

CABINET

Referral from the Festival and Events Cabinet Liaison Group

9th December 2008

Report of Corporate Director (Regeneration)

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To seek Cabinet support to recommendations from the Chair of the Festival and Events Cabinet Liaison Group.			
Key Decision	X	Non-Key Decision	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date Included in Forward Plan	December 2008		
This report is public			

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLOR SHIRLEY BURNS (Chair of the Festivals and Events Cabinet Liaison Group)

- (1) To hold a further meeting of the Festivals and Events Cabinet Liaison Group once the Navy have confirm that they can participate in the event (i.e., "Look out to sea")
- (2) To approve the Festivals Innovation Fund (FIF) grant allocations for 2009/10 as set out below:-

"Applied" submissions:-

- One Planet Festival £1,000
- The Lunesdale Studio Trail £1,000
- Tutti Frutti Festival £3,000

"Solicited" submissions:-

- "Look out to Sea" £ 500
- Williamson Park Local Music Programme £2,500
- Summer Sundays (More Music) £2,000
- Sandcastle Festival £7,500
- Catch the Wind Kite Festival £2,000
- Happy Mount Park Halloween £3,000
- Williamson Park Christmas Event £5,000

- (3) To approve £2,000 out of the remaining budget to advertise all events that take place within the District
- (4) To look at an event or a series of events based on the canal to include the rural areas.
- (5) To reconsider and revisit the Festival Innovation Fund applications for events based in the rural areas to ensure District wide provision of events.
- (6) To request that more detail on the Williamson Park Christmas Ice Skating event be brought back to the next meeting of the Festivals and Events Cabinet Liaison Group.
- (7) To request that discussions be held with Officers and Members on the possibility of holding a fishing event similar to those held in previous years.
- (8) To recommend to Cabinet that the 4 festivals listed below for the main 2009 events programme (funded from Cultural Services “core” 2009/2010 proposed budget):-

• “We do like to be . . . “ (formerly know as Heritage Gala)	£16,200
• Lancaster Jazz Festival	£ 9,200
• Bands in Happy Mount Park	£ 3,300
• Fireworks Spectacular	£14,200

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Further to a recommendation from Cabinet on the 7th October 2008 [Minute 72 08/09] the Festivals and Events Cabinet Liaison Group met on the 3rd November 2008 to consider the 2009 programme of events, including the allocations from the Festivals Innovation Fund (FIF). The minutes of the Festivals and Events Cabinet Liaison Group are attached as an appendix to this report.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 Within its Terms of Reference and the approved criteria for Festivals Innovation Fund (FIF) grants, the Festivals and Events Cabinet Liaison Group considered a number of “Applied” and “Solicited” submissions, taking regards to the qualifying criteria (including an evaluation against the City Council’s corporate objectives) for awarding FIF grants.

- 2.2 In terms of “Applied” submissions, the Festivals and Events Cabinet Liaison Group were advised that 12 applications had been received. The Chair of the Festival and Events Cabinet Liaison Group recommends to Cabinet that the following submissions be approved:-

• One Planet Festival	£1,000
• The Lunesdale Studio Trail	£1,000
• Tutti Frutti Festival	£3,000

- 2.3 Within the “Solicited” category, the Chair of the Festival and Events Cabinet Liaison Group recommends to Cabinet that the following be approved:-

• “Look out to Sea”	£ 500
• Williamson Park Local Music Programme	£2,500

- Summer Sundays (More Music) £2,000
- Sandcastle Festival £7,500
- Catch the Wind Kite Festival £2,000
- Happy Mount Park Halloween £3,000
- Williamson Park Christmas Event £5,000

2.4 From an original 2009/2010 proposed budget allocation £31,900, in respect of the Festivals Innovation Fund, the above total from both of “Applied” and “Solicited” submissions represent a total of £27,500.

2.5 In terms of the remaining total balance i.e., £4,400 – the Chair of the Festival and Events Cabinet Liaison Group recommends to Cabinet that £2,000 be allocated for Cultural Services to assist in promoting and advertising “all” events, by whomever organised, within the District. Finally, of the outstanding balance that would then remain i.e., £2,400 the Chair of the Festival and Events Cabinet Liaison Group recommends that officers attempt to “solicit” further rural based events and report back to the Festivals and Events Cabinet Liaison Group in due course (as per Recommendation 5).

2.6 For the main 2009 events programme, funded from Cultural Services “core” 2009/2010 proposed budget allocation of £42,900 the Chair of the Festival and Events Cabinet Liaison Group recommends to Cabinet the 4 festivals listed below;-

- “We do like to be . . . “ (formerly know as Heritage Gala) £16,200
- Lancaster Jazz Festival £ 9,200
- Bands in Happy Mount Park £ 3,300
- Fireworks Spectacular £14,200

3.0 Details of Consultation

In the way that Cultural Services work alongside partner organisations the 2009 Festivals and Events programme, has by its very nature been the subject of significant consultation. Furthermore the FIF process included advertisement in the local newspaper encouraging individuals and organisations to submit proposals that were eligible for financial support from Lancaster City Council. The Festivals and Events Cabinet Liaison Group itself is also part of the consultation on Festivals and Events.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages	Risks
1, To support the recommendations of the Chair of the Festival and Events Cabinet Liaison Group in respect of the Festivals and Events programme for 2009/10, as set out in the report.	The above will provide for a mixed programme of Festivals and Events in 2009, throughout the District.	The above represents a total expenditure of £74,800 from the 2009/2010 proposed budget allocation.	Unsuccessful implementation – failure to meet objectives. Reductions to budgets later in the budget process, preventing delivery and giving rise to associated reputational risks.
2, Not to support the recommendations of the Chair of the Festival and Events	A revenue saving of £74,800 from the 2009/2010 proposed budget allocation,	No City Council programme of Festivals and Events in 2009	Potential reputational damage and possibility of an adverse response

Cabinet Liaison Group in respect of the Festivals and Events programme for 2009/10, as set out in the report	and opportunities to generate further savings associated with support costs.		from external funding agencies that support other elements of the Cultural programme within the Lancaster District.
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5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

5.1 Option 1 is the preferred option in that it provides for a balanced programme of core and FIF supported Festivals and Events in 2009/2010.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 The report is in accordance with Cabinet's approved Terms of Reference for the Festivals and Events Cabinet Liaison Group.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

"Attract visitors to the district by promotion of cultural events" is a key outcome within the Corporate Strategy.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

The Festival Innovations Fund (FIF) is part of the City Council's process of engaging with local communities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial information referred to within the report, which amount in total £74,800 represents the 2009/2010 proposed budget allocation.

The budget allocations for the Festivals and Events programme are established on a three-year rolling budget arrangement as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), but subject to annual review. In the past, however, it may not always have been recognised that some services for planning festivals and events are genuinely received (and therefore payable) in the year before an event is held. An easy solution to the above is to ensure, in planning budgets, that the timing of Easter events and planning activities is properly considered and reflected accordingly in the three-year budget projections – this has been acted upon in the current budget process.

Furthermore, it could be formally recognised that other commitments associated with planning events may be incurred 'at risk', in the year before an event is held. If such an event is then removed as part of the annual budget process, any expenditure commitments would then need to be financed even though the event itself would not go ahead.

Should Cabinet support the recommendations, it is requested to indicate whether it wishes to assume this approach at this stage.

Alternatively, during the budget process Members could decide to remove the event a year

later (e.g. in the current 2009/10 budget process, remove an event from 2010/11 onwards). This would avoid any abortive costs, but still achieve savings in later years. Such arrangements would provide Cultural Services, at least for its Festivals and Events programme, with a similar approach adopted by one of the Council's major funding "partners" – Arts Council England (ACE). Clearly this assists in terms of planning, preparing and marketing, as well as providing Festival and Event organisers (be they Cultural Services directly or FIF supported Festivals/Programmes/Events), the opportunity to lever in maximum support and/or match funding. Unfortunately, a number of external funding partners have very long lead-in and application processes.

Cabinet is requested to indicate whether it wishes to assume this alternative approach at this stage, if it supports the recommendations.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The recommendations as set out would be subject to the budget process as outlined above, and the associated risks involved.

Any consideration of potential new spending pressures (or continuation of existing ones) should be considered in context of competing priorities and demands, and the Council's financial prospects.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted and have no observations to make on this report.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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