

NORTHERN JOINT POLICE BOARD

14 SEPTEMBER 2007

Agenda Item	
Report No	

MANAGEMENT OF MAJOR EVENTS

Report by the Chief Constable

SUMMARY

To outline the Force's position in relation to support of major events.

BACKGROUND

The Force has a responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of all in its area; this includes particularly arrangements in relation to major events, ensuring the safety of attendees and those in the general vicinity. Issues of public order, crime prevention etc will also be pertinent.

Significant population movements can be expected with an influx of around 8,000 at a recent Inverness Caledonian Thistle football match, 35,000 at Rock Ness, 22,000 of whom stayed in campsites and up to 14,000 expected to the Mountain Biking Events in Fort William.

This requires a significant investment of police time to ensure that such events go smoothly and the image of the Highlands and Islands is positively recognised.

Under the relevant legislation police forces can recover certain costs from organisers. Not all costs are recoverable where it is deemed to be part of the day to day function. Therefore whilst management of the significant flow of traffic from football matches requires a policing input, it is deemed part of normal Constabulary duties and is not chargeable. Only the officers on duty within the grounds maintaining public order are charged.

Whilst only partial costs are therefore recovered the Constabulary recognises the value of such events on a cultural and commercial basis to the wider community. However, income receipts can be significant. More than £75,000 was received for Policing at Rockness Music Festival. This funding flows back into Area Commanders to allow them to provide local services throughout the rest of the year.

It should also be recognised that Northern Constabulary manages a wide range of such events and has developed approaches to minimise the bureaucracy and administration of the management of these events. Current police officer levels have been built recognising the additional income streams created by these external events and clearly visible support of these events contributes to our achievement of many of our strategic objectives particularly public reassurance.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are invited to note the Force's position in the management of major events

I Latimer
Chief Constable

5 September 2007