

## 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 Thursday 14 January 2016 at 11.30 am.

### **Present:**

#### Highland Council

Mr F Parr

Mr G Ross

Mrs G Sinclair

Mr H Wood

### **Officials in Attendance:**

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager

Mr G Reynolds, Inverness Events Manager

Miss J Green, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

Miss L Mackay, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office

Miss K Mackinnon, Clerical Assistant, City Manager's Office

### **Mrs G Sinclair in the Chair**

### **Business**

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr G Ambrose, CEO, Visit Inverness Loch Ness, Ms J Cuddy, Manager, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Mr C Marr, Chief Executive, Eden Court Theatre, Mr M Smith, Manager, Inverness BID and Ms A Windsor, Cluster General Manager, Columba Hotel, Inverness Hotels Association.

#### **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 10 December 2015 which were **NOTED**.

In relation to Item 6 Financial Reporting, it was confirmed that arrangements were being made to formally present event expenditure using the Council's accounting system under the individual budget heading for each event.

## 5. Update on 2015 Events

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Manager reviewing the 2015 Christmas Lights Switch-On, Winter Wonderland and Hogmanay Show during which it was noted that all events had been successfully and safely staged.

In relation to events in 2016 it was recommended that:-

- for safety the torchlight parade for the Christmas Lights Switch-On would finish in front of the Town House and all torches would be extinguished by stewards at the exit points;
- to achieve best value and avoid clashes with Christmas parties and Community Christmas Bazaars the Winter Wonderland event would take place on Friday 2 December from 6pm to 9pm and Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 December from 5pm to 8pm;
- consideration was being given by the Council to mark the Queen's 90th birthday;
- the Events Manager would be lead on the arrangements for the Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony;
- a separate Inverness Highland Games Committee and Inverness Gala Working Group, responsible for the organisation of activities on each day, would be set-up and operate under the governance of the Events and Festivals Working Group;
- the Events Manager would meet with Inverness Harriers to discuss proposals for the Inverness Harriers 10k Road Race and consultation would commence on the new route; and
- the Halloween Show would take place over three nights with entry to the first night being offered to children with additional support needs.

During discussion, Members considered various suggestions for the Inverness Highland Games and Inverness Gala weekend, themes for the Halloween Show and entertainment for the Hogmanay Show.

In this regard, it was **AGREED** that further discussion on the arrangements for the Inverness Highland Games and Inverness Gala weekend should be undertaken between the Events Manager and representatives from the Inverness Harriers, the Army and the Camanachd Association.

**At this point Mr F Parr left the meeting.**

## 6. 2015/16 Budget Forecast

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Manager on the budget forecast during which he predicted an underspend in the current year. A copy of the budget forecast was tabled. The budget position was **NOTED**.

## 7. Feedback from Stakeholders

The Events Manager reported that feedback from stakeholders on all events in 2015 had been outstanding and every event received record attendance.

In response to a question, the Events Manager outlined the process for evaluating the economic impact of events during which he explained that EventScotland recommended, as part of the national events strategy "Scotland, the Perfect Stage", the use of the online calculator eventIMPACTS. The calculator worked by inputting estimated direct expenditure and applying a multiplier to account for indirect and induced expenditure. Furthermore, recognition should be given to unquantifiable outcomes of events. In conclusion, the national strategy stressed the importance of considering the impact of events within a national context and not on an isolated basis.

The Events Manager confirmed that a briefing paper was prepared which provided details of the overall position.

Two newspaper articles on the Hogmanay Show were tabled at the meeting which Members felt would support the briefing paper.

During discussion, Members praised the positive impact of events and thanked the Events Manager for the explanation and commented that using the same formula to calculate the economic impact of events would allow for comparisons to be made on each event.

Thereafter, it was **NOTED** that the briefing paper would be issued to all City of Inverness Area Committee Members.

## 8. Date of Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the date of the next meeting would be confirmed in due course.

The meeting ended at 2.00 pm.