

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	2 March 2016
DIRECTOR	Angela Scott, Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Relaxation of Drinking in Public Places Byelaw for BP Big Screens 2016
REPORT NUMBER:	OCE/16/008
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 grass area of Duthie Park for BP Big Screens, Verdi's "Trovadore" on Thursday 14 July 2016 from 1800 – 2300hrs.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- a) Members are asked to instruct the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to carry out the necessary advertising of the proposed suspension.
- b) Members instruct Legal and Democratic Services to request confirmation from the Scottish Government that the Aberdeen City Council Drinking in Public Places Byelaw 2009 be suspended within the boundaries of the Duthie Park from 1800 – 2300hrs.

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 2015 was £578.00.

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. Responsible drinking is

encouraged at the event and stewards support the City Events Team in ensuring public conduct is managed throughout the event.

The most recent suspension of the byelaw was in support of the Christmas Village on Union Terrace from 26th November 2015 – 3rd January 2016. This suspension passed with no reported incidents.

Environmental

Efforts are made to recycle the waste accumulated at this event.

Economic

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

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

BP Big Screens will return to Aberdeen on Thursday 14 July 2016 with the opera “Trovadore”. 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 3,000 people of all ages and abilities.

This will be the 11th year this event has taken place in Aberdeen and each year, the success of the event has grown alongside its popularity. Limited catering is provided at Duthie Park 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 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 talent
3. to provide free world class entertainment to families who might otherwise not be able to access cultural activities

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 Local Authority must advertise their intention to apply for confirmation of the proposed byelaws in a local paper, and make the proposed byelaws and plans available for public inspection, for at least one month, in accordance with section 202 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 Act.

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

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience – Supporting and delivering a diverse programme of city events is expected to improve the experience of customers (Aberdeen’s citizens, businesses and visitors) by:

- Raising awareness locally, nationally and internationally of the festivals and events held in Aberdeen
- Better positioning of Aberdeen as a city destination for those looking for new and unique event experiences
- Providing city infrastructure that attracts and supports external event organisers
- Maintaining and building on the profile of Aberdeen as a great place, to live, study, work, invest and visit. This will also help promote and enhance the long-term economic prosperity of the North East of Scotland by attracting more business and leisure tourism to the area.

Improving Staff Experience – Delivering a wider Summer Festival provides the staff involved with valuable experience of dealing with a wide range of internal (Elected Members, senior officers) and external (businesses, contractors, suppliers etc) customers from diverse sectors including creative, cultural and event industries.

Staff within Aberdeen City Council from the Council’s Promotions and Communication Service will work closely with colleagues from Royal Opera House and BP in the delivery of the event.

Improving our use of Resources – By working in partnership with internal and external event partners, Aberdeen City Council is able to share the workload by leading or in a supporting role where appropriate, without compromising the level of service delivered to the customer – the Aberdeen’s residents and visitors to the city.

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

Letters of support have been requested from the Procurator Fiscal and Police Scotland. They have given their support in previous years.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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