

**City of Inverness Area Committee**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Events and Festivals Working Group** held in Committee Room 2, Town House, Inverness on Monday 30 October 2017 at 10.00 am.

**Present:**

Highland Council

Mr I Brown  
Mr G Ross  
Mrs T Robertson  
Mr C Smith

Other Representatives

Ms P Burnett, Communications and Business Development Manager, Eden Court

**Officials in Attendance:**

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager, Highland Council  
Mr G Reynolds, Inverness Events Manager  
Miss J Green, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

**Business**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs E McAllister, Highland Council, Mr G Ambrose, CEO, Visit Inverness Loch Ness, Ms J Cuddy, Manager, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Mr M Smith, Manager, Inverness BID and Ms A Wilson, Manager, Sales and Marketing Manager, Glenmoriston Town House (Inverness Hotels Association).

**2. 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.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

There had been circulated Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 18 September 2017 which were **NOTED**.

## **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

In relation to Merchandising, the City Area Manager was currently investigating this matter and would provide an update at the next meeting.

In relation to the Programme of Events, the Chair praised the supplement issued with the Inverness Courier which had included a positive contribution from each Member.

### **5. Visit to Durham (16-17 November)**

The Events Manager explained that, in relation to the ongoing work with HIE to develop an light based event called "Riverlights", arrangements were being made for a group to attend Lumiere in Durham which was produced by Artichoke. During the visit the group would have the opportunity to meet with Artichoke and also attend a conference hosted by Artichoke in association with Durham County Council and supported by the European Commission to research ideas and opportunities for organising a similar event in Inverness and the surrounding area. The Events Manager outlined his initial proposals for how an affordable and sustainable annual light event could be created in Inverness.

During discussion, the following comments were made:-

- confirmation was sought and received that it would be possible to light up the streets and animate various buildings along the riverside towards the Infirmary Bridge and in the City Centre;
- it would be preferable to hold the light based event over a weekend during Winter or Spring when it was dark in the evening;
- clarification was sought regarding the ticket pricing for Lumiere Durham and in response it was explained that it was a free ticketed event with costs being met by funding granted on the basis of economic benefit;
- further detail regarding the cost and funding of organising a light based event locally was required;
- there was potential for significant community involvement including schools and the UHI;
- concern was expressed in relation to the lack of appropriate cover in place for the Events Manager in the event of sickness absence and also future retirement. In this regard, it was suggested that consideration be given to employing an assistant or depute to ensure continuity.

Thereafter, it was **AGREED** that Mr C Smith would accompany the City Area Manager, Events Manager and representatives from HIE and the UHI on visit to Durham and report back to the next meeting.

It was also **AGREED** that the City Area Manager liaise with the Head of People and ICT to investigate options for support arrangements to ensure continuity of the post of Events Manager.

## 6. European Pipe Band Championships Update

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Manager during which he advised Members that European Pipe Band Championships would not be hosted in Forres next year as previously anticipated. The Events Manager then provided information on the bidding process for the event and outlined possible challenges of hosting the event locally.

During discussion, the following comments were made:-

- concern was expressed regarding the three year commitment to host the event and the significant amount of money which was required up front without a guarantee of success;
- hosting the event in a different location around Scotland each year might improve the success of the event; and
- the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association were not flexible about the date of the event.

Thereafter, it was **AGREED** that hosting the European Pipe Band Championships was not a viable option.

## 7. Any Other Business

### Upcoming Events

A number of events were taking place in the weeks ahead and all Members were encouraged to attend and support the events.

### Bught Park Events Management Group

The Chair advised that he had been asked to Chair the Events Management Group for Bught Park which was set up as part of the planning conditions of part of the West Link project with the main purpose of developing a masterplan to address parking and traffic management issues arising from events in the area. The Events Manager had been invited to attend the meeting being held tonight to share his experience and knowledge.

### Future Agenda Items

The following items were proposed for the next meeting:-

- Merchandising
- Review of Recent Events

### Hogmanay

An update was sought and provided on the work being undertaken to gain sponsorship for the Hogmanay Show during which it was advised that there was trend towards companies creating and selling an event based on their own brand.

The Events Manager outlined the arrangements for the Hogmanay Show this year in terms of the Provost's role and civic hospitality.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Monday 11 December 2017 at 10.00 am.

It was also **NOTED** that the following meeting would take place in either January or the beginning of February and before the meeting of the City of Inverness Area Committee on 22 February 2018.

The meeting ended at 11.15 am.