

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| COMMITTEE | Council |
| DATE | 5 March 2014 |
| DIRECTOR | Gordon McIntosh |
| TITLE OF REPORT | Relaxation of drinking in public Bye-law for BP Big Screens 2014 |

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to seek permission to make a request to the Scottish Ministers to confirm the suspension of the operation of the Aberdeen City Council Drinking in Public Places Byelaw 2009 to permit the responsible consumption of alcohol within the boundaries of the main grass area of Duthie Park for the following event planned for this summer:

BP Summer Big Screens 2014

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Members are asked to instruct the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to carry out the necessary advertising of the proposed suspension and request confirmation from the Scottish Ministers that Aberdeen City Council Drinking in Public Places Byelaw 2009 be suspended within the boundaries of the Duthie Park for the following event:

BP Summer Big Screens 2014 Tuesday 15 July "La Boheme"

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are advertising costs associated with the publicising of the temporary suspension. Two notices will need to be published in the local press with a notice advising of the intention to temporarily suspend the byelaw and (assuming the Scottish Ministers confirm the temporary suspension), a second notice advising of the confirmation of the temporary suspension. The cost for this in 2013 was £242.50.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Health and Safety

Relevant health and safety audits and associated risk assessments will be carried out prior to the staging of this event.

Risk Management

Appropriate control measures will be put in place. Audience members will be asked to drink in a responsible manner and event stewards from an approved Security Industry Authority (SIA) contractor will be in attendance.

Environmental

Efforts will be made to recycle the waste accumulated at this event.

Economic

This event creates a positive attitude in the city, assisting with the promotion of the city as a vibrant place in which to invest, live and visit.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The BP Summer Big Screens will once again return to Aberdeen in summer of this year. The confirmed date is Tuesday 15 July 2014, and it is a welcome return to the city for the opera "La Boheme". The live transmission will be relayed direct to Aberdeen from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London. The event is sponsored by BP, supported by Aberdeen City Council and will be displayed on a 40 x 40 foot screen complete with sound. The event is free to all and is expected to attract around 3000 people of all ages and abilities.

This will be the 9th year this has taken place in Aberdeen and each year, the success of the event has grown alongside its popularity. Limited catering will be provided and although alcohol will not be on sale, it is normal for members of the public to bring a picnic with them which may include alcohol. Event stewards, medical and welfare and a toilet service will be provided alongside passing attention from Police Scotland.

In all previous years, this event has passed with no noted incidents or accidents reported in relation to alcohol.

The BP Summer Big Screens concept is :

1. to introduce opera in relaxed surroundings to new audiences
2. give people an opportunity to see the world's best
3. to provide free world class entertainment to families who might otherwise not be able to purchase tickets

The existing Aberdeen City Council Drinking in Public Places Byelaw 2009 will require to be suspended to allow the consumption of alcohol at this event. This will involve the creation of a new byelaw which enacts a temporary suspension of the existing byelaw. The new byelaw must be advertised for a minimum of 28 days to allow members of the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed suspension.

Following the completion of the consultation period, the new byelaw will then require the approval of the Scottish Government. Based on previous

experience, this whole process can take on average between 12 – 14 weeks. It is therefore good practice to present the Report at this early stage in the Committee Cycle in order to facilitate this process.

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.

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

None.

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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