

# Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 5 October 2023

## Sprint World Orienteering Championships – Budget Update

Executive/routine  
Wards

Executive  
All

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Culture and Communities Committee is asked to approve a further allocation of £50,000 towards the delivery of the Sprint World Orienteering Championships 2024 from the 2024/25 Events budget.

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

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## Sprint World Orienteering Championships – Budget Update

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 Edinburgh will host the Sprint World Orienteering Championships in July 2024. A budget allocation of £200,000 was originally approved at Culture and Communities Committee on [20 March 2018](#) to deliver the event. This report seeks approval to allocate an additional £50,000 to deliver the Championships. This is because of significant inflationary increases in the budget, most notably in staffing costs.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The Sprint World Orienteering Championships are a relatively new event, owned by the International Orienteering Federation, where athletes compete over an urban city centre course. The first iteration of the event was held in Denmark in 2022.
- 3.2 The Sprint World Orienteering Championships was a new event in 2018, with the first Championships scheduled for 2020.
- 3.3 Edinburgh was awarded the Championships in 2019, originally scheduled to be delivered in 2022. However, the Coronavirus pandemic meant the 2020 (Denmark) and 2022 (Edinburgh) events were delayed to 2022 and 2024 respectively. The budget for the Championships was originally prepared in 2018 before the first edition. As such, it was based on the working budget for the Denmark (2020) edition.
- 3.4 In March 2018, Committee noted the benefits of hosting this event and approved a financial contribution to the cost of the Championships of £200,000. This funding has been carried forward annually in the Council budget to meet the cost of the event when it goes ahead.
- 3.5 The event is now scheduled to go ahead in July 2024 and is being delivered by the Scottish 6-Day Company in partnership with Scottish Orienteering and the British Orienteering Federation. A Steering Group comprised of these organisations plus the Council and EventScotland oversee the strategic development and delivery of the Championships.

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 Following the conclusion of the Denmark event, the organisers have reviewed the cost of running future events. This review considered the final event costs from Denmark (which were higher than the original budget) and that Edinburgh was likely to be a more expensive event due to the complexity of the urban layout in the city centre, the staffing resources required to safely deliver it and security costs.
- 4.2 Most notably, the UK entered a period of significant inflation after the Denmark event, pushing the costs for all elements (but particularly staffing costs) beyond those contained within the agreed budget.
- 4.3 The Steering Group re-engineered the budget to assess what elements could be scaled back or delivered differently. Based on revisions to the event format and staffing structures, a revised budget was produced that reduced the deficit.
- 4.4 As a result, both the Council and EventScotland have been asked to contribute a further £50,000 each as well as a contribution from Scottish Orienteering. The remainder of the deficit has been backed by guarantee from the British Orienteering Federation and the Scottish 6-Day Company.
- 4.5 With these additional commitments, a balanced budget can be achieved to deliver the Championships.
- 4.6 The organisers require confirmation from all of the partners of the additional funding required now in order to ensure all of the event arrangements are in place in time for July 2024.

## 5. Next Steps

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- 5.1 If agreed, the additional funds will allow the event to proceed. The Council funding will continue to be released at agreed milestones.
- 5.2 The organising Steering Group will continue to meet monthly to regularly review plans for the event, including financial updates (cashflow projections and budget updates).

## 6. Financial impact

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- 6.1 The budget for this event has been allocated from the Events budget across three financial years reducing the impact on any one year. The allocation of £200,000 (agreed in 2018) has been carried forward from previous financial years.
- 6.2 To date, the Council has contributed £60,000 of the £200,000 original allocation. Payments are released against pre-agreed milestones. Should the event be cancelled due to lack of budget, it is unlikely that the Council would be able to recover any of the released sums as they have been used for expenditure to date.
- 6.3 The further £50,000 will be contained within the 2024/25 Events budget.

- 6.4 The full Events budget is £356,200 per annum. This is nominally divided 50:50 between culture events and sports events. A full summary of the proposed allocations for 2024/25 will be shared with Committee before the end of this financial year.
- 6.5 However, it is not currently anticipated to have an adverse effect on any of the planned events in 2024/25

## **7. Equality and Poverty Impact**

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- 7.1 There are no Equality or Poverty impacts expected to arise as a result of this report.

## **8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications**

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- 8.1 There are no climate and nature emergency implications expected to arise as a result of this report.

## **9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact**

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- 9.1 The additional cost can be contained within the Council's Events budget. The Events budget is allocated on an annual basis and, while this allocation will be deducted from the 2024/25 budget allocation, it is not currently anticipated to have an adverse effect on any of the planned events in 2024/25. If Committee does not approve the recommendations contained within this report, it is possible that the Steering Group will recommend cancelling the event, which will have a significant negative reputational impact for the city.
- 9.2 This event will comply with the recommendations contained within the Policy for the Use of Public Spaces, which is also being considered on this agenda.
- 9.3 The Steering Group has appointed an Event Director to deliver this event. The Director has significant experience of delivering large events in public spaces, including in Edinburgh. In addition, a specific Permissions Officer has been appointed to directly engage with the Council and to ensure that all permissions are in place. The event will also be subject to the Council's Events Planning and Operations Group.
- 9.4 Engagement with Lothian Buses and the Council's Roads Events Team has already started to ensure that any disruption is minimised. Resident and Stakeholder communications will be sent out by the Event Director in due course.

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

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- 10.1 None.

## 11. Appendices

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11.1 None.