

# Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 20 June 2019

## The Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto Update

Item number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All
Council Commitments	43

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Transport and Environment Committee is asked to:
- 1.1.1 Approve the re-procurement of existing contracts for events in the Meadows and Inverleith Park for the period 2020 – 2022 and note the intention to progress procurement of eight contracts for other parks in the city for the period 2020 – 2022 (the final award of contracts will be submitted to Committee for approval); and
  - 1.1.2 Note that a full review of the Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto is being progressed alongside the review of the Public Spaces Protocol and that these will be reported to Committee on 5 December 2019. A note on this will be included in the next business bulletin for Culture and Communities Committee.

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Executive Director of Place

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## The Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto Update

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 Approval is requested to progress with re-procurement of existing contracts. Committee is also asked to note the intention to procure a further eight contracts. Both of these procurements are for the period 2020 – 2022.
- 2.2 The report notes that a full review of the Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto is being progressed alongside a review of the Council's Public Spaces Protocol which are due to be reported to Committee in December 2019.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The Council Scheme of Delegation was last approved by Council on [13 December 2018](#).
- 3.2 The Council's Parks Events Manifesto was approved by Committee on [26 August 2014](#). An annual review of major events in parks is considered by Committee on an annual basis, with the most recent report on [6 December 2018](#).
- 3.3 Transport and Environment Committee approved procurement for major events in parks on [30 August 2016](#).
- 3.4 On [22 November 2018](#) Council approved the following motion from Councillor Claire Miller - Council:
  - 3.4.1 Notes existing council policies and procedures for events and attractions in parks, which allow commercial events to take place, authorised by the Executive Director of Place under delegated authority, with comments from elected members and advice from relevant council departments;
  - 3.4.2 Notes that Edinburgh's Christmas has again erected structures in East Princes Street Gardens and St Andrew Square Garden over areas of tree roots which are known to require protection, which is evidenced respectively by the planning condition in relation to the National Galleries of Scotland development specifying that roots of retained tree in East Princes Street Gardens are to be treated as "sacrosanct", and the St Andrew Square Garden tree report commissioned by Essential Edinburgh and carried out by Potter Tree Consultancy regarding tree root compaction;

- 3.4.3 Notes that the Summer Sessions concerts held at the Ross Bandstand in West Princes Street Gardens closed the gardens to general public access and blocked views of the garden and castle from Princes Street;
- 3.4.4 Recognises public feedback on a) the need for a clearer, transparent council policy, and b) a review of the appropriate number of commercial events and attractions in public parks and green spaces;
- 3.4.5 Requests the Executive Director of Place to coordinate a review of policies and procedures to simplify and combine these policies where possible, including evaluation of the number and duration of events, in order to reduce the impact of any commercial events in terms of the access for members of the general public to public parks and green spaces, and to report this to Transport and Environment Committee and Culture and Communities Committee within 2 cycles;
- 3.4.6 Notes that the scope of this motion excludes small-scale community events, typically short in duration, and low in impact.

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 The Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto is a strategic and proactive approach to the planning and managing of events within Edinburgh's parks and greenspaces. This provides a framework through which a balanced and sustainable events programme can be achieved, whilst ensuring that the quality of the land is maintained to the highest standard possible.
- 4.2 Edinburgh's Events portfolio is intended to:
  - 4.2.1 Generate significant economic benefit to the city region;
  - 4.2.2 Help make the city lively throughout the year;
  - 4.2.3 Reflect the civic and political status of Edinburgh as a Capital city; and
  - 4.2.4 Reinforce the Council's vision and aspirations.
- 4.3 The Manifesto sets out the following principles for events in the city's parks and greenspaces:
  - 4.3.1 Control the total number of days for an event on any site;
  - 4.3.2 Schedule turf rest periods between events;
  - 4.3.3 Control the number of large events on each site each year;
  - 4.3.4 Specific site factors;
  - 4.3.5 Sets appropriate limits for private events;
  - 4.3.6 Control vehicle use and access;
  - 4.3.7 Impose appropriate conditions on event activities and placement of infrastructure to be monitored and assessed; and
  - 4.3.8 Contingency plans to be put in place for events and form part of the event license agreement.

- 4.4 A review of the Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto is now underway. The review will consider all of the above principles; alongside the number of applications approved for events in the city's parks since the manifesto was introduced; review the outcomes of the annual review of major events in parks; and consider gaps in the existing document (e.g. clearly defining events and considering inclusion of other activities which take place in parks). It will also include evaluation of the number and duration of events.
- 4.5 This review is being undertaken alongside the review of the Council's Public Spaces Protocol, which was approved on 1 [March 2018](#).

#### **Procurement of Events in Parks**

- 4.6 It is proposed to re-procure the existing contracts for events in Inverleith Park and the Meadows for the period 2020 – 2022. These contracts are:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Existing Contractors</b>	<b>Type of Event</b>	<b>Number of days Inclusive of set up &amp; breakdown</b>	<b>Anticipated Revenue</b>
The Meadows	Underbelly	Circus Hub	33 days (the original specification was for 29 days however an allowance of an additional 4 days was authorised by T&E Cttee (16/08/16)	£48,000 + 1% gainshare
Inverleith Park	Foodies Festival	Food and Drink Festival	10 days	£14,500

- 4.7 In addition, Committee is asked to note the intention to procure a further eight contracts over four sites for the period 2020 – 2022. These are set out as follows:

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Duration of event (incl set up &amp; breakdown)</b>	<b>Dates of 1<sup>st</sup> contract</b>	<b>Dates of 2<sup>nd</sup> contract</b>
Leith Links *	Maximum 15 days	April to May	August to September
Gyle Park	Maximum 15 days	April to May	August to September
Sighthill Park	Maximum 15 days	April to May	August to September
Calton Hill	Maximum 15 days	April to May	August to September

\*the specification for the Leith Links contracts will ensure that the dates will take into account and avoid existing established community events.

- 4.8 The proposed specifications for all eight are for a large ticketed event i.e. an event which may include infrastructure/tents specifications and is estimated to attract over 1,000 attendees. These may include cultural, food and drink, live performance (i.e. music, theatre, circus etc) that recognise restrictions around noise, traffic management and the proximity of local residents.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 The review of the Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto is underway, alongside the Public Spaces Protocol. The outcomes will be reported to both Transport and Environment Committee in December 2019 and Culture and Communities Committee in January 2020.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 In 2018/19, events in parks generated £590,081 income to the Council's revenue budget.
- 6.2 In February 2019, as part of the Place directorate's proposal to maximise income, an increase in income from Parks and Greenspaces was approved at £150,000.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 The review of the Parks Events Manifesto will include significant engagement with stakeholders, community groups, friends of parks and Elected Members.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 None.

## **9. Appendices**

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