

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 13 September 2011	Decision Taker: Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure Sports and the Olympics
Report title:		New Events Programme 2011-13	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Gill Davies, Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the new event programme for 2011–13 agreed in the budget report of full council of 22 February 2011 and as set out in paragraph 18-20 of this report, be endorsed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. For 2011/12 onwards Southwark received a particularly difficult financial settlement from the government. The reduction in formula grant for 2011/12 represented an 11.3% cut in the cash value of formula funding, which creates a £33.7m (8.4%) reduction in overall spending power, ignoring inflation and other unavoidable budget pressures. At current inflation rates, the cut in grant funding was 15% in real terms.
3. As part of the Council's programme of budget reductions, a new approach to the Council's events programme was agreed, moving away from current arrangements of funding the series of events listed below, some of which were delivered directly by an external organisers:
 - Carnaval del Pueblo
 - Thames Festival
 - Southwark Irish Festival
 - Rotherhithe Festival
 - LGBT History Month
 - Silver
 - The Mix
 - Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Carnival and Parade
 - Fireworks Night
4. The new events programme is for a total of three major events each year.
5. Consultation with existing festival organisers and stakeholders was carried out in March 2011 to discuss the proposed new approach and involvement options. The details of that consultation are set out below.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Consultation on the proposed changes

6. The consultation was carried out based on the parameters that each event:
 - references and in some cases continues at a smaller scale the successful work previously created with partners
 - allows input by new partners
 - continues to celebrate diversity and encourage community cohesion
 - allows for area wide celebrations
7. Previously funded festival and events organisers were all consulted on their initial thoughts and how they might become involved in the new programme.
8. The consultation found that although organisers were disappointed with the decision to adopt a new approach, the reasons for change were understood.
9. Support was offered for those organisers that wished to continue with their events using public spaces in Southwark.
10. Organisers were all invited to join in the community partnership boards for each new event.
11. Organisers were offered support from council officers via the Transition Fund and general budget management and funding support
12. The Council has consulted widely with the local community and specifically with those groups funded as part of previous events programmes and as a result all community groups have been offered ongoing organisational support and invited to participate in the three proposed events.

The Proposed new events

13. The outline programme, content and format of the three new events are set out below.

North Southwark

14. *'Bermondsey Carnival'* is a large bandstand event continuing the work done to develop Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Carnival and Rotherhithe Festival 2009/10. We would invite people to Southwark Park for a large scale family picnic bringing their rugs and deck chairs, spread out their food and listen to some local musicians and bands, visit the arts and craft market, shop at Rumble in the Jumble and let the children take part in all the arts and sports activities. Activities could include a selection of the following:
 - The Bandstand, with a varied programme of live music
 - Al fresco Ballroom, for dance performances and workshops
 - Rumble in the Jumble, second-hand marketplace ultimate retail recycling experience
 - Your time – a heritage based area with interactive learning and arts activities.

- Victorian fun fair with carousel, big wheel, helter-skelter and side stalls.
 - A selection of food traders
 - Working with local organisations to develop significant family activity.
 - Healthy living area with sports and exercise related activities
15. *'Rotherhithe Festival'* is a local festival that celebrates local music and features local organisations providing activity.

Central Southwark

16. *'The Elephant and Nun'* is a one day outdoor, high profile celebration of all Southwark's communities in central Southwark through music, art, dance and food.
17. Based on aspects of previous successful events we are working with existing partners that have been involved in Silver, The Mix, LGBT History Month, Carnaval del Pueblo and The Irish Festival to ensure that a range of different communities are involved and that the event includes both performance and activity.
18. Dependent on additional funding from Children's Services, it may also be possible to deliver a young people's events training programme. Skills learnt on this programme would then be used to co-ordinate a young people's talent search across Southwark and then to be involved in the development and delivery of the overall festival.
19. The event will have no main stage, but a series of bespoke themed spaces. Each of these spaces will have a budget that will be used with partners to create exciting, innovative and fun programmes of both performance and activity. Themes for spaces could include:

- *Dance*

Dance has always been a very strong creative medium in Southwark. There are many professional and organisations in the borough including Siobhan Davies Dance, Corali, Carl Campbell Dance 7, ArteLatino plus the Lambeth and Southwark dance network and projects forming part of Big Dance.

There is also a very strong community, schools and youth dance groups that take part in events throughout the year regularly showcasing both traditional and contemporary forms of dance.

We would offer performance and promotional opportunities to groups to produce a full programme representing dance in all its styles.

- *World music*

An area of world music given a local twist by Southwark and London artists. Southwark's diverse diasporas have always created new and exciting contemporary music based in the tradition of cultural heritage.

This performance area would work with community music organisations like Koruso, South London Community Music, Caporales, Camberwell Choir School, London College of Contemporary Music, Kinetica and The Nightingales to create a rounded world music programme that reflects Southwark today.

We would also look to work with Global Local, an Arts Council funded programme and our community engagement team to ensure of performance and promotional offer is as open as possible.

- *Heritage and history*
Traditional folk music and dance are hugely popular and it is important when celebrating the heritage of our communities.

We will work with local community associations, with our community engagement and arts teams to identify groups and organisations that could participate in the programme and activities.

- *Other festival activities*
The festival would also include significant amount of activity from local cultural and sports providers. In previous years successful activities have been provided by Tate Modern, The Police, Southwark Community Games, Shakespeare's Globe and Camberwell College of Arts.
- *Markets*
We would sell pitches and stalls to create both food and crafts markets alongside the opportunity for projects and initiatives to promote themselves to the audience. Consideration will also be given to recreating the 'Rumble in the Jumble' our mass jumble sale promoting recycling and reusing of everyday things. The markets would include a series of bars selling both soft and alcoholic beverages.

South Southwark

20. The proposal for a festival celebrating light, bringing together annual cultural events including Guy Fawkes Night, Diwali, Christmas and Hanukkah, all of which take place around a similar time of year and use light to celebrate in some form.
21. Based around a November 5th, we would work with local communities, traders, TRAs, faith groups and local schools to commission two or three light based projects. These could be lantern parades, projection based, night walks, lumiere type events, late night openings etc. They work across all cultural mediums and with a range of local organisations. These commissions could be part of the fireworks night event or as stand alone happenings.
22. Consultation has been carried out with the Friends of Dulwich Park and next step is agreeing the creative and operational proposals.

Update and next steps

23. Each event will have a partnership board made up of a range of community organisations, schools, youth groups and cultural organisations, to ensure the widest possible involvement in each area.
24. The community partnership groups first met at the beginning of May and will continue to meet regularly.

25. The Friends of Dulwich Park and Belair Park have been consulted about the south of the borough event, and consultation is ongoing.
26. The Council will ensure full consultation is carried out with all venue stakeholders to ensure there is full agreement in the use of the venue.
27. All venue stakeholders will also be invited to be community partners.
28. The Council will ensure that the community partnerships fully understand allocated budgets and resources.

Equalities Impact Statement

29. The Council is mindful of its Public Sector Equality Duty and, in proposing the changes, driven by budgetary requirements, has attempted to mitigate the impact upon those individuals and groups whose protected characteristics, as defined by the Equality Act 2010 fall within one or more of the categories described as 'protected groups':
 - age
 - disability
 - gender reassignment
 - marriage and civil partnership
 - pregnancy and maternity
 - race
 - religion or belief
 - sex
 - sexual orientation
30. Previously there have been events and festivals specifically celebrating the Latin American, Irish, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender and older and youth communities and without these events being funded directly by the council it is likely that some may not take place in the future. Festivals that will receive no further funding are:
 - Carnaval del Pueblo
 - The Mayor's Thames Festival
 - Southwark Irish Festival
 - LGBT History Month
 - Silver
 - The Mix
 - Bermondsey Carnival Parade
31. However the new events programme will strive to encompass the most successful elements of each of these events and festivals, inviting partners in these festivals to join new community partnership groups that will meet regularly to oversee and guide the development of the new events programme.
32. The Council has consulted widely with the local community and specifically with those groups known to it from previous years of event management and grant funding. Details of these consultations are set out in this report. As a result of this consultation and subsequent discussions all community groups have been invited to participate in the three proposed events.

33. The majority of groups have already expressed some willingness to be involved in this regard with one or more of the events.
34. All the event organisers still have the support of the Council and we will continue to support them in all other ways possible. For example:
- We are working with Carnaval del Pueblo to develop plans for 2012 and their showcase as part of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
 - We are continuing to work with The Mayor's Thames Festival in advising them on community safety and public realm issues in their planning
 - We are facilitating the stakeholder groups who participated in Silver to continue the programme without funding from the Council's events team.
 - The Council have supported the Southwark Irish Festival in identifying possible budget saving and signposted to other funding sources.

Community impact statement

35. The council, presented with the challenge of unprecedented cuts is working hard to continue to provide high quality public services to the residents of our borough. It is important that we take some difficult decisions now so that we are not faced with even harder decisions in future years.
36. With the event programme and team as a non-statutory service it was important for the council to understand the impact of reducing such a service whilst balancing the need of essential front line services.
37. The decision to reduce the events programme will have some negative impact on local people and communities. With less large scale events funded and delivered by the council there will be a potential negative impact on community cohesion, improving life chances and celebrating diversity.
38. It is submitted; therefore, that the more generic nature of the proposed events programme will allow local community groups to participate in a more integrated manner than in previous years and to better represent the complexity and diversity of Southwark and its residents.

Financial implications

39. The total events budget has been reduced from £475k in 10/11 to £360k in 11/12. A new detailed budget had to be constructed to reflect the current situation; main aspects of this budget are shown in Table 1 in paragraph 28.
40. Table 1: Budget allocation for the proposed new events in Southwark 2011/12

Event in the North of the borough		
Staffing (allocation)		30k
Admin (allocation)		5k
Programming, infrastructure, marketing, etc		50k
		85k
Event in the centre of the borough		
Staffing (allocation)		36k
Admin(allocation)		6k

Programming, infrastructure, marketing, etc	88k	130k
Event in the south of the borough		
Staffing (allocation)	20k	
Admin(allocation)	4k	
Programming, infrastructure, marketing, etc	54k	78k
Event location service	67k	67k
Total		360k

Consultation

41. Consultation has taken place with organisers of previous events and festivals over March 2011.
42. Consultation has also taken place with officers over the same period.
43. Community partnership boards for each event have been developed to ensure ongoing consultation regarding the development and delivery of all three major events. Each board is made up of a range of local organisations, tenants and residents, businesses and venue stakeholders and facilitated by the Council.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance (DP0611)

- 44 The Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance (acting through the Employment and Contracts section) (notes the content of the report.
- 45 The proposal set out in the report is to rationalise the annual events programme as a result of a budget reduction. The budget reduction was considered by the council as part of the budget setting papers which were approved by the Council Assembly on 22 February 2011. Nevertheless consultation with service providers, service users, key stakeholders and employees is still required. The report refers to consultation undertaken to date as well as consultation to be undertaken with festival organisers and stakeholders and the community.
- 46 For effective communication to take place the following must apply:
 - consultation must be conducted when proposals are at a formative stage;
 - the decision maker must give sufficient reasons for its proposals to permit intelligent consideration and response;
 - adequate time must be given for consideration and response; and
 - the product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account before making the relevant decision.

Each of these elements must be considered separately, evidenced and documented.

47. To understand the effect of this proposal on the community an Equality Impact

Assessment should be undertaken. A summary of the assessment to date is set out at paragraphs 23-28 of the Report.

48. This assessment informs the council of the impact that its decision will have on the community and specifically if there are any groups within the community who will be impacted. It also provides a means by which steps can be taken to lessen the impact, where appropriate. This is important because when exercising its powers the council must have due regard to its equalities duties as set out in the Equalities Act 2010 and specifically the need to:

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

49. This is a matter that falls within the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Sport and the Olympics, it is not a matter reserved to Cabinet and therefore the decision can be taken by the Cabinet Member using her individual decision making powers.

Finance Director (CD0611)

50. This report requests the Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure, Sport and the Olympics to approve the 2011/12 to 2013/14 events programme.

51. This programme reflects the decision made by Council on 22 February to rationalise the events programme, having reduced the 2010/11 programme by £115k to provide core funding for three major events in 2011/12 - 2013/14.

APPENDICES

None		
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Gill Davies, Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure
Report Author	Adrian Whittle, Head of Culture, Leisure, Learning and Leisure
Version	Final

Dated	13 September 2011	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer	13 September 2011	