

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 Tuesday, 30 June 2026 at 2.30pm.

Present:

Members of the Working Group

Mr I Brown

Mrs J Hendry

Ms K MacLean

Non-Members of the Working Group

Mr K Gowans

Ms M Reid

Officials in Attendance

Mr D Haas, Senior Community Development Manager Inverness & South

Mrs G MacPherson, Senior Committee Officer

Also in Attendance:

Ms K Rait, Inverness Events Manager (Independent sub-contractor)

Mrs J Hendry in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair and Mr R MacKintosh.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Working Group **NOTED** the following Transparency Statement:-

Item 5: Mrs J Hendry

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Working Group **NOTED** the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 May 2026 and an update regarding sponsorship commitments for a recent event which had not come to fruition as anticipated. Disappointment was expressed in this regard.

4. Exclusion of the Public

The Working Group **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public 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

5. City Area Community Events Programme 2026/27

Transparency Statement: Mrs J Hendry made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item as Teclan Ltd, of which she was a major shareholder, used one of the insurance companies under consideration and she had arranged that insurance. However, having applied the objective test, she did not consider that she had an interest to declare.

The Events Manager and Senior Community Development Manager gave a presentation on the Inverness Highland Games 2026, during which an update was provided in terms of ticket sales, logistics, infrastructure and associated costs, and event cancellation insurance.

Following discussion, the Working Group:-

- i. **NOTED** the update and that the commitment of £20,000 of sponsorship to the Inverness International Blues Festival had not come to fruition and consequently the associated invoice had been cancelled;
- ii. **NOTED** the events cancellation insurance quotes submitted for Inverness Highland Games 2026 and that they had been procured as best value; and
- iii. **AGREED** their preferred event cancellation insurance quote for Inverness Highland Games 2026 and that it was a reasonable cost.

Due to difficulties in achieving a quorum for meetings, the Working Group **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the City of Inverness Area Committee (CIAC) that the substantive membership of the Events and Festivals Working Group be increased, with a request to be placed on the CIAC agenda for 17 August 2026 for a further two Members to join the Working Group.

Due to Mrs K MacLean having to leave the meeting at this point, the meeting was then inquorate. Consequently, the remaining items on the agenda could not be considered and all subsequent agenda items would be deferred to the next Working Group meeting.

The meeting therefore concluded at 3.15pm.

The next meeting was due to be held on Thursday 6 August at 10.00am.