

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS WORKING GROUP

Minute of Meeting held in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Town House on Tuesday, 27 January 2015 at 2.00pm

Present

Highland Council

Mrs G Sinclair

Mr F Parr

Mr G Ross

Mr H Wood

Also in attendance

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Manager

Mrs T Bangor-Jones, Administrative Assistant

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Exclusion of the Public

It was **AGREED** that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Events and Festivals Strategy – Governance Narrative

There had been re-circulated Report Nos ICC/75/08 and ICC/05/11 by the Inverness City Manager for noting. The Inverness City Manager updated Members on the governance of the Events and Festivals Strategy.

During discussion, Members made the following comments:

- it was essential not to undervalue the importance of Events and Festivals to both the local community and economy;
- engagement with other stakeholders, agencies and partners should be maximised wherever possible;
- issues in regard of the Northern Meeting Park should be explored through discussion with High Life Highland;
- more use should be made of Whin Park and Bught Park which were believed to be under-utilised;
- where possible, and if practical, it would be advantageous to have an alternative location in place should a Winter event be cancelled due to bad weather conditions;
- there was great appreciation of all the work undertaken by the Events Manager and other Officers which underpinned the varied and stimulating programme of highly successful

events;

- with regard to the Inverness Highland Games there was a need to involve other stakeholders to ensure a continued and successful future. It was vital that the Games appealed to both the local community and tourists;
- more investigative work was needed in terms of the Events and Festivals Working Group developing opportunities with other Partners and it was noted that an Events focused Charrette involving other public and private sector organisations was planned for April; and
- It would be helpful to have additional Pre-Meetings meetings of the Working Group.

Thereafter, the Working Group **NOTED** the update on the governance of the Events and Festivals Strategy and **AGREED:-**

- i. to investigate, with High Life Highland opportunities to improve the viability of the Northern Meeting Park as an events venue;
- ii. that a meeting with the Highland Games Committee should be arranged to discuss the way forward for the Inverness Highland Games;
- iii. to initiate Pre-Meetings prior to regular Events and Festivals Working Group meetings; and
- iv. that the Inverness City Manager should bring forward a report outlining the governance procedure.

5. Date of Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that further discussion was to be undertaken in regard to the date of the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 4.10pm.