

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| COMMITTEE | Finance & Resources Committee |
| DATE | 4 October 2012 |
| DIRECTOR | Gordon McIntosh |
| TITLE OF REPORT | City of Aberdeen Hogmanay Fireworks Celebrations 2012 |
| REPORT NUMBER: | EPI/12/229 |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Following E P & I Committee on 11 September where a further report was requested which identifies funding to deliver the Hogmanay Fireworks Celebrations in December 2012, this report seeks Committee approval of the recommendations detailed below to confirm available monies from the Common Good Fund and supports plans aimed at providing the city with a new Hogmanay event in 2013.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. To recognise the city's desire to include a Hogmanay event in its Festivals and Events programme in support of Aberdeen's bid for UK City of Culture.
2. To confirm Committees approval of £50,000 from the Common Good Fund to deliver Aberdeen's Hogmanay Fireworks Celebrations in December 2012.
3. To confirm Committees support of the resource requirements to deliver this event and agree that suitable remuneration be provided to the staff concerned to ensure that Aberdeen City Council meets its health, safety and legal requirements when organizing and delivering this event.
4. To note that Officers will submit a report to E P & I Committee before end February 2013, assessing the potential for a 2013 event and requesting approval of an appropriate budget to deliver a safe, inclusive and enjoyable family event in 2013.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Detailed below are the costs associated with delivery of the 2012 Hogmanay fireworks event:

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| Temporary Traffic Restriction Order (TTRO) | £ 750.00 |
| Provision and firing of fireworks | £10,000.00 |
| Music Hall welfare room hire | £ 300.00 |
| HMT-Hire of firing venue | £ 300.00 |
| Building Projection-Countdown Clock | £ 2500.00 |
| Steward Service | £14,000.00 |
| Ambulance & Emergency Staff Cover | £ 2,000.00 |
| Traffic Management | £10,000.00 |
| Staffing | £ 5,000.00 |
| Photographer | £ 300.00 |
| Medical Provision | £ 740.00 |
| Street Clean | £ 500.00 |
| Advertising & Promotion | £ 2,000.00 |
| Total | £48,390.00 |

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Due to the sponsorship monies provided in 2011, an external contractor was appointed to deliver Hogmanay. This same delivery model would have been applied to the 2012 event before the sponsor advised of its desire to withdraw its support.

As a result the Hogmanay celebrations have not been included in the City Events Team work programme for 2012-13, therefore no identified resource currently exists within the team to manage and deliver this event.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

On the 15th March 2011, the Enterprise Planning & Infrastructure Committee agreed the programme of City Events for 2011-12, in line with budget savings required to be met from the Economic & Business Development Service. As a result of these budget savings the existing Hogmanay Fireworks event was cancelled resulting in a saving of £50,000.

Following committee's decision, an approach was made by Rainbow City Taxis & Central Coaches in August 2011, to provide financial support of £30,000 towards the delivery of the event for two years.

Aberdeen City Council met the shortfall associated with the delivery of the event in 2011 but confirmed that additional external funding would require to be sought in 2012 to ensure the events continued organisation.

Having considered their support of the event in 2011, the sponsor subsequently advised Aberdeen City Council that it would not be continuing with its support of the fireworks in 2012.

Following discussion on the Hogmanay report presented to E P & I Committee on the 11 September 2012, Committee decided that monies should be identified to secure the delivery of the Hogmanay Fireworks Celebrations in 2012 and agreed that a further report on a new family orientated Hogmanay event in 2013 should be presented to a future Committee for consideration.

Due to the tight timescales involved to secure the necessary Hogmanay suppliers through public procurement, the City Events Team has reviewed their existing Aberdeen's Winter Festival event programme and personal commitments during the Christmas leave period to support the delivery of this event with their existing knowledge and expertise.

Committee should be aware that due to the reduced working week of the Senior City Events Officer in advance of his retirement, external specialist event agency staff will be utilised to support the delivery of other events in the Aberdeen's Winter Festival to free up existing resources to deliver the Hogmanay Fireworks Celebrations.

Under delegated powers, discussions have commenced with Aberdeen City Council's employment agency to identify temporary agency staff with relevant skills and experience, so support is available during the planning and delivery of Aberdeen's Winter Festival and subsequent events until the Senior City Events Officers retirement in March 2013.

Senior officers with the relevant skills and event management experience will also require to be deployed to ensure the safe and efficient delivery of the event for the public's enjoyment.

Committee should note that Aberdeen City Council's current overtime policy only supports officers remuneration up to a rate of G13. To ensure the appropriate officers are available to support the delivery of the Hogmanay event, Committee are asked to support the need for appropriate arrangements to be put in place to facilitate the remuneration of staff above G13 level through the temporary suspension of this policy for this one-off occasion, or approve appropriate relevant ex-gratia payments to staff affected by this policy.

The Economic & Business Development service recognises Aberdeen City Council and the city's desire to deliver an event at Hogmanay in support of the UK City of Culture bid and would seek to revisit the proposed event offering for 2013, with the aim of making it a more family focused event.

Working in conjunction with other city organisations, including the Aberdeen BID and local venues, the City Events Team would look to utilise available resources to deliver a new inclusive offering that would be staged across the course of the day and link to events planned to support the night time economy.

6. IMPACT

Corporate

Aberdeen – the Smarter City

- We will promote Aberdeen as a great place to live, bring up a family, do business and visit.
- We will ensure that Union Street regains its position as the heart of the city and move cultural activity centre-stage through re-invigorated cultural leadership.

Smarter Living (Quality of Life)

- We aspire to be recognised as a City of Culture, a place of excellence for culture and arts by promoting Aberdeen as a cultural centre hosting high quality diverse cultural events for the whole community and beyond.

Smarter Economy (Competitiveness)

- We will work with partners to promote the city as a place to invest, live, work and export from.

Community Plan

- Work with other organisations, agencies and groups, including Visit Scotland and Visit Aberdeen, to encourage tourism and the provision of facilities for tourists.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers have been supplied in support of this report.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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