

Methodology for the festivals & events review.

1. Aim of the review:

To analyse and fully review the services provided through and by voluntary & community festivals and events organisations to prioritise these services in order to identify areas for re-negotiation of terms, savings and re-investment from the grants to voluntary & community arts organisations budget. To analyse and fully review the festivals and events that are managed and delivered, in partnership with other organisations, by the Council.

2. Scope of the review:

All festivals and events with a financial contribution of £5,000 or above from the Council. The following festivals and events were included in the review:

Managed and delivered by voluntary and community organisations:

1. Leicester Caribbean Carnival (Carnival) - £100,000 (2011/12) Attendance – 20,000
2. Leicester Belgrave Mela - £30,000 (2011/12) Attendance - 20,000
3. Big Difference Company (Comedy Festival) - £18,500 (2011/12) Attendance - 44,000
4. The Spark Children's Arts Festival - £9,000 (2011/12) Attendance -12,700
5. Leicester International Music Festival - £5,000 (2011/12) Attendance -1,250
6. Black History Season - £5,000 (2011/12) Attendance – 2,100
7. Leicester Hindu Festival Council (Navratri) - £20,000 (2011/12) Attendance – 8,400

Festivals & events that are directly managed by the Council:

1. Diwali (Switch on and Diwali Day) £88,000 (2011/12) Attendance – 74,000
2. Abbey Park Bonfire £14,000 (2011/12) Attendance – 23,000
3. Humberstone Park Bonfire £16,000 (2011/12) Attendance 7/8000
4. Christmas Switch On - £16,000 (2011/12) Attendance - 8,000
5. Castle Park Festival - £11,000 (2011/12) attendance – 11,000
6. Riverside Festival - £18,000 (2011/12) Attendance – 16,000
7. Dashera £6,000 (2011/12) Attendance – 6,000

8. St George's Day Celebration - £10,000 (2011/12) Attendance – 4,500

All festivals and events with a funding contribution of £4,999 or less were not included in the review. The following festivals and events were **NOT** included in the review:

Leicester Pride, Irish Festival, Braunstone Carnival, City of Leicester Horticultural Show, Christ in the Centre and Chinese New year.

3. Review Process.

The review of the festivals and events programme was undertaken by a team of officers from the Cultural Services Division. The team of officers was drawn from a range of service disciplines, e.g. sports, arts, etc. to ensure objectivity and challenge within the review process.

Each organisation/provider of a festival/event received written notification of the review and the process the review would take. Essentially three stages:

1. Information and data gathering
2. Equality Impact Assessment
3. Public Consultation on the options and proposals arising from the review

3.1 Information and data gathering

The review process provided the opportunity for the organisation/provider of the festival/event to meet with the representatives of the review team and to:

- provide information about the festival./event
- identify the needs and priorities the festival meets, including how these are met
- provide information about the beneficiaries/customer/users of the festival/event

For each review meeting a set of core questions were put to the organisation/provider representatives covering:

- is there clear evidence of need/demand and how is this evidenced,
- does the festival / event contribute to Council / City priorities
- what is the quality of the festival / event and how is this evidenced
- has the festival/event complied with contractual requirements
- what are the benefits /outcomes arising from the festival/event
- cost of the event and activity and value for money

Organisations/providers during the meeting and after the meeting were offered the opportunity to provide documentation/evidence to support the responses they gave during the discussion.

3.2 Equality Impact Assessment

An equality Impact screening was undertaken for all of the festivals and events scoped into the review. Equality Impact assessments were undertaken for those festivals/events where there is a proposed to change, either by way of a reduction or cessation of funding to a festival/event organisation and/or a proposal for the Council itself to stop providing a festival/event. To summarise EIA's were prepared for Leicester Caribbean carnival, Leicester Hindu Festival Council in regard to Navratri, Castle Park Festival, Dasher and Humberstone Park Bonfire.

3.3 Public Consultation on the Proposals/Options

Consultation on the proposals arising from the festivals and events review will be undertaken during the period 23rd April – 27th July (12 weeks) in accord with the Department of Communities and Local Government Guidance on Best Value (Sept. 2011).

Consultation will be undertaken with:

- Organisations funded to deliver a festival or event were invited to provide written comments on the impact the proposals will have on their activity, organisation and users.
- Users & beneficiaries of a festival or event are invited to provide written comments on the impact the proposals will have on their access to the service.
- Stakeholders and partners are invited to provide written comments on the balance of the programme and the impact that the proposals will have on any partnering / partnership arrangements they have with festival / event organisations.

The Economic Development, Culture & Tourism and Heritage, Leisure & Sport Scrutiny Commissions.

Ward Committees (dates to be confirmed) where a festival or event is specific to a geographic area:

- Latimer – Diwali, Dasher
- Coleman – Humberstone Park Bonfire and Firework Display
- Castle – Castle Park Festival, Leicester Caribbean Carnival,
- Westcotes – Riverside Festival

Following analysis of the questionnaires and comments a final report with recommendations will be presented to the City Mayor and Executive in early autumn this year.