

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 26 April 2022

Core Events Programme 2022/23

Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All
Council Commitments	46

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Culture and Communities Committee approves the programme of events for 2022/23 as detailed in the report and summarised in Appendix 1.

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Report

Core Events Programme 2022/23

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the recommended core programme of events for 2022/23. Given the ongoing impact of COVID-19, it is recognised that this programme could be impacted by the reintroduction of restrictions and, therefore, the nature and form of events may need to change, and some may be cancelled.
- 2.2 However, to support the event planning process, Committee is asked to agree funding awards in principle. Regular contact with event organisers will continue and notice of changes to plans will be agreed and publicised on an on-going basis.

3. Background

- 3.1 This programme is aligned with the Council's Events Strategy which was approved by 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.
- 3.2 The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the events sector locally and internationally. 2021 saw the resumption of many events in the summer with restrictions reintroduced in December, resulting in the cancellation of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, amongst others.
- 3.3 The report recommendations reflect the Council's continued partnership role in supporting the retention and recovery of the sector.

4. Main report

Core Events Programme 2022/23

- 4.1 Following its success in early 2020, the **Edinburgh Winter Run** was scheduled for January 2022 but could not take place as a result of COVID-19. However, the event has been rescheduled to January 2023 in the same format as before. Up to 2,000 competitors will run the 5km loop road around Arthur's Seat. The funding released to support the cancelled 2022 event will be retained and used to support the 2023 event.

- 4.2 A new **music-based street art festival** is being developed with TrenchOne and Edinburgh Music Lovers. The festival will encompass city-wide interventions using motivational lyrics from predominantly Scottish artists to create pieces of art in different mediums, for example wraps on the side of the Usher Hall, bus shelter takeovers, murals, neon light installations, projections and so on. To contribute to the development of this event a funding allocation of £10,000 is recommended.
- 4.3 **Wide Days**, Scotland's music convention, takes place in May 2022. With a focus on inclusivity and access, including a partnership with Attitude is Everything, Wide Days features Scotland's best up and coming talent, supporting showcases both in person and online, reinforcing the new hybrid event model.
- 4.4 The Convention not only brings the music industry to the city, but proactively promotes Edinburgh as a whole, through a series of networking events and guided tours of the capital. The funding partnership will facilitate both activities to ensure continued delegate development, and progress council venue involvement, including museums and galleries, ensuring further evolution of the event to become a destination conference, networking and must-see performance event. To contribute to the development of Wide Days in the city's music events calendar, a funding allocation of £15,000 is recommended.

Climbing Events at Edinburgh International Climbing Arena, Ratho

- 4.5 The **Scottish Youth Climbing Championships 2022 (SYCC)** on 4 June 2022 is one of the biggest dates in Scotland's youth competition calendar, which in 2019 attracted 163 young climbers (93 girls and 70 boys). This year the SYCC is round two of a brand new four-Nations Series of National Championships (alongside England, Wales and Ireland). The SYCC are a great chance for 10 to 19 year olds to test their skills in both top rope/lead climbing on some amazing routes in the world's largest indoor climbing arena. The competition is open to climbers both national and international and is a great social and community event.
- 4.6 The **Scottish Youth Speed Climbing Championships 2022 (SYSC)** on 4 June 2022 is the only event of its kind in the UK currently. It provides a great opportunity for young climbers to have ago at either mini-speed or taking on the UK's only International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) certified speed wall to see who will be quickest to the top. 2019 saw 50 young climbers (30 girls and 20 boys) taking part.
- 4.7 **Scottish ParaClimb Festival 2022** is being held on 5 June 2022 with paraclimb routes spread across the Ratho walls, giving some great new challenges. The Paraclimb Festival is more than just a competition, with three levels of participation possible, starting with simply getting a taster of what paraclimbing is about. The aim is to make this event as inclusive as possible for all involved. This competition is also the 1st round of the British Para-climbing Series.
- 4.8 The **Scottish Lead Climbing Championships (SLCC)** is the national Lead and Speed competition for adults. There are two levels to choose from (Easy or Hard) and it is open to any climber of eligible age, regardless of country of residence, who can lead climb. This is the only adult roped competition in Scotland.

- 4.9 This weekend of climbing is forecast to attract 250+ competitors, excluding family and friends. A funding allocation of £5,000 is recommended to support these four events

Volleyball Events

- 4.10 Scottish Volleyball plan to host two volleyball events in 2022:
- 4.10.1 **The Edinburgh UK Beach Tour Grand Slam** will be the second edition of this UK-wide beach volleyball tour, following a successful pilot in 2021. The event will once again be hosted at Portobello beach in the last week of July 2022. The event will develop and establish programmes with the local community, including young people, to promote sport and physical activity. A funding allocation of £20,000 is recommended.
- 4.10.2 **The Scottish Volleyball Cup Finals** weekend will be hosted at Edinburgh University on the second weekend of April 2022. It will be the biggest event of the year for indoor volleyball and a chance to celebrate the sport, with teams coming from all over Scotland. The organisers plan to live-stream the event for the first time to ensure it can take place without spectators (if restrictions require this) and to host two showcase matches: Scotland v England (senior women squads) and a sitting volleyball match for the first time. Cup Finals weekend is scheduled for the second weekend of April 2022. An allocation of £10,000 is recommended.

Swimming Events

- 4.11 Scottish Swimming plan to host four events at the Royal Commonwealth Pool in 2022 and 2023:
- 4.11.1 **The Scottish National Short Course Championships** attract 800 athletes from across Britain and Europe for a three-day meet from 9 to 11 December 2022. Competitors range from age group swimmers through to high profile senior internationalists such as Duncan Scott, Tom Dean and Kathleen Dawson. The meet is live streamed supported by 100 volunteers and has a spectating number of circa 2,000 over the three days;
- 4.11.2 **The Edinburgh International Meet** attracts 800 athletes from across Britain and internationally including the USA for a three-day meet in March 2023 (date tbc). Supported by British Swimming as a key meet for World Class Programme athletes, the event features age group athletes through to senior internationalists such as Adam Peaty, Tom Shields and Duncan Scott. The meet is live streamed, supported by over 100 volunteers and has a spectating number of circa 2,000 over the three days;
- 4.11.3 **The Scottish Summer Meet** will take place from 15 to 18 July 2022. The event attracts 600 athletes from across Scotland and is the final meet of the season for many. Competitors are mainly age group, the meet is live streamed, supported by 75 volunteers and has a spectating number of circa 1,200 over the three days; and
- 4.11.4 **The Scottish Diving Championships** attracts 200 divers from Scotland and across Britain for a four-day competition from 1 to 4 December 2022.

Competitors are predominantly senior and youth and the meet features divers such as Jack Laugher, James Heatly and Grace Reid. The meet is supported by 50 volunteers and has a spectating number of circa 600 over the four days.

4.11.5 A funding allocation of £20,000 is recommended to support these four events

- 4.12 **Netball Scotland** will host a pre-season tournament at the Oriam Performance Centre in late 2022 between Strathclyde Sirens, Scotland's only professional netball team, and two English-based teams from the Vitality Netball Super League franchise. The matches will be broadcast live and will allow a live audience to experience an elite match in this rapidly growing sport. An allocation of £8,000 is recommended to assist with travel, accommodation and venue costs.
- 4.13 **Armed Forces Day** could not take place in 2021 but the event will return in 2022 and 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 a 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.
- 4.14 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. In 2021, two recipients of the Edinburgh Award were celebrated following a delay from 2020. An allocation of £10,000 is recommended for this annual city event.
- 4.15 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 screens to relay the Remembrance service from within the Cathedral to the public gathered outside. An allocation of £8,000 is recommended for this city event.

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.
- 5.2 Committee will be kept updated on the arrangements for events through the Committee Business Bulletin.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The Festivals and Events Core Programme is funded from the Council's revenue budget allocation for Culture.
- 6.2 The contributions to events listed in this report can be contained in the current projected Events budget for 2022/23.

- 6.3 The total budget allocation for these events is set out in Appendix 1. £115,000 is allocated for small/medium scale events and the recommendations set out in this report account for £111,000 of this budget. Given the current COVID-19 impacted environment, the remaining budget will be reserved for the Council to provide partnership support of small-scale strategic events developed within the financial year.

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 [Festival and Events Core Programme 2019/20](#) - Culture and Communities Committee, 29 January 2019
- 8.2 [Festival and Events Core Programme 2020/21](#) - Culture and Communities Committee, 26 January 2020

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – 2022/23 Core Event Budget Allocations.

Appendix 1 – 2022/23 Core Event Budget Allocations

Event	Allocation
New music-based street art festival	£10,000
Wide Days	£15,000
UK Beach Tour Volleyball	£20,000
Scottish Volleyball Finals	£10,000
Netball Superleague Events	£8,000
Armed Forces Day	£5,000
Edinburgh Award	£10,000
Remembrance Day	£8,000
Climbing Events	£5,000
Swimming Events at RCP	£20,000
TOTAL	£111,000
Budget Available	£115,000
Unallocated Budget	£4,000