

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 26 January 2021

Festivals and Events Core Programme 2021/22

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Wards	All
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1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- 1.1.1 Notes that COVID-19 has had a significant impact on festivals and events in the city over the last nine months and that events are only permitted at levels 0 and 1 of the Scottish Government' Coronavirus (COVID-19) protection levels. At present the Scottish Government has issued 'stay at home' guidance until the end of January;
- 1.1.2 Notes that the events outlined below can only take place if Coronavirus protection is at the appropriate level and that all events will be required to comply with the relevant Scottish Government guidance at the time of the event;
- 1.1.3 Notes that event organisers, however, are continuing to plan for events to take place in 2021/22;
- 1.1.4 Therefore, agrees, in principle, the following funding allocations from the Events budget:
 - 1.1.4.1 £70,000 towards the Tour of Britain;
 - 1.1.4.2 £30,000 towards the Edinburgh Winter Run;
 - 1.1.4.3 £7,000 towards the Squash European Masters Championships;
 - 1.1.4.4 £10,000 towards the Small Countries Beach Volleyball International;

- 1.1.4.5 £10,000 towards the UK Beach Volleyball Tour;
- 1.1.4.6 £15,000 towards the Commonwealth Games Qualification Tournament;
- 1.1.4.7 £20,000 towards the Edinburgh International Swim Meet.
- 1.1.4.8 £30,000 towards the Scottish Album of the Year Awards;
- 1.1.4.9 £25,000 towards Burns&Beyond Festival in 2022;
- 1.1.5 Notes the update to the Edinburgh Summer Sessions programme in West Princes Street Gardens for 2021;
- 1.1.6 Notes the continued in principle commitment to the following events from the Events budget:
 - 1.1.6.1 £5,000 towards Armed Forces Day from the 2021/22 financial year;
 - 1.1.6.2 £18,000 towards the Edinburgh Award; and
 - 1.1.6.3 £8,000 towards the Remembrance Day Service;
- 1.1.7 Notes that, where the Scottish Government guidance means that events cannot take place as planned, event organisers will be encouraged to plan for online events if possible; and
- 1.1.8 Will be kept updated on the status of events throughout the year through the Committee Business Bulletin.

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Report

Festivals and Events Core Programme 2021/22

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the recommended core programme of festivals and events for 2021/22. Given the current restrictions as a result of COVID-19, it is recognised that this events programme could be impacted by the on-going need to protect public health and therefore the nature and form of events may need to change and some may be cancelled. However, to support the event planning process, Committee is asked to agree funding awards in principle. Regular contact with event organisers will continue and notice of changes to plans will be agreed and publicised on an on-going basis.

3. Background

- 3.1 This programme is aligned with the Council's Events Strategy which was reported and approved at the Culture and Sport Committee on [31 May 2016](#). The Strategy is designed to provide a positive mix of new and well established cultural and sporting events which promote Edinburgh as a vibrant, contemporary, international city.
- 3.2 The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the events sector locally and internationally. At the time of writing, events are forbidden in all but levels 1 and 0 and the entire country is in a national lockdown.
- 3.3 While the city and events sector has responded to the crisis with determination and innovation with either hybrid models of delivery or the creation of outdoor/online programmes, many events have not been able to take place and have had to be either cancelled or postponed. The sector has suffered disproportionately due to indoor venues being one of the last areas to reopen. Many workers in the events industry are either self-employed or in small companies and have not had employment or paid work since March 2020.
- 3.4 In order to allow the events sector to recover, the Council plays a vital role in supporting the sector and in meeting the objectives of the events strategy for the city's residents and visitors.
- 3.5 However, the events outlined below can only take place if Coronavirus protection is at the appropriate level and all events will be required to comply with the relevant Scottish Government guidance at the time of the event.

4. Main report

Festivals and Events Core Programme 2021/22

- 4.1 The current proposed programme of the 2021/22 Festivals and Events is set out in Appendix 1.

2021/22 Programme of Events

- 4.2 **Armed Forces Day** could not take place in 2020 but the event will return in 2021 and continues to recognise the contribution of veterans and the Council's commitment to the Community Covenant. This event comprises a city centre march for veterans and finale event, featuring refreshments, entertainment alongside charity and information stalls associated with the Armed Forces. An allocation of £5,000 from the events budget is recommended.
- 4.3 The organisers of the annual **Tour of Britain** (Sweetspot) would like to bring the event back to Edinburgh on 11 September 2021. The Tour of Britain is the UK's premier cycling road race and was last in Edinburgh in 2017 when the Grand Depart was very successfully hosted from the Royal Mile. This time it is planned to bring a Finish stage to Edinburgh, starting from the Borders, with the actual Race Finish in Holyrood Park. The event is supported by EventScotland, British Cycling and Scottish Cycling, and a title sponsor will be confirmed at a later date. Previous Tours have enjoyed live coverage on ITV4, plus various highlight shows also shown on other channels. There has been a huge upsurge of interest in cycling in recent years, and the event will be free to attend for spectators, who will get to see some of the world's top cyclists racing through Edinburgh streets. As always, the race will be managed in full consultation with the Council's Public Safety and Roads Teams, as well as Police Scotland, and will be achieved on roads which will be closed only for a short period using the tried and tested rolling road closure technique, which involves teams of trained motorcycle escorts to ensure safe passage through the city. The event is likely to bring a significant economic impact for Edinburgh, as it will attract spectators from around Britain and further afield. It is recommended that £70,000 is allocated from the 2021/22 events budget.
- 4.4 Following its success in early 2020, the **Edinburgh Winter Run** scheduled for January 2021 could not take place as a result of Covid-19. However, it is proposed to bring this popular event back in January 2022, in the same format as before. This will see up to 2,000 competitors running on the 5k loop road around Arthur's Seat, with Scottish Athletics staging a companion cross country event in Holyrood Park. This is likely to be the British Cross Challenge, which attracts around 1,000 of the best junior and senior athletes from the UK and Ireland. The event would also be combined with the Scottish Inter-District match, and the Scottish Open Cross Country. Organisers Triathlon Edinburgh would co-deliver all these events alongside Scottish Athletics. It is recommended that £30,000 is allocated from the 2021/22 events budget.

- 4.5 The **Scottish Album of the Year (SAY) Award** has grown to become Scotland's most popular and prestigious music prize. Developed by the Scottish Music Industry Association (SMIA) in association with Creative Scotland, the SAY Award offers one of the UK's most lucrative prize funds of its kind (£20,000 winner prize and nine awards of £1,000 to nine short list runners up) and champions the extraordinary strength and diversity of Scotland's musical landscape. With previous Longlist titles featuring hip-hop, rock, alternative, traditional, folk, classical, dubstep, reggae, pop and jazz, The SAY Award accommodates Scottish music in all its influential, inspiring and idiosyncratic glory. The awards ceremony came to Edinburgh in September 2019, alongside the Longlist nominations announcement, in June 2019 for its debut in the capital. This represents year three of three of funding to further develop the event and establish Edinburgh as their host city.
- 4.6 This year's SAY Award was reimagined to provide key strategic benefit and support to Scotland's music industry at a time where it's never been needed more. The 2020 SAY Award was won by Edinburgh-based producer and rapper Nova for her debut album, Re-Up, the first grime record to win in the prize's nine-year history.
- 4.7 Robert Kilpatrick, general manager of the Scottish Music Industry Association said Nova's win "sends a powerful message of hope and ambition to Scotland's music scene" during a period of immense financial struggle for emerging artists and the arts as a whole. It is recommended that £30,000 is allocated from the events budget.
- 4.8 Scottish Squash has successfully won a bid to bring the **European Masters Championships** to Edinburgh on 16-19 June 2021. This biennial event offers a wide range of categories for male and female competitors from over-35s to over-75s and is likely to attract over 500 competitors from all over Europe. Due to the sheer number of matches which require to be played, a number of squash venues in the city will be involved, which is likely to include Oriam and the Edinburgh Sports Club. Participants will typically bring along one or more family members and stay in the city for several days, which helps to produce a modest economic benefit to the city. It is recommended that £7,000 is allocated from the 2021/22 events budget.

Beach Volleyball Events

- 4.9 Scottish Volleyball are planning to host three beach volleyball events at Portobello in 2021 subject to COVID Guidelines:
- 4.9.1 **Small Countries Beach Volleyball International.** This event will see male and female teams from countries including Iceland, Cyprus, England, Ireland and Scotland compete in what will be part of the performance pathway for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. It will be held in April or May 2021 and will showcase the sport with some 60 top athletes participating over 48 matches, providing the Scottish Team with some great opportunities to compete on home ground. It is recommended that £10,000 is allocated from the 2021/22 events budget.

- 4.9.2 **UK Beach Volleyball Tour.** This annual tour typically takes place in over 70 locations around the UK. The tournament is unusual in that it allows competitors from beginners to elite level to take part in a carefully structured competition format. It is open to both male and female participants and is planned to take place in July 2021. This event will also present an opportunity for the Scottish athletes to compete at home prior to selection for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. It is recommended that £10,000 is allocated from the 2021/22 events budget.
- 4.9.3 **Commonwealth Games Qualification Tournament.** Scottish Volleyball are bidding to host a Continental Qualification Tournament to provide national teams from Europe with an opportunity to qualify for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. This will take place in September 2021 and is likely to comprise four to six teams competing at the highest level. The Commonwealth Games is one of the few major events where Scottish athletes compete as Scotland, rather than as part of a GB Team. It is recommended that £15,000 is allocated from the 2021/22 events budget.
- 4.10 The **Edinburgh International Swim Meet** event has grown out of the East District Championships and has now firmly established itself on the UK swimming calendar, taking place in the Royal Commonwealth Pool in March each year. Previous competitors have included the likes of Adam Peaty and Duncan Scott, and in fact British Swimming are keen to be more involved in its delivery and help enhance its status to attract even more top swimmers to compete. The proposed enhancements would include increased marketing activity, branding and professional live streaming which would require additional funding to deliver. It is therefore recommended that an allocation of £20,000 is made from the 2021/22 events budget for the March 2022 event.
- 4.11 **Burns&Beyond** is now in its third year and over the previous editions, the organisers have created a popular and well-regarded festival in what is traditionally a quiet time for the city. The programme combines large-scale public art installations with showcases of the best in Scottish talent in music, spoken word and poetry while celebrating the life and works of Robert Burns. The festival also supports [Culture United](#), a European partnership project that allows Edinburgh schools to participate in the festival and to deliver multidisciplinary learning through creativity. It is recommended that an allocation of £25,000 is made available from the 2021/22 events budget for the January 2022 event.
- 4.12 The annual **Edinburgh Award** marks the outstanding contribution of an Edinburgh citizen in their chosen field. The Award recipients are presented with an engraved gift of a Loving Cup at a ceremony in the City Chambers and an imprint of their hands installed in the City Chambers quadrangle. The gilding on the handprints requires some refurbishment and will be completed in 2021. An allocation of £18,000 has been identified from within the events budget for this annual city event.

- 4.13 The annual **Remembrance Day Service** in St Giles' Cathedral and wreath laying ceremony in the High Street will continue to be supported through the provision of large outdoor screens to relay the Remembrance service from within the Cathedral to the public gathered outside. An allocation of £8,000 has been identified within the events budget for this city event.

Summer Sessions 2021

- 4.14 The Summer Sessions concerts due to take place in Princes Street Gardens in August 2020 were deferred to 2021, a decision approved by the Policy and Sustainability Committee on [28 May 2020](#).
- 4.15 Officers are in the process of addressing the operational impact on access to Princes Street Gardens and an Event Planning Officer Group (EPOG) will be established to manage this process. The event organiser has rescheduled artists, ticket transfers and/or refunds and will work through the EPOG to address the required licensing and public health and safety requirements pertaining the event achieved through relevant applications and EPOG recommendations.

Update on Illumination of Granton Gasometer

- 4.16 In the Core Festivals and Events 2020/21 report to this Committee in [January 2020](#), £100,000 of funding was allocated to the illumination of the Granton Gasometer. Due to pressures on the in-year Place budget, this allocation was reduced to £75,000. Following Committee, the Council has secured additional funding of around £100,000 to procure, through Edinburgh College, a lighting engineer to take forward the illumination of the Granton gas holder. Works to illuminate this magnificent structure, which will light up the city's skyline, will commence early this year with the illumination expected early spring. The illuminations will be for a minimum of two years, providing the students at Edinburgh College with the opportunity to enhance their skills within this field. Due to Covid restrictions, the legacy launch event that was to accompany the switch-on is unlikely to be held in spring but plans to undertake this at a later date once current restrictions are relaxed are ongoing. This project provides a magnificent opportunity for the Council and its partners to showcase their ambition and commitment to creating a new coastal town in Edinburgh which will bring further creative and cultural opportunity alongside setting the standard in sustainability through exemplar urban design and placemaking.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Continue to work in partnership with stakeholders, partners and residents to deliver a successful sports and cultural events and activities portfolio for the city through the framework of the Events Strategy.
- 5.2 Committee will be kept updated on the arrangements for events through the Committee Business Bulletin.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The Festivals and Events Core Programme is funded from the Council's revenue budget allocation for Culture.
- 6.2 The contributions to events listed in this report can be contained in the current projected Events budget for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The Council has engaged with the relevant partners and event promoters to develop and deliver these proposals.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [Festival and Events Core Programme 2019/20](#) - Culture and Communities Committee, 29 January 2019

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Festival and Events Programme to end March 2022

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS PROGRAMME to end March 2022

New events are *italicised*.

* denotes one of the major festivals

** denotes one of the major festivals with dates still to be confirmed

CEC Funded Events in Calendar Year 2021 to 31 March 2022

28 December 2020 – 1 January 2021	Edinburgh's Hogmanay Festival*
22 – 31 January 2021	Burns & Beyond Festival
<i>April/May 2021</i>	<i>Small Countries Beach Volleyball International</i>
19 May – 30 May 2021	Imaginate Festival*
<i>16 – 19 June 2021</i>	<i>Squash European Masters Championship</i>
26 June 2020	Armed Forces Day
Date TBC	Edinburgh International Film Festival**
26 June – 11 July 2021	Edinburgh International Science Festival*
<i>July 2021 (date TBC)</i>	<i>UK Beach Volleyball Tour</i>
16 - 25 July 2021	Edinburgh International Jazz and Blues Festival*
29 July – 29 August 2021	Edinburgh Art Festival*
August (various dates)	Edinburgh Summer Sessions
6 – 30 August 2021	Edinburgh International Festival*
6 – 30 August 2021	Edinburgh Festival Fringe*
6– 28 August 2021	Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo*
14 – 30 August 2021	Edinburgh International Book Festival*
<i>11 September 2021</i>	<i>Tour of Britain</i>
September (date TBC)	Scottish Album of the Year Awards
<i>September (date TBC)</i> <i>Tournament.</i>	<i>Commonwealth Games Qualification</i>
16 – 31 October 2021	Scottish International Storytelling Festival*
November 2021 (date TBC)	The Edinburgh Award
14 November 2021	Remembrance Sunday
30 December 2021 – January 2022	Edinburgh's Hogmanay Festival*
January 2022 (date TBC)	Edinburgh Winter Run
January 2022 (date TBC)	Burns&Beyond
March 2022 (date TBC)	Edinburgh International Swimming Meet