

WARDS AFFECTED: CITY WIDE

Leicester
City Council

**Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet**

**6th September 2006
25th September 2006**

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS PROGRAMME 2007/8 to 2008/9

Report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Culture

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report asks Cabinet to agree a festivals and events programme for the 3 years 2006/7 to 2008/9

2. Summary

- 2.1 Cabinet at its meetings on 24th April 2006 and 15th May 2006 agreed the funding programme attached to the Festivals and Events Strategy.
- 2.2 At the 15th May meeting Cabinet decided that it would reduce the funding available for new festivals and events by £48,400 in 2006/7, in order to give those festivals and events that do not meet the criteria one year's grace to meet the criteria.
- 2.3 Cabinet asked officers to investigate the possibility of providing an ice rink in the Town Hall Square for Christmas 2006. We have spoken with a number of operators, but the costs exceed the 2006/7 new festivals and events budget.
- 2.4 It may be possible to stage an ice rink for Christmas 2007 if the budget becomes available. If Cabinet wish to support an ice rink in 2007 officers recommend that the decision is delegated to the Corporate Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration and Culture.
- 2.5 The organisers of the Belgrave Mela want to stage an Asian Arts Festival in the City Centre in 2006. The future nature of the Mela will be the subject of a investigation and business case later in the year.
- 2.6 The Appendix to this report sets out the proposed 3 year programme of Festivals and Events for the City
- #### **3. Recommendations**
- 3.1 Cabinet are recommended to:
1. Agree the 3 year programme of Festivals and Events as set out in the Appendix to this report, and
 2. Note the actions taken, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member, in respect of Belgrave Mela, and the Christmas programme for 2006 (paragraphs 2.2 to 2.6 of the supporting information)

3. Authorise the Corporate Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration and Culture to finalise the Christmas Programme for 2007 and 2008 and any other minor amendments to the Festivals and Events Programme for the next 3 years (paragraphs 2.7 and 3.3).

4. Financial & Legal Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The budget implications for 2006/07 are summarised below and the total expenditure is as per the agreed 06/07 budget strategy.

Events Category	2006/07 Base Budget	DRS Growth for existing festivals	Subtotal	DRS Growth for New Festivals	Total Budget for 2006/07
Existing Festivals					
Group 1	£131,600	£80,000	£211,600	£13,400	£225,000
Group 2	£46,000	-	£46,000	-	£46,000
Group 3	£13,400	-	£13,400	£35,000	£48,400
Subtotal	£191,000	£80,000	£271,000	£48,400	£319,400
New Initiatives	-	-	-	£36,600	£36,600
Total	£191,000	£80,000	£271,000	£85,000	£356,000

Martin Judson, Head of Finance, 16 August 2006

Legal Implications

- 4.2 No legal implications connected with this report

Joanna Bunting, Assistant Head of Legal services, 16 August 2006

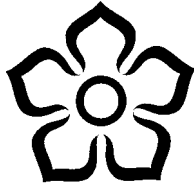
5. Report Authors

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DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	Yes
Reason	Significant effect on one or more wards
Appeared in Forward Plan	Yes
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)



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FESTIVALS AND EVENTS PROGRAMME 2007/8 to 2008/9

Report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Culture

Report

1. Background

- 1.1 Cabinet, at its meeting on 24th April 2006 gave delegated authority to the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Culture, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member, to take all necessary decisions for 2006/07 in respect of those festivals which met the Council's criteria for funding (Groups 1 & 2). In accordance with that decision funding was approved at the 2005/6 level for all Group 1 & 2 festivals. In addition, Caribbean Carnival, Belgrave Mela and Diwali received additional funding for 3 years in accordance with the Council's agreed Budget Strategy
- 1.2 Cabinet at its meeting on 15th May approved an increase in funding for Group 1 festivals by transferring £13,400 from the growth budget for new festivals for this year only. Cabinet, also agreed that Group 3 festivals (i.e. those that do not meet the council's criteria) be supported by means of a guarantee against loss by transferring up to £20,000 from the growth budget for new festivals for this year only and that Group 3 festivals be assisted to meet the criteria by becoming more self sufficient, at a cost of up to £15,000 by transferring £15,000 from the growth budget for new festivals for one year only. The effect of this decision was to reduce the funding available for new festivals and events by £48,400 in 2006/7 leaving £36,600 available for the development of new festivals and events.

2 The Festivals and Events Programme

- 2.1 The majority of the events and festivals shown in the attached programme are already established in the Leicester calendar. There are many more events and festivals in Leicester than are shown in the appendix. This paper seeks Cabinet's agreement to a programme of events and festivals funded by, or directly managed by, the City Council.

Belgrave Mela

- 2.2 Following Cabinet's agreement to a three-year increase in funding to Belgrave Mela, officers met with the organisers to discuss their delivery plan for 2006-09. The organisers of the Mela recognise that, due to the ever-increasing responsibilities of event management and health and safety, the creative and cultural elements of the Mela suffered in recent years. Officers accepted that, due to the time constraints, the Mela organisers would not be able to stage a

2-day Mela on Abbey Park this year. Instead the Mela organisers wanted to hold a one-day event in the city centre this year on Humberstone Gate West. In addition the City Council's Markets section would organise a Mela Market to complement the city centre festival . The organisers will call this new event Leicester Asian Arts Festival (Celebrating Culture) presented by Leicester Belgrave Mela.

- 2.3 Following consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration and Culture the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture has agreed to support the city centre Asian Arts festival for 2006 only. As part of the conditions of funding the event a full debrief on this year's event will take place in September. The proposed programme of Mela events for 2007 and 2008 will be the subject of further discussions between officers and the organisation to ensure that any proposed changes are in accordance with the Festivals and Events criteria.

Christmas

- 2.4 Following the decision at Cabinet on 15 May 2006 to support all existing festivals and events for a further year, utilising some of the £85,000 initially ear-marked for new festivals and events, a total of £36,000 remained to deliver new or expanded events in 2006/07. Cabinet expressed a preference for an ice rink in the Town Hall Square as part of the Christmas offer, and instructed officers to look into the feasibility of an ice rink with the potential operator taking the financial risk and controlling the ticket prices. Unfortunately none of the companies we contacted are prepared to take the risk of running the ice rink as a commercial venture.
- 2.5 Advance booking means that the Council's Christmas offer needs to be confirmed during by late spring/early summer. Officers evaluated and costed a number of alternative options for Christmas spectacle. Following discussion with the Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration and Culture the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture has agreed to provide one moving tableau, Christmas Trees, a nativity scene, a street café, and a performance space with a programme of Christmas entertainment.
- 2.6 This option will enable visitors to experience a variety of free entertainment over a five week period. The Horsefair Street side of Town Hall Square will be host to a performance space with a backdrop of decorated and lit Christmas trees. Old fashioned market carts selling mulled wine, hot chocolate, roasted chestnuts and jacket potatoes will provide a café atmosphere with benches so that visitors can sit and enjoy Town Hall Square.
- 2.7 If Cabinet want to offer an ice rink for 2007, this may be possible, provided the new initiatives budget is fully available and we allocate/secure additional funding from the small grants budget and from sponsorship. Officers recommend the final decision on the Council's offer for Christmas 2007 and 2008 be delegated to the Corporate Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member for Regeneration and Culture.

3. 2006/7 Programme

- 3.1 On 15 May 2006, Cabinet agreed to support a number of festivals that did not meet the Council's criteria for a further year through a guarantee against loss up to the value of their previous grant, subject to them meeting certain conditions. This one off payment was to give those organisations the opportunity to make themselves compliant with the Council's support criteria.

- 3.2 The table below updates Cabinet on the position of those festivals as at Mid August:

Event/Festival	Date & Location	Comments
Animal Antics		Officers told that this event not taking place in 2006, waiting for written confirmation
Dashera	2 nd October 2006 Cossington Street Recreation Ground	Organised by the Festivals Unit on behalf of Leicester Hindu Festival Council
Horticultural Show	28 th August 2006 Aylestone Leisure Centre	Will make a claim against loss. No information yet on compliance with criteria
Navratri	Ramgaria Hall and De Montfort Hall	Officers have met with the Leicester Hindu Festival Council about their audited accounts and the conditions of City Council funding in respect of the Navratri celebrations. The organisers will probably require payment against their guarantee in 2006

- 3.3 Later in the year, once these events are completed, officers will carry out a further review of their performance against the festivals and events criteria to find out if there has been any significant change since the original assessment. This review will include consultation with the event organisers.

4. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	PARAGRAPH REFERENCES WITHIN SUPPORTING PAPERS
Equal Opportunities	None specific	
Policy	Yes	Throughout
Crime and Disorder	None specific	All festivals and events undertake risk assessments relating to their impact on crime and disorder. Festivals and events engender pride of place and can both directly and indirectly reduce crime and disorder.
Human Rights Act	No	
Older People on Low Income	None specific	Many of the festivals and events are free and are programmed at different times of the day. They provide opportunities for older people to come together and provide participation of older people on low income.

5. Risk Analysis

	Risk	Likelihood L/M/H	Severity Impact L/M/H	Control Actions (if necessary/or appropriate)
1	Negative reactions to withdrawing support from certain festivals and events and possibility of legal challenge	H	M	Two stage consultation minimized the possibility of successful legal challenge During the 2 nd stage consultation period, festivals and events organisers in Groups 2 or 3 were given the opportunity to demonstrate how they meet the criteria if they feel they have been incorrectly assessed.
2	Continued funding of festivals and events which do not meet the criteria will limit the opportunities for supporting new events	M	M	Ensure all funding support is based on agreed criteria
3	Festival and Event organisers fail to meet funding criteria	H	L	A further opportunity will be given to those festivals that do not meet the criteria to provide evidence of the changes they have made in 2006 to demonstrate compliance with the Councils criteria
4	Festival and Event organisers cannot deliver agreed programme within allocated budget	M	M	Festivals and Events Unit offer support and advice on capacity building and alternative sources of funding to assist events to become more sustainable

L - Low
M - Medium
H - High

L - Low
M - Medium
H - High

6. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Cabinet Report 25th July 2005: Festivals and Events Strategy – Consultation
Draft

Cabinet Report 24th October 2005: Festivals and Events Strategy – 1st Stage Consultation Report

Cabinet Report 24th April 2006: Festivals and Events Strategy 3 Year Programme – 2006/7 to 2008/9

Cabinet report 15th May 2006: Festivals and Events Strategy

7. Consultations

Consultee

Head Of Finance, Regeneration and Culture
Head of Legal Services

Date Consulted

15th August 2006
15th August 2006

Council Managed/Financially Supported Festivals and Events Programme 2006/7

Month	Location	Event
April		
May	City Centre - Various City wide	Early Music Festival The Spark Childrens Festival
June	Bede Park Victoria Park City Centre – Various De Montfort Hall Parks – City wide	Riverside Festival Leicester Pride International Music Festival The Big Session Festival Bands on Parks*(June to September)
July		
August	Aylestone Leisure Centre De Montfort Hall Castle Gardens & City wide	Horticultural Show Summer Sundae Castle Park Festival
September	City Centre De Montfort Hall and Ramgaria Hall	Asian Arts Festival (Belgrave Mela) Navratri
October	Cossington Street Recreation Ground City Centre – Various Phoenix Arts Centre	Dashera Diwali Black History Season Short Film Festival
November	Humberstone Park Abbey Park	Humberstone Park Bonfire Abbey Park Bonfire
December	City Centre	Christmas café, entertainment and tableau in Town Hall Square
January		
February	City wide	Leicester Comedy Festival
March		

* Managed by Parks Services through sponsorship in 2006

**Council Managed/Financially Supported Festivals and Events Programme
2007/8**

Month	Location	Event
April		
May	City Centre - Various City wide	Early Music Festival The Spark Childrens Festival
June	Bede Park Victoria Park City Centre – Various De Montfort Hall Parks – City wide	Riverside Festival Leicester Pride International Music Festival The Big Session Festival Bands on Parks*** (June to Sept)
July		
August	Aylestone Leisure Centre Victoria Park De Montfort Hall Castle Gardens & City wide	Horticultural Show** Caribbean Carnival Summer Sundae Castle Park Festival
September	De Montfort Hall and Ramgaria Hall To be confirmed Abbey Park	Navratri** Asian Arts Festival/Belgrave Mela Animal Antics**
October	Cossington Street Recreation Ground City Centre – Various Phoenix Arts Centre	Dashera** Diwali Black History Season Short Film Festival
November	Humberstone Park Abbey Park	Humberstone Park Bonfire Abbey Park Bonfire
December	City Centre	Ice Rink*
January		
February	City wide	Leicester Comedy Festival
March		

* Dependant on funding available.

** Only if meets criteria
*** Managed by Parks Services

**Council Managed/Financially Supported Festivals and Events Programme
2008/9**

Month	Location	Event
April		
May	City Centre – Various	Early Music Festival
	City wide	The Spark Childrens Festival
June	Bede Park	Riverside Festival
	Victoria Park	Leicester Pride
	City Centre – Various	International Music Festival
	De Montfort Hall	The Big Session Festival
	Parks – City wide	Bands on Parks*** (June to September)
July		
August	Aylestone Leisure Centre	Horticultural Show**
	Victoria Park	Caribbean Carnival
	De Montfort Hall	Summer Sundae
	Castle Gardens & City wide	Castle Park Festival
September	De Montfort Hall and Ramgaria Hall	Navratri**
	To be confirmed	Asian Arts Festival/Belgrave Mela
	Abbey Park	Animal Antics**
October	Cossington Street Recreation Ground	Dashera** Diwali
	City Centre – Various	Black History Season
	Phoenix Arts Centre	Short Film Festival
November	Humberstone Park	Humberstone Park Bonfire
	Abbey Park	Abbey Park Bonfire
December	City Centre	Ice Rink*
January		
February	City wide	Leicester Comedy Festival
March		

* Dependant on funding available.

** Only if meets criteria

*** Managed by Parks Services