

City of Inverness Area Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the **Events and Festivals Working Group** held in Committee Room 1, Council Headquarters, Inverness on Thursday, 7 August 2025 at 10.00am.

Highland Council:

Mr I Brown

Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair (remote)

Mrs J Hendry

Mr R MacKintosh (remote)

Mrs K MacLean (remote)

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Senior Community Development Manager Inverness & South

Ms A MacNeill, Corporate Communications Manager

Mrs G MacPherson, Committee Officer, Corporate Service

Also in Attendance:

Ms E Fogel Walker, Destination Director, Visit Inverness Loch Ness

Ms K Rait, Inverness Events Manager (remote)

Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Exclusion of the Public

Members **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of items 5 & 6 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 none.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There had been circulated and were **NOTED** the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 June 2025.

5. City Events Forum Update

The Senior Community Development Manager for Inverness & South provided an update from the recent Events Forum.

A City Events Forum would be arranged to update on developments as soon as practicable once sufficient information was available to fully inform.

Members **NOTED** the update.

6. City Area Community Events Programme 25/26

The Senior Community Development Manager for Inverness & South and the Inverness Events Manager presented an update to Members on the plans for the Community Events Programme for the period up until 31 March 2026 and beyond. This also included the links made with other City Centre stakeholders. An update was also provided in terms of the Inverness Highland Games, which had been held on Friday, 11 July 2025.

Inverness Highland Games

The event was a huge success, with 7,200 people attending on the day. There was a high turnout of competitors, and the evening ceilidh was sold out.

Costs and income from the event were shared. There had been a significant increase in infrastructure costings, however, there had been an increase in pre-sold tickets in comparison to the same event held in 2024.

A post-event meeting would be arranged with the Highland Games Committee.

Members thanked everyone involved.

Bonfire Night

An update was provided in terms of costs and considerations.

Inverness City Centre Hogmanay

An update was provided in terms of costs and considerations.

New Music Festival

Discussions were continuing and an update was provided.

Sponsorship of the event would be welcomed and further details of the event would be released in due course.

Members **NOTED** the updates and information provided.

7. Budget – Update – 2025/26

Funding for the 2025/26 programme had been agreed and an update was provided. Reports on programmed spend would be taken to future meetings of the Working Group.

Members **NOTED** the information provided.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Members **NOTED** that the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 11 September 2025 at 2.00pm.

The meeting ended at 11.30am.