

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....12th April 2007

1. Title of Item/Report

Review of Festivals - Report of Adults, Leisure and Culture Select Committee

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report of the Adults, Leisure and Culture Select Committee relating to a review it had undertaken of Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF) and Billingham International Folklore Festival (BIFF)

The Committee recognised the professional approach taken to both festivals each with their own distinct style and remit and concluded that Stockton Borough can rightfully be pleased to be at the forefront of street festival entertainment in the region

A number of issues were raised during the Committee's investigation which it had gone some way to resolve. In particular the Committee hoped to see BIFF strengthened with increased links made to SIRF.

Other areas considered by the Committee included

- the relationship with market traders and SIRF.
- Public Transport
- Community Engagement
- General levels of public satisfaction with the Festivals.
- Problems caused by inclement weather.
- Initiatives to raise awareness and profile.

It was noted that since the review had been completed, SIRF had achieved recognition as the Best Festival in the Tees Valley and in the North East as a whole; as recognised by the Journal Newspaper inaugural Cultural Awards.

RESOLVED that

1. BIFF management team and Stockton Council's art's management

team develop mutual working arrangements similar to that enjoyed by the Technical, Health & Safety and Support Services Group and, where possible, linked and complementary programming to advance both international festivals.

2. Market traders be sent individual written notice to their home or trading address as far in advance as possible stating whether their pitch would be affected and if they would need to be moved or suspended and,

Notices should be displayed (on an earlier market day when possible) informing people shopping at the market whether their regular stall(s) would be standing or relocated on that market day.

3. a written policy be developed and communicated to market traders operating in Stockton to clarify the non-payment of charges due to displacement and an inability to be relocated.

4. the festival website carries relevant travel information, including telephone numbers, to aid the use of public transport to and from SIRF.

5. SBC engineers and bus operators work together to ensure that both the public and bus crews are advised of diversions during SIRF events and the Carnival parade by providing clear advance publicity and site notices on the days affected.

6. any future decisions on substantial changes in financial support to either festival be timely in order to allow successful implementation.

7. further work be undertaken to increase awareness of, and involvement in, the festivals by people from resident ethnic minority communities. This should include the exploration of contacting different groups including overseas students at our universities and colleges including Queen's Campus, Durham University.

8. all publicity material and information leaflets contain details of suitability of events for people with disability as well as identifying location of toilet facilities for disabled people.

9. the Disability Advisory Group become a consultee when considering aspects of the festivals.

10. BIFF give consideration to contingency planning and alternative plans should the weather or other circumstances prevent performances.

11. where practicable, Town Hall contents be protected before the rooms are used for SIRF and that SIRF be held responsible for returning the

Town Hall to an acceptable standard immediately following the conclusion of the festival.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The following key objectives were identified for the review:

- To suggest updates needed to SBC festival policy
- To learn lessons in partnership working generally
- To eliminate difficulties experienced previously in delivery of festivals

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillors Nelson and Fletcher each declared personal, non-prejudicial interests in respect of this item as a result of their friendships with festival organisers/supporters.

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight Friday 20th April 2007

Proper Officer  
13 April 2007