

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Cultural Sub-Committee : 9 December 2008

Subject: The 100 Pipers Royal Scottish Pipe Band Championships 2008

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise members of the Committee of the performance of the 2008 Royal Scottish Pipe Band Championships and outline the success of the Council's recent bid for the rights to stage the Scottish Pipe Band Championships 2010 – 2012.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Council first staged the Royal Scottish Pipe Band in September 1999 at Balloch Castle Country Park. Since 2001, the event has been staged annually at Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton. The Scottish Pipe Band Championships have become increasingly successful, with consistently high visitor numbers recorded.
- 2.2** The present agreement between the Council and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) is to stage this event until May 2009.
- 2.3** A report "Scottish Pipe Band Championships Post 2009" was presented to the Cultural Sub-Committee, held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, on Tuesday 9 September 2008 at 10.00 a.m. Following consideration of this report, it was agreed by the Sub Committee ;
- a)** that authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development to determine, in discussion with the Council Leader, Chief Executive and Provost, a fee structure for staging the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) Championships; and
 - b)** that the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development be instructed to submit a bid to the RSPBA to host the Scottish Pipe Band Championships.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** Since its inception in 1999, the Scottish Pipe Band Championship has become the largest annual event staged by the Council, with the 2008 event attracting one hundred and thirty five (135) pipe bands and an estimated nineteen thousand (19,000) visitors during the course of the day.

- 3.2** The Council currently has an agreement with the RSPBA which expires following the staging of the Scottish Pipe Championship event in 2009. Following the Scottish Pipe Band Championships in May 2008, a number of meetings were held between officers of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band LLHG Committee and the Council. The Council was subsequently invited to submit a bid to stage a major piping event in 2010.
- 3.3** Following agreement of the Cultural Sub-Committee, as outlined in Section 2.3 above, the bid to stage the 2010 to 2012 Scottish Pipe Band Championships was prepared in early October. The bid was prepared in the knowledge that other local authorities and event organisers would be submitting rival bids for the event.
- 3.4** The Council's bid (Appendix A) was to be submitted by 09 October 2008 deadline to the RSPBA. All sealed bids from interested parties for various events were thereafter opened and considered on 10 October by the finance committee of the RSPBA. The deliberations and conclusions of the RSPBA finance committee were thereafter submitted to the executive committee of the RPBA on 17 October for final approval.
- 3.5** Competing bids were judged not only on financial grounds but also in relation to the standard of bid, previous history of hosting the event (if applicable), proposals for event marketing and development etc.
- 3.6** The Council has now received formal notification of its success in being appointed host of the Scottish Pipe Band Championships for 2010, 2011 and 2012. (Appendix B)

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** Scottish Pipe Band Championships events are planned, staged and managed by employees of West Dunbartonshire Council, working in partnership with the RSPBA and other event sponsors and partners.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** In contrast to other organisations and Local Authorities staging Pipe Band Championships, admission to the Scottish Pipe Band Championships held in West Dunbartonshire is free to the public. In addition to event sponsorship, income to help stage the event is generated from traders fees, programme sales and car and coach parking. (No charge is made for cars bearing a disabled driver badge).
- 5.2** The overall cost to stage and market the 2008 event was £66,719, this including the fee of £34,000 paid to the RSPBA. The overall income generated by the event was £45,910, this including the sponsorship income from Chivas Brothers Ltd. The overall net cost therefore to the Council to stage the 2008 Scottish Pipe Band Championships was £20,809, some £4,191 less than the £25,000 budget available.

5.3 The fee due to the RSPBA for the 2009 event is £36,000. Providing that the expenditure, income and sponsorship levels achieved in 2008 are repeated in 2009 there is no reason that the 2009 event cannot be delivered within the current budget provision of £25,000.

5.4 The bid submission to the RSPBA for the rights to stage the Scottish Pipe Band Championships in 2010/2012 included fees of ;

2010	£46,000
2011	£48,000
2012	£50,000

The above figures exclude value added tax

5.5 The fee due to the RSPBA for the 2010 Scottish Pipe Band Championships will be £46,000. Assuming that the same level of sponsorship and other event income be maintained, the budget allocated to the 2010 event by the Council will require to be revised to £35,000, with pro-rata increases of £2,000 per annum for years 2011 and 2012. Efforts will however be made to secure additional sponsorship and increase other event income in an effort minimise any further subsidy (above the current level of £25,000) required by the Council).

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 There is a risk that event sponsorship cannot be secured for future years or is at a reduced level due to the current economic climate. Should this occur then the overall cost of the event to the Council would increase.

6.2 As this is an outdoor event there is a risk that the weather could be bad enough that the event would have to be cancelled. The event has however experienced bad weather in the past and has still been staged therefore this risk is estimated as minimal.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 The Scottish Pipe Band Championships continues to be the largest outdoor event staged annually by the Council. Year on year the event continues to attract many thousands of new visitors to the area as well as raising the profile of Dumbarton and bringing economic benefits and revenue to the area.

7.2 The success of the Council in retaining the rights to stage the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Scottish Pipe Band Championships should be regarded as an endorsement by the RSPBA of the highly successful partnership which has developed between the Council and the RSPBA since the event was first staged in 1999.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 The Committee is requested to:-

- a) note the outcome of the 2008 Royal Scottish Pipe Band Championships; and
- b) note the successful outcome of the Council's bid to host the Scottish Pipe Band Championships 2010 – 2012.

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Date: 3 December 2008

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Appendix: **Appendix A** – WDC bid for the Scottish Pipe Band Championships 2010 – 2012

Appendix B – Letter of notification from RSPBA

Background Papers: Scottish Pipe Band Championships Post 2009, Cultural Sub-Committee: 9 September 2008

Wards Affected: All