

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 22 December 2022	Meeting Name: Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks, Streets and Clean Air
Report title:		Outdoor Events Policy refresh with Events Environmental Sustainability Guide	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Head of Culture	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the cabinet member for leisure, parks, streets and clean air agree the refresh of the Outdoor Events Policy (see Appendix 1), to include adopting the new Events Environmental Sustainability Guide (see Appendix 2).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Outdoor events form an integral part of Southwark Council's cultural strategy, 'Creative Southwark', which recognises the value and benefit that a varied and well managed outdoor events programme can offer people living, working in and visiting Southwark.
3. Outdoor events in Southwark positively contribute to celebrating diversity, boosting the local economy, creating a strong sense of community and community cohesion, supporting children and young people by fostering a culture of innovation and imagination, and providing activities for older people, all of which contribute to a vibrant culture, environment and economy.
4. Outdoor events support the delivery of the following themes in the council's Fairer Future commitments:
 - A greener borough
 - A full employment borough
 - A healthier life
 - A safer community
 - A vibrant Southwark
5. The provision of a vibrant, diverse and accessible range of events and cultural activity also delivers against:
 - the 'Thriving Neighbourhoods' theme in the borough plan
 - the council plan target to celebrate Southwark's diversity by funding local community groups "to deliver events and festivals that showcase the diverse histories, music, food and art of our communities".

6. In 2018, the council decided to allow large-scale commercial events to take place in the borough, in order to generate income that, in the context of years of government funding cuts, could support the continuing delivery of an events service and a free community events programme around Southwark.
7. In 2019, informed by an in-depth consultation process and the learning from the initial commercial events activity, a new Outdoor Events Policy was introduced. This refreshed policy set out the decision-making process for new events and serves as the guiding principle and governance for the delivery of all events in Southwark.
8. The policy aims to balance the interests of residents, site users, stakeholders, businesses and event organisers, and sets out procedures and processes with the aim of providing clear and transparent information to event organisers. It also provides a framework which all event organisers must work within and adhere to, and forms part of a binding contract for event organisers wishing to use Southwark as a location to host their event.
9. Southwark Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019, and, in July 2021, published a Climate Change Strategy designed to tackle the climate emergency and become a carbon neutral borough by 2030. A year later, the Council published an action plan setting out how it would achieve this ambition across five priority themes: greener buildings, active and sustainable travel, renewable energy, thriving natural environment, a circular economy with green jobs.
10. The council recognises that events of all types and sizes contribute to the problem of climate change. The organisation and delivery of all events involves some form of negative environmental impact and the council recognises the need to help event organisers understand the negative environmental impact of their event in order to try to minimise it. Particular areas of event delivery that require consideration include but are not limited to: transport, audience travel, energy and power consumption, water, catering, waste, biodiversity, supplier and contractor chains, advertising and promotion.
11. Since the introduction of the new Outdoor Events Policy in 2019, 43 commercial events and 185 charity, community and non-profit events have been delivered in Southwark.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

12. The existing Outdoor Events Policy has been working well and has proved fit for purpose across a wide range of events.
13. However, in light of the increasing demand for events in Southwark's public spaces, there is a correspondingly pressing need to ensure that events are contributing positively to the council's climate action plan.

14. A refresh of the policy for 2023-24 onwards therefore proposes the following amendments:

- that a new Events Environmental Sustainability Guide is attached as an Appendix to the policy, thereby forming part of the contract to which event organisers must adhere;
- that event organisers of all licensed premises events are asked to comply with the council's women's safety charter;
This amendment requires event organisers who hold premises licences to pay particular consideration to women's safety, including both women performers and audiences, in line with the broader women's safety charter and in the context of events delivering licensable activity under the Licensing Act. This will support women and girls in feeling safe to perform at and attend events, reducing fear of intimidation, misogyny or harm.
- that Play Streets events are included as a specific event category;
- that the council's statutory Prevent Duty obligations are noted (in paragraphs 5.9 and 16.10);
- that paragraph 22.1 includes a Temporary Structures Licence (section 30) as one of the permissions and licences that event organisers are responsible for acquiring in an appropriate and timely manner.

15. Key to the Events Environmental Sustainability Guide are 'essential' measures and 'desirable' measures to reduce an event's carbon footprint and negative environmental impact. The measures vary depending on the scale of each event. Event organisers must implement the 'essential' measures relevant to their scale of event in order to get permission for their event to proceed; they may also choose to implement some of the 'desirable' measures.

16. The measures are focused on the following categories:

- People
- Power
- Water
- Waste
- Plastic
- Transport
- Biodiversity
- Food and drink
- Event management and administration

17. The Events Environmental Sustainability Guide advises that some 'desirable' measures for 2023-24, marked by an asterisk, will become 'essential' measures for 2024-25, to enable organisers to factor these future

requirements into their planning.

18. The Events Environmental Sustainability Guide will be reviewed and updated annually, informed by the carbon emissions data gathered from each year's events, in order to make appropriate changes to the 'essential' and 'desirable' criteria as we move closer to 2030.
19. To support event organisers with implementing the Events Environmental Sustainability Guide, officers will deliver a series of workshops and Q&A sessions between February – May 2023.
20. Officers have also recently completed a mapping exercise of council infrastructure available to event organisers, such as power sites, water tap locations and LED lamps. This information will be made available to event organisers to support them in minimising their carbon footprint.

Policy framework implications

21. The policy delivers on the Borough Plan and the Fairer Future Promises.
22. The policy directly contributes to the council's Climate Strategy and Climate Action Plan programme.
23. Through its facilitation of events, the policy delivers against the council commitment to celebrate Southwark's diversity.
24. The policy also delivers on the aims of the Cultural Strategy, *Creative Southwark*, to:
 - Ensure that Southwark continues to be a borough for cultural excellence
 - Access and harness the benefits of regeneration for the cultural sector
 - Embed a cross-council and partner approach to culture
 - Support the economic prosperity of the borough, including the night time economy
 - Enable our diverse community to have access to cultural opportunities
 - Collect, conserve and celebrate our local heritage for future generations.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

25. The implementation of the refreshed policy and Events Environmental Sustainability Guide will work towards ensuring the borough's communities experience fewer negative environmental impacts from events in public spaces.
26. The policy actively encourages community event organisers to engage with

the council's commitment to becoming carbon neutral and the sustainability guide includes recommendations that event organisers engage audiences and local communities in understanding the measures being taken to contribute to reducing the borough's carbon footprint. This will positively impact on local communities' engagement in the efforts to tackle the climate emergency.

27. Communities across the borough will benefit from events that celebrate Southwark's diversity continuing to be environmentally viable towards and beyond 2030, and so the implementation of the refreshed policy with the Events Environmental Sustainability Guide will ensure communities continue to have access to cultural opportunities.
28. It is recognised that some of the environmental measures required in the Events Environmental Sustainability Guide may be challenging to achieve, especially for smaller organisations. In recognition of this, the guide seeks to differentiate between requirements for different size events and to stagger implementation. In addition, workshops will be available, to support grassroots organisers through any delivery challenges created by these requirements.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

29. The Equalities Impact and Needs Analysis, included as a Background Document to this report, details the positive impacts of the policy refresh on local communities resulting from the inclusion of, in particular, compliance with the women's safety charter and the Events Environmental Sustainability Guide in the policy.

Health impact statement

30. The introduction of the Events Environmental Sustainability Guide as part of the Outdoor Events Policy will have a positive impact on residents' health by reducing the carbon emissions and negative environmental impacts of events.

Climate change implications

31. The introduction of the Events Environmental Sustainability Guide as part of the policy refresh is designed to make a positive contribution to the council's action plan.
32. The policy's Events Environmental Sustainability Guide will ensure that carbon emissions data is gathered so that event delivery can be better informed by considerations of the climate emergency.
33. The Events Environmental Sustainability Guide will also ensure that carbon emissions and the negative environmental impacts of events are reduced between 2023-24 and 2029-30.

Legal implications

34. Please see the concurrent report of the director of law and governance.

Finance implications

35. The head of service does not foresee any additional associated costs to implementing the proposed policy refresh and Sustainability Guide.

Consultation

36. Informal consultation with event organisers has been carried out during 2022-23 to understand what sustainability measures are currently implemented and what improvements need to be made to support the commitment to becoming carbon neutral.
37. The Creative Network Southwark meeting on 26 July 2022, attended by 21 people, discussed the impacts of climate change on the creative sector and the sector's responsibilities to tackle the climate emergency.
38. Selected commercial event organisers were invited to discuss the proposed Sustainability Guide measures at Southwark Council's Staff Climate Network meeting on 15 June 2022.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

39. This report seeks approval to agree the refresh of the Outdoor Events Policy (see Appendix 1), to include adopting the new Events Sustainability Guide (see Appendix 2), for the reason explained in paragraph 13.
40. The extent of the proposed amendments to the existing Policy is explained in paragraph 14, whilst paragraphs 15 to 19 provide information about the new Guide. It is intended that revised site specific conditions will be included in event licences in order to reflect the changes, in line with internal legal advice.
41. The adoption of the refreshed Policy and the new Events Sustainability Guide are matters which are expressly reserved for decision to the relevant Cabinet Member.
42. The cabinet member is reminded that, under the terms of the Policy, a decision maker is required to have regard to the law in respect of a range of statutory functions. At all material times, the council retains its statutory duties and therefore the decision maker must be satisfied that the requirements of the Policy have been appropriately met.
43. Both the Policy and the community impact statement set out above take account of the Public Sector Equality Duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010, which requires the council to have due regard to the need to:-

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between person who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership are protected in relation to a) only.

- 44. The cabinet member is also referred to paragraphs 36 to 38 of this report which set out the consultation that has taken place. The cabinet member must conscientiously take into account the outcome of consultation when taking a decision on the recommendation in this report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (EL21/083)

- 45. This report is recommending the cabinet member for leisure, parks, streets and clean air to agree the refreshed Outdoor Events Policy as shown in Appendix 1 and the accompanying Events Environmental Sustainability Guide as shown in Appendix 2.
- 46. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that there are no cost implications associated to implementing the recommendations of this report.
- 47. Staffing and any other costs connected with this recommendation to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Events Environmental Sustainability Guide (2023/24) Equality Impact & Needs Analysis	Environment & Leisure, 160 Tooley Street	Name: Eva Gomez, Head of Culture Phone number: 020 7525 7246

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Outdoor Events Policy (2023-24)
Appendix 2	Events Environmental Sustainability Guide (2023-24)

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Toni Ainge, Director of Leisure	
Report Author	Michelle Walker, Culture & Events Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	8 December 2022	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		21 December 2022