

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

12 APRIL 2007

**REPORT OF ADULTS,
LEISURE AND CULTURE
SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Arts Leisure and Culture – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor O'Donnell

REVIEW OF FESTIVALS

1. Summary

This report informs Cabinet of the outcomes of the review of festivals undertaken by the Adults, Leisure and Culture Select Committee between October 2006 and March 2007.

2. Recommendations

1. That 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. That:
 - 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.
 - 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. That 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. That the festival website carries relevant travel information, including telephone numbers, to aid the use of public transport to and from SIRF.
5. That 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. That any future decisions on substantial changes in financial support to either festival be timely in order to allow successful implementation.

7. That 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. That 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. That the Disability Advisory Group become a consultee when considering aspects of the festivals.
10. That BIFF give consideration to contingency planning and alternative plans should the weather or other circumstances prevent performances.
11. That, 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 Recommendations/Decision(s)

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

The attached report outlines the results of the Committee's work.

4. Members Interests

Members (including co-opted members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (paragraph 8) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (paragraph 10 of the code of conduct).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held, whilst the matter is being considered; not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (paragraph 12 of the Code).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc.; whether or not they are a member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting, and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room during consideration of the relevant item.

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DETAIL

1. 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
2. A number of issues were raised during the Committee's investigation which it has gone some way to resolve. In particular the Committee hopes to see BIFF strengthened with increased links made to SIRF and the relationship with market traders and SIRF improved.
3. It will always prove difficult to scrutinise the festivals as the timeliness of such investigation is unlikely to effect change immediately because as one festival ends the planning for the following year is already underway. It is therefore hoped that what improvements have been suggested in this report can be acted upon at a conveniently early time in the life cycle of the festivals.
4. Following consideration by Cabinet an action plan will be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how the approved recommendations will be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

No direct financial implications.

Legal

No direct legal implications.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

The review relates to the key service improvement objectives

- Healthier Communities and Adults: Extend the range and quality of opportunities for people to experience culture and leisure
- Children and Young people: Enjoy and achieve: Increase the range of accessible culture/leisure and sporting activities available for children and young people

