

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS WORKING GROUP

Minute of Meeting held in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Town House on Friday, 28 February 2014 at 3.00pm

Present

Highland Council

Mrs G Sinclair

Mr H Wood

Mr G Ross

Other representatives

Mr M Smith (Inverness BID)

Also in attendance

Mr G Reynolds, Events Officer

Miss J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr F Parr, Ms J Cuddy, Ms I Davies and Mr C Marr.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Exclusion of the Public

It was **AGREED** that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should 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.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There had been circulated Minutes of the Meeting of the Working Group held on 6 December 2013 which were **NOTED**.

5. Review of 2013 Events and Proposals for 2014

There had been circulated Report No. E&F 01/14 dated 20 February 2014 by the Acting Head of Community and Democratic Engagement which provided an update on the 2013 Events and Festivals Programme and previewed the 2014 Events and Festivals Programme, as well as highlighting the additional events which would be staged as part of the Homecoming Scotland 2014 celebrations.

During discussion, and with particular reference to additional support from Event Scotland, it was confirmed that after initially providing grants for events to be staged in Inverness during the Highland Homecoming Programme (including a grant of £20k towards the Inverness Highland Meeting), Event Scotland had reviewed the work which had been undertaken and decided to significantly increase their support for and the scale of the Highland Homecoming Initiative. In

this regard, they had requested that the Programme be extended to include all the events staged in the Highlands between 1 September and 31 October 2014, had announced that Highland Homecoming would be one of the featured initiatives taking place in Scotland and launched a special pan-Highland "Highland Homecoming Fund" which offered grants of between £3k and £10k to encourage the organisation of additional events in the Highlands. As such, consideration of the pan-Highland applications was currently in progress and Members would be advised further in due course.

In regard to the Summary and Budget for core 2014 Events, which had been circulated as Appendix 2 to the report, it was confirmed that a review of the costs of all events should be undertaken in order to ensure that value for money was being achieved. Also, more involvement from voluntary groups should be sought wherever possible.

It was also suggested that a detailed breakdown of the budget costs for each project should be provided for Members of the Working Group.

Thereafter, the Working Group **NOTED** the activities staged in the second half of 2013 as detailed in the report and confirmed that they met with the aims and objectives of the Inverness Events and Festivals Action Plan.

The Working Group also **AGREED** the proposed Events and Festivals Programme for 2014 and the budget of £340,000 for 2014/15.

It was further **AGREED** that the Highland Homecoming events for 2014/15 should be funded by an additional budget of £50,000 (the Highland Homecoming budget) to be administered under the governance of the Inverness Events and Festivals Working Group with funds to be drawn from the Inverness Common Good Fund.

6. Review of 2013/14 Events & Festivals Budget

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Officer on the review of the 2013/14 Events & Festivals Budget which was **NOTED**.

7. Preview of 2014 Events & Festivals Budget

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Officer on the preview of the 2014 Events & Festivals Budget and in this regard it was noted that the impact of the 1% pay increase to all staff would need to be included as part of the budget setting process.

It was also highlighted that future budget allocations would need to recognise the increasing number of social and cultural events being held in the area and the related tourism and economic impacts.

A summary of Business Improvement District Events in the current year was also provided.

Thereafter, the Working Group **NOTED** the position.

8. Procurement

It was **AGREED** that this item should be carried forward and included on the agenda for the next meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would be held on Friday, 25 April 2014 at 3pm in the Town House, Inverness

The meeting ended at 4.30pm.