

Report on Support available from Argyll and Bute Council for Events and Festivals

1 SUMMARY

1.1 This report outlines a range of support available for events and festivals in Argyll and Bute including the Third Sector Grants, other Council funding and resources, and external funding opportunities.

2 RECOMENDATIONS

2.1 That LACPG members note the support available for events and festivals from the Council.

3 DETAIL

3.1 The Council operates a Third Sector Grants Scheme which consists of £35,000 for each administrative area. Within that, £15,000 is earmarked for events and festivals in each area, giving a total sum of £60,000 across the Council area.

3.2 The Community and Culture service has a Strategic Events & Festivals Programme which outlines a three year plan to support large scale events and festivals. This is designed to maximise economic benefit to the area through increased cultural tourism and in Oban, Lorn and the Isles includes support to West Highland Yachting Week, the Argyllshire Gathering, Tiree Wave Classic and the Camanachd Cup Final. The Royal National Mod and Cowal Gathering receive mainstream revenue funding – the Fleming Case VAT windfall has been allocated to the rest of this programme to provide large events with core revenue funding support for a 3 year period.

3.3 The Council is a member of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Event Safety Team which includes Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, Scottish Ambulance Service, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and other co-opted members as appropriate to events e.g Red Cross, WRVS. The team was set up to provide a one-stop shop for organisers where advice and assistance is available to help make sure events run smoothly and safely. The services of the event safety team are free of charge. The team apply the HSE publications HSG195 “The Event Safety Guide” and HSG154 “Managing Crowds Safely”.

3.4 The Council also invests staff time and/or funding into other events and festivals through departmental budgets which meet service objectives e.g. Leisure services staff support the Oban and Lorn Sports Festival, Library services supported the Italia ‘n’ Caledonia events etc.

3.5 Many events and festivals also access additional external funding and sponsorship, and the Council has a role in signposting organisations to appropriate

funding streams. The Council's Social Enterprise Team operates a Funding Alert newsletter which outlines up and coming grant streams and their closing dates.

3.6 The Council's website Funding page <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/grants-and-funding> contains a link to the Grantnet database which allows organisations to search for appropriate funders, as well as a range of materials produced by the Social Enterprise Team, including a 57 page Festival and Events sheet which contains comprehensive external funding information.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 Argyll and Bute Council is aware of the impact and benefits that Events and Festivals bring to our area and provides a range of services to support their development be it through funding or the input of staff and other resources.