

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council (see Standing Order 38 (iv))
DATE	8 October 2015
DIRECTOR	Angela Scott, Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Relaxation of drinking in public Byelaw for Aberdeen Christmas Village 2015
REPORT NUMBER:	OCE/15/039
CHECKLIST COMPLETED:	YES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek permission to approach the Scottish Government 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 street area of Union Terrace for Aberdeen Christmas Village 25th November 2015 to 3rd January 2016.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Members are asked to:

- i) Instruct the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to carry out the necessary advertising of the proposed suspension.
- ii) Instruct the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to carry out the necessary steps to request confirmation from the Scottish Government that the Aberdeen City Council Drinking in Public Places Byelaw 2009 be suspended within the boundaries of Union Terrace between 25th November 2015 and 3rd January 2016

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 anticipated cost for this is £578.00, dependent on the advertising rate at time of publication.

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.

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 Winter Festival is the biggest Aberdeen has ever had, and the Christmas Village, which is spearheaded by business organisation Aberdeen Inspired and working in partnership with Aberdeen City Council is an integral part of the Festival. Thousands of people from around the North-east, Scotland and Scandinavia are expected to shop in Aberdeen during the Christmas period, and the Christmas Village is partly aimed at attracting them to, and keeping them in, the city centre. As part of the Christmas Village, Aberdeen-based family amusement firm Codona's is providing an outdoor ice-rink, several fairground attractions, entertainment marquee and German market stalls. This will be the first year for this event in Aberdeen. Within the entertainment and a number of the market stalls catering will be provided and seasonal alcohol will be on sale. Event stewards, medical provision and welfare services such as a toilet service and event bins will be provided within the Aberdeen Christmas Village.

The Aberdeen Christmas Village concept is:

1. to introduce a focal point event into Aberdeen's Winter Festival programme
2. introducing a new and expanded festival after more major events were asked for by residents and the business community during the Masterplan consultations
3. give people an opportunity to experience a winter wonderland in the heart of the city in the form of a Christmas Village with an open-air ice rink and festive fairground rides.
4. Provide festive experiences for people of all ages

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.

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. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

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.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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