

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 28 January 2020

Festivals and Events Core Programme 2020/21

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| Executive/routine | |
| Wards | All |
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1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that Committee:

1.1.1 approves in principle the following proposed allocations towards sport events from the Events budget:

1.1.1.1 £40,000 towards the European Junior Diving Championships;

1.1.1.2 £30,000 towards the Women's Tour of Scotland;

1.1.1.3 £5,000 towards the Scottish Diving Championships;

1.1.1.4 £5,000 towards the Scottish Short Course Swimming Championships;

1.1.1.5 £10,000 towards the UK Beach Volleyball Tour;

1.1.1.6 £10,000 towards the Edinburgh International Swimming Meet;

1.1.1.7 £50,000 towards the HSBC UK Let's Ride Edinburgh;

1.1.1.8 £30,000 towards the BUCS Cross Country Championships and Edinburgh Winter Run; and

1.1.1.9 £8,000 towards a Pro-Team netball tournament.

1.1.2 approves a second year of the successful multi-cultural event first held in 2019 and the allocation of a total budget of £43,600 made up of a combined contribution of an allocated cultural funding grant of £33,600 and £10,000 from the citywide community events allocation 2019/20;

- 1.1.3 approves a contribution of £100,000 towards a proposed project to light the Granton Gasometer for a minimum of two years, and a project launch event in partnership with Edinburgh College;
- 1.1.4 approves the Edinburgh Summer Sessions programme in West Princes Street Gardens for 2020 at the same level as 2019, being nine concerts; and
- 1.1.5 notes the continued in principle commitment to the following events from the Events budget:
 - 1.1.5.1 £5,000 towards Armed Forces Day from the 2020/21 financial year;
 - 1.1.5.2 £10,000 towards the Edinburgh Award; and
 - 1.1.5.3 £8,000 towards the Remembrance Day Service.

Paul Lawrence

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Report

Festivals and Events Core Programme 2020/21

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the recommended core programme of festivals and events for 2020/21.
- 2.2 The programme is aligned with the Council's Events Strategy which was reported and approved at the Culture and Sport Committee on [31 May 2016](#). The Strategy is designed to provide a positive mix of new and well established cultural and sporting events which promote Edinburgh as a vibrant, contemporary, international city. As captured in the Strategy document, the approach is to support events on 3 Tiers, or levels, of international, national and city importance.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council's Events Strategy, as approved by the Culture and Sport Committee on 31 May 2016, is designed to provide a positive mix of new and well established cultural and sporting events which promote Edinburgh as a vibrant, contemporary international city. The Strategy adopts a 3 tier approach to the development of the city's events programme. The programme of events and festivals for 2020/21 is aligned with the Strategy.
- 3.2 This report describes the current proposed programme of cultural and sporting events in 2020/21 and recommendations for longer lead time events going forward.

4. Main report

Festivals and Events Core Programme 2020/21

- 4.1 The proposed programme of the 2020/21 Festivals and Events is set out in Appendix 1.

2020/21 Programme of Events

4.2 Tier 1 major international events

4.2.1 Aberdeen successfully submitted a bid to host the 2020 European Junior Swimming and Diving Championships. However, it transpired that for technical reasons, their pool is not a suitable venue for the diving element of the competition, and so Edinburgh has been asked to host the **European Junior Diving Championships** at the Royal Commonwealth Pool on 30 June to 5 July 2020. Negotiations have been taking place with partners Event Scotland, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Sports Village, Scottish Swimming, British Swimming, and Edinburgh Leisure to bring this event to fruition. The financial contribution required from Edinburgh is £40,000 which would be allocated from the 2020/21 Events Budget. Event Scotland will match this contribution, and British Swimming have agreed to financially underwrite the event. Although a junior event, this is a full European Championship entailing three days of training followed by six days of competition. It will be streamed live on the internet, and should attract considerable interest from local, national and international media. It is conservatively estimated to generate £400k in economic impact to the Edinburgh economy, and will also continue to reinforce the Royal Commonwealth Pool's reputation as a centre of excellence for diving.

4.3 Tier 2 national events

4.3.1 **Armed Forces Day** (June 2020) continues to recognise the contribution of veterans and the Council's commitment to the Community Covenant. This event comprises a city centre march for veterans and finale event, featuring refreshments, entertainment alongside charity and information stalls associated with the Armed Forces. An allocation of £5,000 from the Events Budget is recommended.

4.3.2 Negotiations are taking place to bring the **Women's Tour of Scotland** back to the city in August, with Holyrood Park once again being the venue for the start and finish of the Edinburgh race stage. This year the organisers are keen to ensure a strong participatory element to the event: this is likely to include a family-friendly fun ride around Arthur's Seat, and some cycling-themed activation and entertainment for the spectators in the Park. The professional race is a great showcase for women's sport and will feature some of the world's top women's teams from Europe, Australia and North America, as well as Great Britain and Scotland. It is supported by Event Scotland, Scottish Cycling, British Cycling and the UCI (International Cycling Union) and will be broadcast live on ITV4. Last year tens of thousands of spectators came out to line the route across Scotland and enjoy the spectacle of watching the race, despite the extreme conditions of at times torrential rain. An allocation of £30,000 from the Events Budget is recommended.

4.3.3 The annual **Scottish Diving Championships** are planned to take place at the Royal Commonwealth Pool from 3 to 6 December and will again provide an opportunity for local people to see some of the country's best divers here in Edinburgh. This competition has previously seen Olympians such as Tom Daley and our own Grace Reid compete in what also acts as an inspirational focus for the young people involved in the highly successful diving programme at the Pool, for whom competition at the highest level seems a bit more attainable. An allocation of £5,000 from the Events Budget is recommended.

4.3.4 The annual **Scottish Short Course Swimming Championships** are scheduled to take place at the Royal Commonwealth Pool from 11 to 13 December. This is Scottish Swimming's premier 25-metre swimming event, which attracts top swimmers from all over the UK, and sometimes further afield. The Championships are always well-attended and are delivered to a high standard of event presentation, acting as a showcase for one of the most popular sports. The event is streamed live on the Scottish Swimming website. An allocation of £5,000 from the Events Budget is recommended.

4.3.5 The **UK Beach Volleyball Tour** is a series of more than 70 Beach Volleyball tournaments held across the UK. The tournament is open to both male and female participants of a wide range of ability, from club level to national team pairs and Olympians. Many of the tour events take place in towns and cities which do not have access to a beach, and sand courts are created especially for the tournament. However, in Edinburgh we have our own permanent beach volleyball venue at Portobello Beach, which has already hosted several local, national and international beach volleyball tournaments. Bringing the UK Beach Tour with a Grand Slam event in Edinburgh will provide a huge boost to the growing Edinburgh and Scottish Beach Volleyball scene, as elite athletes competing locally always bring visibility and excitement for a sport. An allocation of £10,000 from the Events Budget is recommended.

4.4 As captured in the Events Strategy a series of bespoke Tier 3 events should be delivered.

4.5 Tier 3 bespoke city events

4.5.1 The **Citywide Community Events Fund 2019/20** as reported to committee on [18 June 2019](#) replaced the Local Event Fund to ensure medium sized local events received the appropriate development funding to either promote their growth or help them to become more established. The Culture budget allocated £60,000 towards the Citywide Community Events Fund. With the approval of Committee members eight events across the city were identified for support. The proposed funding of £10,000 towards the St Andrews Fair Saturday organisation was not required as the project benefitted directly from

active networking contacts and opportunities, and in-kind support from the Council. It is proposed, therefore, that subject to Committee approval this funding is re-allocated to the second annual Multicultural Festival as described below.

4.5.2 Events supported by the Citywide Community Events Fund:

- 4.5.2.1 Take One Action Film Festival - £7,000
- 4.5.2.2 Edinburgh Pipe Band Championships - £3,000
- 4.5.2.3 Edinburgh Riding of the Marches - £5,000
- 4.5.2.4 Hidden Door - £5,000
- 4.5.2.5 Magic Festival – Hogmanay House - £7,000
- 4.5.2.6 Cymera – Science Fiction Book Festival - £3,000
- 4.5.2.7 Fair Trade Festival - £10,000
- 4.5.2.8 Dusshera 25th Anniversary - £10,000
- 4.5.2.9 St Andrew's Fair Saturday - £10,000 Unallocated

4.5.3 As reported to Committee on [29 January 2019](#) support for a new Multicultural Event was proposed and agreed. The Culture Service undertook a procurement process to identify an event producer for an event to take place in Autumn 2019 with the option to extend for an additional year. The first **Edinburgh Multicultural Festival** took place on 4 to 6 October 2019. The festival successfully met its aims to promote local and international multicultural artists, engage indigenous and BAME residents. It was held at various venues across North Edinburgh, and engaged local audiences through music, dance, storytelling and visual arts from a wide spectrum of Edinburgh's diverse cultures. A final event report can be accessed at [link](#). Initial feedback indicates that 58% of the audiences attending throughout the 3-day event felt better-connected to the multicultural communities of Edinburgh.

4.5.4 The ambition is to grow the Festival, and Committee is asked to approve culture budget funding of £33,600 allocated to the multi-cultural event to enable the Festival to take place in 2020. This allocation will also be included in the Third Party Cultural Grants report due to be reported to Committee in March 2020.

4.5.5 Committee is also asked to approve re-allocation of £10,000 from the 2019/20 Citywide Community Events budget to enable the Festival to develop networks with cultural organisations and community groups and increase outreach and engagement opportunities throughout the year in advance of the 2020 event.

4.5.6 This combined budget would provide a total resource of £43,600 for a 2020 event, a slight reduction to the overall budget available of £1,400 from 2019.

Edinburgh Summer Sessions

- 4.5.7 In August 2019 the 'Edinburgh Summer Sessions' promoted by DF Concerts Ltd featured nine high profile concerts by artists such as Florence and the Machine, Madness, Lewis Capaldi and Primal Scream. This built on the success of the 2018 event with Tom Jones and Paloma Faith amongst others.
- 4.5.8 Over 47,000 tickets were sold in 2019, with around 36% to Edinburgh residents; the remaining attendees were from Glasgow and elsewhere in Scotland, and with others travelling from further afield.
- 4.5.9 The UK Live Music report 'Music By Numbers 2019' conducted extensive research on the value of the UK's music industry and provides data on the economic impact of live events. The average spend by overseas music tourists was £851 per head in 2018 - up by 13% on £750 in 2017. The figure for spend by domestic music tourists in 2018 was £196 per head – up by 5% on £186 in 2017, thus estimating that the value to Edinburgh's economy from the nine Summer Sessions concerts is more than £5.5 million.
- 4.5.10 Evidence from other cities shows that outdoor concerts continue to grow in importance, helping to share and shape the summer city for a diverse demographic of residents and visitors. The presentation of high-quality popular music ensures that there is a wide spread and offer during the summer festival period and complements other activities taking place in the Fringe and International Festival in particular.
- 4.5.11 Artists proposed for the 2020 programme include a number of high-profile artists ready to confirm and go on sale, and DF Concerts is seeking approval for 10 concerts to accommodate artists who can perform for two nights. However, the officer recommendation is to maintain the status quo at nine concerts as per 2019. DF Concerts has submitted the Parks Application Form with event dates and details.
- 4.5.12 As previously reported within the Managing Our Festival City report to the [13 November 2018](#) Committee, high profile music events go some way to improving the City's appeal and reach as a positive destination for live music.
- 4.5.13 Following the 2018 event, the Committee requested that some operational issues were addressed regarding the screening from Princes Street and public access to the Gardens during the Festival.
- 4.5.14 Improvements included installation of a temporary curtain which took less time to deploy and was in place at specified event times. The event 'perimeter' was also reduced in scope, siting entrances closer to the Ross Bandstand which increased the public space. Daily operational times were reduced allowing the Gardens to remain open for longer and with a zone in the west end remaining accessible to the public throughout the day.

- 4.5.15 Feedback from the Event Planning and Operations Group, including representation from Police Scotland, Lothian Buses, Network Rail and other services, was positive. The 2020 event will be subject to the same scrutiny, planning, licensing and public safety protocols. There is an agreed aim to improve public safety on Princes Street for any 'peak' profile artists.
- 4.5.16 Committee is asked to agree, subject to DF Concerts meeting its licensing and public safety obligations, that the 2020 Edinburgh Summer Sessions are progressed.

Granton Gasometer Illumination

- 4.5.17 Early discussions are taking place between the Council and partners at Edinburgh College on a project which will see **Granton Gasometer** illuminated for up to two years. This would provide a highly visible and beautiful landmark and a point of connection as part of the Granton re-development ambitions. The project, subject to committee approval, will involve students at Edinburgh College, providing the opportunity to work on the lighting project and organise the related city launch event which will provide a legacy for the area. The project would represent a Tier 2 commitment from the 2020/21 Events budget through the allocation of £100,000. Detailed planning is currently at an early stage and will progress further if Committee approve the funding. This would be subject to securing £50,000 partnership funding which colleagues in Development and Regeneration are currently seeking to secure.
- 4.5.18 The annual **Edinburgh Award** marks the outstanding contribution of an Edinburgh citizen in their chosen field. The Award recipients are presented with an engraved gift of a Loving Cup at a ceremony in the City Chambers and an imprint of their hands installed in the City Chambers quadrangle. An allocation of £10,000 has been identified from within the Events Budget for this event.
- 4.5.19 The annual **Remembrance Day Service** in St Giles' Cathedral and wreath laying ceremony in the High Street will continue to be supported through the provision of large outdoor screen to relay the Remembrance service from within the Cathedral to the public gathered outside. An allocation of £8,000 has been identified within the Events Budget for this event.
- 4.5.20 The **Leith Late Festival** is entering its final year of a three year funding agreement as agreed by Committee on [11 October 2018](#). The funding has allowed the Festival to attract further support from Baillie Gifford, appoint a Festival producer and develop the programme. LeithLate19 was a great success and a detailed report is set out within the Business Bulletin.

- 4.5.21 The Royal Commonwealth Pool hosts the **Edinburgh International Swimming Meet** annually, in March. The status of this event has been elevated over the last few years, due to the quality of the venue and the ability of the meet to attract an increasing number of top-level swimmers, helping to affirm the Pool's rightful place as a premier swimming and aquatics venue. This event will build on what has now been established as one of the most eagerly-anticipated competitive swimming events in the UK. An allocation of £10,000 from the Events Budget is recommended.
- 4.5.22 British Cycling would like to bring their **HSBC UK Let's Ride** event to Edinburgh for the fourth time on 14 June next year. This is the free cycle ride for families, children and young people, aimed at giving participants a safe and enjoyable city-centre cycling experience in a carnival atmosphere on traffic-free streets. The 2019 event included an event hub in the Meadows comprising a cycling-related event village with various attractions, such as a Go Ride manoeuvrability challenge, a BMX skills demonstration, bicycle maintenance sessions, information on Edinburgh cycle routes, and Just Eat bicycles for hire. This year the event attracted 7,500 participants, and some very positive media coverage. An allocation of £50,000 from the Events Budget is requested; however, this could reduce to £30,000 should £20,000 funding be made available from the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places grants fund (administered by Paths for All), as has been the case in previous years. The availability or otherwise of this funding stream will not be known until Spring 2020.
- 4.5.23 Following the conclusion of successful negotiations, the **BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) Cross Country Championships** is coming to Edinburgh on 1 February, alongside which a new event to be called the **Edinburgh Winter Run** will be staged, which will be a mass participation 5k road race winter challenge around Arthur's Seat. The organisers will also stage a Family Mile and a Toddler Dash, so that everyone can take part. The successful bid to BUCS for the Cross Country Championships was led by a team from the University of Edinburgh, and was compiled through collaboration with the Council and other partners, including Historic Environment Scotland. The delivery of the Edinburgh Winter Run is derived from a proposition by Dirty Events Ltd and Triathlon Edinburgh, who will bear the financial risk for the event, and effectively underwrite the event. The bulk of the Council's financial contribution will go to the Edinburgh Winter Run, but the Cross Country will be supported in terms of shared infrastructure and venue hire. There will be a modest economic impact for the city, mostly from the visitor spend of the 2,000 plus university athletes who will be coming from all over the UK and staying a minimum of one night in local accommodation. An allocation of £30,000 is recommended from the Events Budget. Due to the timing of this event, early approval was granted under delegated authority in December 2019.

4.5.24 Netball Scotland would like to stage a **Pro-Team Netball Tournament** in January 2021. This is likely to be at Oriam but could be held at Meadowbank if the new venue is operational by then. The Sirens are Scotland's only semi-professional netball team and play against mostly English opposition in the Vitality Netball Superleague. The Sirens were created to help develop netball in Scotland by providing a world-class training and competition programme for players, coaches and officials. Most of the players also form part of Scotland's national netball squad, so running the pro-team alongside provides the national players with regular opportunities to play together in a competitive environment. This will be a one-day, three-match tournament involving two of the English teams from the Superleague in a pre-season friendly. An allocation of £8,000 is recommended from the Events Budget.

4.6 Further sports events are currently under discussion and will be brought to Committee later in the year, pending successful conclusion of negotiations.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Continue to work in partnership with stakeholders, partners and residents to deliver a successful sports and cultural events and activities portfolio for the city through the framework of the Events Strategy.

6. Financial impact

6.1 The contributions to events listed in this report can be contained in the current projected Events budget for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. The income for the Summer Sessions event has been factored in to the 2020/2021 Place income budget.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 The Council has engaged with the relevant partners and event promoters to develop and deliver these proposals.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 [A new Events Strategy for Edinburgh report – Culture and Sport Committee, 30 May 2016](#)

8.2 [Festival and Events Core Programme 2019/20](#) -Culture and Communities Committee, 29 January 2019

- 8.3 [Approved 2017-18 - 2020-21 Revenue Budget and 2017-18 - 2021-22 Capital Investment Programme - plans for supplementary investment report – Finance and Resources Committee, 23 March 2017](#)

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Festivals and Events Programme to end March 2021

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS PROGRAMME to end March 2021

New events are *italicised*. Asterisks denote one of the major festivals.

CEC Funded Events in Calendar Year 2020 to 31 March 2021

| | |
|---|---|
| 30 December 2019 – 25 January 2020 | Edinburgh's Hogmanay Festival* |
| 2 – 5 January 2020 | <i>Magic Festival - Hogmanay House</i> |
| 1 - 2 February 2020 | Wellness Festival |
| 21 January – 9 February 2020 25 January 2020 | Burns & Beyond Festival and Chinese New Year |
| 1 February 2020 | <i>BUCS National Cross Country Championships and Edinburgh Winter Run</i> |
| 13 - 15 March 2020 | Edinburgh International Swimming Meet |
| 4 – 19 April 2020 | Edinburgh International Science Festival* |
| January/February/June 2020 (TBC) | Leith Late |
| 9 May 2020 | Fair Trade Festival |
| 20 May – 31 May 2020 | Imaginate Festival* |
| 5 – 6 June 2020 | <i>Cymera Science Fiction Book Festival</i> |
| 14 June 2020 | HSBC UK Let's Ride Edinburgh |
| 21 June 2020 | Edinburgh Pipe Band Championships |
| 27 June 2020 | Armed Forces Day |
| 17 – 28 June 2020 | Edinburgh International Film Festival* |
| 30 June – 5 July 2020 | <i>European Junior Diving Championships</i> |
| July/September 2020 (TBC) | <i>UK Beach Volleyball Tour</i> |
| 17 - 26 July 2020 | Edinburgh International Jazz and Blues Festival* |
| 30 July – 30 August 2020 | Edinburgh Art Festival* |
| August 2020 (TBC) | Edinburgh International Culture Summit |

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| August 2020 (TBC) | Women's Tour of Scotland |
| 7 – 31 August 2020 | Edinburgh International Festival* |
| 7 – 31 August 2020 | Edinburgh Festival Fringe* |
| 7– 29 August 2020 | Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo* |
| 15 – 31 August 2020 | Edinburgh International Book Festival* |
| 9 – 18 October 2020 | Hidden Door Festival |
| 16 – 31 October 2020 | Scottish International Storytelling Festival* |
| November 2020 (TBC) | The Edinburgh Award |
| 12 November 2020 | Remembrance Sunday |
| 3 - 6 December 2020 | Scottish Diving Championships |
| 11 - 13 December 2020 | Scottish Short Course Swimming Championships |
| 30 December 2020 – January 2021 | Edinburgh's Hogmanay Festival* |
| January 2021 (TBC) | Pro-Team Netball Tournament |
| March 2021 (TBC) | Edinburgh International Swimming Meet |