

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	4 March 2019
REPORT TITLE	BP Big Screens 2019 - Relaxation of drinking in public places byelaw
REPORT NUMBER	PLA/19/198
DIRECTOR	Steve Whyte
CHIEF OFFICER	Richard Sweetnam
REPORT AUTHOR	Stephen O'Neill
TERMS OF REFERENCE	Introduction - 6

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek permission to approach the Scottish Government to confirm the suspension of the operation of the Aberdeen City Council (Drinking in Public Places) Byelaws 2009. This will permit the responsible consumption of alcohol within the boundaries of the main grass area of Duthie Park for BP Big Screens, on Tuesday 2 July 2019 from 1700 – 2300hrs.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council:

- 2.1 Instruct the Chief Officer - Governance, following confirmation from the Chief Officer – City Growth that the event’s budget has been approved, to carry out the necessary advertising of the proposed suspension; and
- 2.2 Instruct the Chief Officer - Governance to request confirmation from the Scottish Government that the Aberdeen City Council (Drinking in Public Places) Byelaws 2009 be suspended within the boundaries of Duthie Park on Tuesday 2 July 2019 from 1700 – 2300hrs.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 BP Big Screens will return to Aberdeen, subject to the normal budgetary process, on Tuesday 2 July 2019 with the opera “Carmen.” The live transmission will be relayed direct to Aberdeen from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London. The event, which is organised by the Royal Opera House in conjunction with Aberdeen City Council and is sponsored by BP, will be displayed on a 40 x 40-foot screen and relayed through a line-array sound system. The event is a free non-ticketed event which attracts approx. 3,500 people across all age ranges and demographics.
- 3.2 This will be the 14th year this event has taken place in Aberdeen and each year, this well-established occasion attracts a core group of attendees and its popularity has grown over the years. A limited catering offer is available at the event, and although alcohol will not be on sale, it is normal, due to the suspension of the the byelaw, for members of the public to bring a picnic with them which often includes a small amount of alcohol. Stewards, First Aid, medical and welfare facilities and portable toilets will all be available for the comfort of the public.
- 3.3 In all previous years, this event has passed with no noted incidents or accidents reported in relation to alcohol.
- 3.4 The BP Big Screens concept aims to:
- Introduce opera in relaxed surroundings to new audiences;
 - Give the people of Aberdeen a unique opportunity to enjoy a world class operatic performance; and
 - Provide free world class entertainment to families who might otherwise not be able to access cultural activities.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are advertising costs associated with the publication of the temporary suspension. Two notices will need to be published in the local press – the first 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 2018 was approximately £400 and it is assumed that costs for 2019 will be similar. These costs would be met from the existing budget for this event, £19,390, subject to confirmation of this budget being available via the budget process.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The existing Aberdeen City Council (Drinking in Public Places) Byelaw 2009 will require to be suspended to allow the consumption of alcohol at the 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.

- 5.2 Following the completion of the consultation period, the new byelaw will then require to be confirmed by the Scottish Government.
- 5.3 Support for the suspension of the Byelaws for the event has been provided by the Chief Constable, Police Scotland and the Assistant Procurator Fiscal, Grampian Highlands & Islands.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	No risks identified	L	
Legal	Non-compliance with statutory requirements for advertisement and confirmation resulting in the Byelaws not being in place in time for the event	L	Resources in Governance Team have been identified to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements
Employee	No risks identified	L	
Customer	There is potential risk of negatively impacting levels of customer satisfaction by not approving the recommendations. This is due to BP Big Screens being a popular and well attended event at which audience members are used to being able to enjoy a responsible level of alcohol consumption whilst enjoying a family friendly event and a	M	In the event of the recommendations not being approved, a communication plan will be developed for the event to reduce the likelihood of negative public perception of the event. The communication plan will focus on the content of the event, rather than the changes to the event format.

	unique cultural experience.		
Environment	<p>Minimal risk to the environment associated with implementing the recommendations -</p> <p>The suspension of the Byelaws, and associated promotion of the event, will encourage the audience to bring picnics, including alcohol, to the event.</p> <p>This will result in an increased volume of refuse at the event site.</p>	L	<p>The City Events team will reduce the environmental impact of the event by arranging for appropriate levels of waste bins to be provided at the event.</p> <p>The waste bins will be a combination of mixed recycling, glass, and general waste bins with clear signage directing audience members to use the appropriate bin.</p> <p>Bins will be in prominent positions throughout the event site, which will encourage and increase use.</p> <p>Aberdeen City Council's Environmental Services will be engaged to litter pick the event to ensure that any waste left on-site is cleared and recycled appropriately.</p>
Technology	No risks identified		
Reputational	There is reputational risk to Aberdeen City Council as BP Big Screens is a popular and well attended event at which audience members can enjoy a responsible level of alcohol consumption whilst enjoying a family friendly atmosphere and a unique cultural experience.	M	Encourage responsible consumption of alcohol through effective stewarding and awareness of volumes of alcohol across the site to ensure safe conduct and behaviour.

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Prosperous Economy	<p>Events in Aberdeen provide an opportunity to promote and enhance the long-term economic prosperity of Aberdeen and the wider region by attracting additional visitors to the city on account of the event. In turn this attracts additional commercial activity in the city and officers will work with business customers to maximise both the benefit of the event on city-centre businesses and provide information on the event itself.</p> <p>BP Big Screen's supports local businesses, such as Audio Visual and Stewarding suppliers, who are contracted to deliver aspects of the event as well as food vendors who operate at the event.</p>
Prosperous People	<p>Supporting and delivering a diverse programme of city events is expected to improve the customer experience by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the reputation of the city for staging local, national and international festivals and events; • Better positioning of Aberdeen as a leisure tourism destination for those looking for new and unique event experiences • Providing city infrastructure that attracts and supports external event organisers <p>BP Big Screens is a great opportunity for the Children of Aberdeen to grow, develop and reach their full potential and for all people to feel included in life of the City by exposing them to a cultural event which is free of charge and open to all.</p>
Prosperous Place	<p>Through the Aberdeen 365 Events Plan and Culture Aberdeen Strategy, the city is developing a strong destination narrative that will attract residents, visitors and businesses to engage with the tourism products and experiences on offer supporting economic growth in new and existing leisure markets. This is one such event.</p>

Design Principles of Target Operating Model

	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	<p>Aberdeen City Council's City Events team will be responsible for arranging and managing the public facing elements of the event. The City Events team will work with competent and trusted suppliers to install measures, standards and a culture designed to exceed customer expectation and meet their needs in order to maintain Aberdeen City Council's reputation in the sector.</p> <p>The Event will be promoted through Aberdeen City Council's digital channels, reaching a wide range of the community with little cost to the Council. Contact details will be provided to allow those who are digitally excluded to access information and seek support where required.</p> <p>The events team will design an event which is inclusive and meets the needs of those attending in order to empower the community to live ordinary lives and be as independent as possible.</p>
Organisational Design	N/A
Governance	<p>The event will be delivered and managed under the auspices of the multiple contracts which are in place to support the delivery of Aberdeen City Council's core event programme.</p> <p>These contracts have been entered into, following robust and transparent procurement exercises, to ensure best value to Aberdeen City Council, competent contractors and a consistent approach to the delivery of events in Aberdeen.</p> <p>The City Events team will manage these contracts in order to deliver an event which meets the standards expected by Aberdeen City Council and in line with industry best practice.</p>
Workforce	<p>The workforce responsible for the delivery of Aberdeen City Council's events programme is the City Events team who are empowered to deliver this programme and accountable for its success.</p> <p>The nature of the work requires officers to be flexible and agile and in order to achieve success will be required to communicate and collaborate with multiple internal and external partners, through the Aberdeen City Safety Advisory Group (SAG).</p>

Process Design	<p>The event will be delivered in line with the tried and tested event organisation process. This process involves the utilisation of project planning principles and the principles of risk prevention to ensure a safe and successful event.</p> <p>A process of validation and vetting, through Aberdeen's SAG, will ensure a robust and coordinated approach to the delivery of the event and ensure that Officers are supported, whilst being empowered, to deliver the event.</p>
Technology	N/A
Partnerships and Alliances	<p>Strong partnerships with the Royal Opera House and event sponsors BP as well as multiple contractors and suppliers will ensure the successful delivery of the event.</p> <p>In order to meet the objectives of the event, communication, collaboration and defined roles & responsibilities will be required. The City Events team will utilise the Event Manual to define the roles and responsibilities and ensure that contract management is in place to ensure these partnerships fulfil their requirements.</p>

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	<p>Not required. As this event is free and accessible it supports the Council in meeting its Equality Outcomes and Equality Act Public Sector duty.</p> <p>Accessible parking will be available, and the site has been designed to allow accessibility for wheelchair users and those who have accessibility needs. A suitable provision of accessible toilets will also be available throughout the event site.</p>
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not applicable
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	As this is a free event and accessible event, it supports the Council in meeting its Fairer Scotland duty

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

10. APPENDICES

None

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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