

City of Inverness Area Committee

Minutes of Meeting of the **Events and Festivals Working Group** held in 1st Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on Monday 6 July 2015 at 3.10 pm.

Present:

Highland Council

Mr F Parr
Mr G Ross

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Manager
Mr G Reynolds, Inverness Events Manager
Miss J Green, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

Mr F Parr in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs G Sinclair and Mr H Wood, Highland Council and Ms J Cuddy, Manager, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Mr C Marr, Chief Executive, Eden Court Theatre and Mr M Smith, Manager, Inverness BID.

At this point it was noted that the meeting was not quorate but would continue as a briefing with any decisions being deferred until the next meeting.

2. 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 items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There had been circulated Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 23 April 2015 which were **NOTED**.

5. Update on 2015 Events

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Manager on the success of recent events and the current arrangements for future events which included:-

- (i) Inverness Caledonian Thistle FC Scottish Cup Final Party
- (ii) Zombie-ness
- (iii) Riverside Party
- (iv) Armed Forces Day
- (v) Highlands Strongest Man
- (vi) 10k Road Race
- (vii) Inverness Gala
- (viii) Halloween Show
- (ix) Hogmanay

During discussion the following issues were raised:-

- it was important that all Council departments followed the proper process when selecting dates for events by consulting with the Working Group who were responsible for the governance of major events in the city;
- to minimise the duration of road closures during the 10k Road Race; arrangements were in place to withdraw runners who did not keep up with the agreed minimum pace. It was agreed that a mini-bus be used to pick-up these runners which Mr G Ross volunteered to drive;
- it was noted that the site for the Road Race included a changing area for runners and an administration and control area for the electronic chip timing which needed to be next to the start and finish on the road;
- it was noted that the Grandstand had a capacity of around 800 people and the tents around the site provided additional capacity;
- it was confirmed that first aiders were provided at all events and there would be security fencing around the Inverness Gala site;
- Officers were praised for the work undertaken to re-schedule last year's Halloween Show which had attracted a high turnout when staged in November. The lack of a suitable alternative venue was noted, and it was agreed that it would be understandable if the event had to be cancelled instead of rescheduled in the future; and
- the Events Manager confirmed that he, the Chair and the City Manager would be meeting with the newly appointed Provost to discuss future events.

6. Event Tourism Charrette

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Manager on the success of the Event Tourism Charrette which had recently taken place with the purpose of reviewing the progress of events and encouraging more collaborative working between decision makers. A report on the findings of the Event Tourism Charrette was being prepared by Prof J Goldblatt of Queen Margaret University to be used as a guide for decision making.

During discussion the following comments were made:-

- the Loch Ness brand was known worldwide and should be used wherever possible; and
- the wrap on the front of the Town House to hide the scaffolding had been positively received and was attracting tourists.

Thereafter, it was **NOTED** that the report would be presented to a future meeting of the City of Inverness Area Committee.

7. Budget Forecast

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Manager on the budget forecast which was **NOTED** and it was **AGREED** that a Budget Briefing for Members would be arranged to take place in early September.

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 8 October 2015.

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm.