

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Corporate Cultural Sub-Committee: 10 March 2009

Subject: 2009 Events Calendar

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Committee of changes necessary to the Council's Major Events Programme 2008-2011 and submit for consideration and approval the Calendar of Events for 2009.

2.0 Background

- 2.1** The Council's annual programme of outdoor events has grown over the past few years. The programme is a mix of community based events, such as local gala days and larger events, staged in partnership with external agencies and promoters.
- 2.2** A programme of major events covering the period 2008 – 2011 was approved at the HE&ED Committee of November 2007. Necessary revisions to this programme were approved at the Culture Sub-Committee of 9 December 2008 in light of a number of factors however further revisions are now required.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 Major Events 2008/2011

- 3.1.1** It was reported at the Culture Sub-Committee of 9 December 2008 that contact had been made with a promoter interested in promoting a classical concert and a Country and Western/Americana festival in 2009. It was advised that the promoter was developing proposals to stage both events in 2009 however in the absence of any promoter partnership it was hoped that the Council could stage a Country and Western/Americana event itself in 2009 with the classical event being considered for 2010.
- 3.1.2** Although steady progress was being made in preliminary event planning, the promoter was severely affected by the collapse of the major ticket agency Boxoffice, so much so that the promoter has ceased trading. It has not been possible to identify an alternative promoter at this stage.

3.1.3 A bid was made for funding to stage a Country and Western/Americana event within the Events & Halls 2009/10 Revenue Budget however this was unsuccessful. It will therefore not now be possible to stage such an event unless alternative funding can be identified.

3.2 2009 Events Calendar - The proposed Events Calendar for 2009 is attached as Appendix A for Members consideration and approval. In doing so, Members may wish to consider and agree upon the following:-

3.2.1 Traditionally over the last 30 years, a Dumbarton Fireworks Display has taken place on the 5th November whilst a new Clydebank Fireworks event was introduced on 6th November 5 years ago. Some Members have expressed an interest in changing the venues and dates in alternate years to ensure that both towns are afforded the opportunity of hosting the event on the evening of 5th November which is traditionally recognised as Guy Fawkes evening.

3.2.2 The recently approved Revenue Budget Proposals 2009/10 included £10,000 to create a Homecoming Event. One option would be to stage an event on the shoulder of the Scottish Pipe Band Championships thus minimising setup costs, equipment hire etc. Another option would be to create a new music centric event at Moss O' Balloch following the Loch Lomond Highland Games.

4.0 Personnel Issues

4.1 These events will be planned, staged and managed by staff of the Events & Halls Section, other Council services and external partners and agencies.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 The majority of the events staged by the Council in the 2009 draft programme are budgeted for in the 2009/10 Events & Halls Revenue Budget. The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Championship is budgeted for in the 2009/10 Sundry Services Revenue Budget.

5.2 It has recently been confirmed that Chivas Brothers Ltd. will once again be the main sponsor of the 2009 Scottish Pipe Band Championships.

5.3 Funding of approximately £6,000 from the 2009/2010 Culture Budget for small events is sought for the delivery of a Music Festival in Dalmuir Park in summer 2009.

6.0 Risk Analysis

6.1 As these are all outdoor events there is a risk that the weather will affect the events, especially those taking place later in the year. Our events programme has however experienced bad weather in the past and has still been fulfilled therefore this risk is estimated as minimal.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1** The Council's events programme continues the Council's commitment to expand the local cultural landscape, increase social inclusion and consolidate and improve tourism visits to the area.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 The Committee is requested to:-

- a) note the necessary changes to the major event proposals for 2009/2010 as outlined in Section 3 of this report; and
- b) approve the draft 2009 Events Programme as attached at Appendix A; and
- c) agree to alternate the venue for the Fireworks displays on 5th and 6th November between Clydebank and Dumbarton; and
- d) consider and agree options for the 2009 Homecoming event; and
- e) agree to expenditure of approximately £6,000 from the 2009/2010 Culture Budget for small events for the delivery of a Music Festival in Dalmuir Park in summer 2009.

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Date: 3 March 2009

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Appendix:	Appendix A – Draft 2009 Events Programme
Background Papers:	None
Wards Affected:	All