

STRATEGIC EVENTS AND FESTIVALS ROUND 3 FUND – TIMELINE & PROCESS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Further to the decision made by members at the Business Continuity Committee on 11 June 2020 members are being asked to give consideration to an amendment to the timeline for the launch of the Round 3 Strategic Events and Festivals (SEF) Fund for 2021/22 and in light of the continuing uncertainty in regard to COVID-19, to delegate authority to officers to amend the SEF Round 3 process to reflect the COVID-19 situation at the time of the new launch date.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members of the Business Continuity Committee are invited to:
- a) Agree that the launch date for the Strategic Events and Festival (SEF) Fund Round 3 be deferred until 22 October 2020.
 - b) Agree to delegate authority to officers to amend the SEF Round 3 process to reflect the COVID-19 situation at the time of the launch.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 In light of COVID-19 and the continuing uncertainty it is felt necessary to push back the launch date from 20 August 2020 to 22 October 2020. The application process will be open for 6 weeks. The new closing date will be 7 December 2020. A report will then be taken to Policy and Resources Committee in February 2021 for members' approval. It is hoped that by deferring the process that the position with regard to COVID-19 and the holding of events in 2020/21 and other key even funder grant schemes such as EventScotland, currently suspended, will be clearer.
- 3.2 In addition members are being asked to provide authority to officers to amend the process to reflect the position with regard to COVID-19 at the time of the launch as well as to take account of the approach being taken by funders including EventScotland, to allow complementarity and ensure as flexible an approach as possible to support events in 20221/22.

- 3.3 Events are faced with an unprecedented set of extraordinary and challenging circumstances brought about as a result of the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic and it is anticipated that the situation will continue to be challenging. It is hoped that by pushing the launch date back until the end of October that this will allow the position for 2021/22 to be a bit clearer and to ensure that the process is as fit for purpose at the time of the launch.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Policy – The Council’s Economic Strategy supports the value of events and festivals for their positive impact on the economy.
- 4.2 Financial – £90,000 in grant has been made available for a third round of Strategic Events and Festivals Funding for 2021/22.
- 6.3 Legal – None at this time
- 6.4 HR – Resourced from existing staff
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
- 6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics - None
- 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – The Fund seeks to support the economic growth of areas
- 6.5.3 Islands – The Fund seeks to support island economies by encouraging increased levels of visitors
- 6.6 Risk – The full effects of the impact that the coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic will have is at this stage unclear, although it is anticipated that the impact will be severe and many events have already had to cancel for this year. By providing a Fund for Round 3 this will allow events to hopefully be held during 2021/22 but the position may still be challenging for many.
- 6.7 Customer Service - None

Kirsty Flanagan, Executive Director with responsibility for Development and Economic Growth

Councillor Alastair Redman, Policy Lead for Economic Growth

August 2020

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APPENDICES

None