	Anita Clark		
Date:	1 December 2005		

Stage 3: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the Corporate Synthesised scenario

CFO name: Edinburgh International Festival

Reference number (GMS): G200701003

Category for support

Foundation ✓

Flexible

Neither

Edinburgh International Festival is the foremost, international arts event in Scotland and the pre-eminent international festival of performing arts in the world. It plays a unique and distinctive role in the performing arts in Scotland. Its programme is of a consistently high artistic quality. EIF is in a period of transition with a new Director currently being recruited and the changing context of all Edinburgh's Festivals currently being assessed through the Thundering Hooves report and the establishment of Festivals Edinburgh (Association of Edinburgh's Festivals). EIF has the organisational capacity to work towards the standards required of Foundation organisations but should be encouraged to review its governance structure under a new Director.

I recommend funding at a level in 07/08 with an increase of £300,000. This reflects the programming needs of the EIF and is effectively Scottish Arts Council consolidating the additional funding that EIF has received from EventScotland towards the 2005 and 2006 festivals. We would continue to work with our partner funders of EIF to ensure secure an appropriate, consolidated package of public funding for the organisation.

Recommendation authorised:

Head of Department Dance
Print name: Anita Clark

Date 14 Feb 2006

By 14
February
2006

Stage 4: Group Heads			
Recommendation and authorisation			
CFO name: Edinburgh International Festival Society		Reference number (GMS): G200701003	
Category for support	Foundation ✓	Flexible	Neither
<p>Agree with the recommendation for Foundation status with a minimum increase of grant for 2007/08 of £300k, but with the possibility of a further increase of £200k dependent on the level of increase to Scottish Arts Council's grant following on from our bid towards from the additional £20m in support of Culture Scotland. Further propose that if sufficient funds are available EIF receive a one off stabilisation payment of £500k to contribute towards their sustainability.</p>			
Decision authorised: Group Head Print name: Jim Tough			Date 14 Feb 2006 By 14 February 2006

Stage 5: Creative Arts / Performing Arts Committee			
Recommendation and authorisation			
CFO name: Edinburgh International Festival Society		Reference number (GMS): G200701003	
Category for support	Foundation ✓	Flexible	Neither
<p>Agreed as per Managers/Group Heads recommendations.</p>			
Committee Chair Print name: Jennifer Waterton			Date February 2006

Stage 6: Council			
Decision			
CFO name: Edinburgh International Festival Society		Reference number (GMS): G200701003	
Category for support	Foundation ✓	Flexible	Neither
Approved Foundation funding as per Managers/Group Heads and Committee recommendation			
Chairman Print name: Richard Holloway		Date 28 February 2006	

End of Assessment

ⁱ Detail withheld under Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 section 33 (1) (b) (commercial interests & economy)