

## Cabinet

**Date of meeting:** 19 September 2016

**Report title:** Resolution of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Call-In: Events Strategy

**Wards:** All

**Report Authorised by:** Strategic Director, Corporate Resources: Jackie Belton

**Portfolio:** Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business & Culture: Councillor Jack Hopkins

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## Report summary

On 22 August 2016 Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a call-in of the proposals set out in the Cabinet report 'EventLambeth – Events Strategy' and decisions made by Cabinet on 11 July 2016.

At its meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved not to refer the decision back to Cabinet for re-consideration but nevertheless to make a number of recommendations arising from scrutiny of the Cabinet decision. These recommendations are set out below and submitted to Cabinet for consideration and formal response:

1. That consideration be given to using cumulative attendance figures when deciding how an event is classified.
2. That all local ward councillors (including those in neighbouring boroughs, where relevant) as well as area leads be involved in consultations, pre-event planning meetings, Lambeth Events Safety Advisory Group (LESAG) meetings and post-event evaluation in relation to events in their area.
3. That local councillors and residents be given a clear understanding prior to an event of plans regarding post-event cleaning.
4. That more detail and greater guarantees regarding closer consultation and early engagement with councillors, Friends groups and the local community be included in the Events Strategy, and form a standard part of event contracts.
5. That examples of proposed draft contracts for event organisers be inserted into the Events Strategy.
6. That finalised events contracts be shared as openly as possible.
7. That actual noise levels recorded at the agreed monitoring points for music events should be routinely published in order to provide transparency as to whether pre-agreed thresholds were adhered to. These should also be included in the annual review of the strategy. Where

- levels have been breached, details of the penalty charges should also be published. These should be severe in order to deter non-compliance.
8. That Licensing Sub-Committee reports related to music events should include an acoustics report as standard.
  9. That licensing applications for events be routinely advertised to local community groups in order that they are informed of the plans and their right to make representations.
  10. That clearer comparative analysis from other boroughs be included in the Strategy.
  11. That a clear, concise guide be produced for community groups interested in holding events, outlining the process and the help and support available (for example, with regards to public liability insurance).
  12. That further analysis of the costs and income generation of the Lambeth Country Show be carried out in order to assess whether it can be delivered more efficiently.
  13. That an analysis be carried out of the benefits to local businesses of holding events.
  14. That clear performance measures and targets, including on income generation, be established in order to assess at the one year review point whether the Events Strategy has been successful.
  15. That as detailed an analysis as possible in relation to total events income and costs including externalities (that is, impacts on the Council and others and their costs), be made openly available, including a clear outline for the disbursement of the Parks Investment Levy (PIL).
  16. That a mechanism be established to facilitate regular liaison between Cabinet members and the Overview and Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chairs, aimed at strengthening pre-decision scrutiny.

A response to the issues raised by Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been drafted by officers and is attached at Appendix 1.

### **Finance summary**

There are no capital or revenue financial implications arising as a direct result of this report. Following consideration by Cabinet a formal response will be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The formal response will include an opportunity to set out any financial or resource implications of actions in response to the Committee's recommendations.

### **Recommendations**

1. To receive the resolution and report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Call-In: Event Strategy.
2. To agree the response to be provided to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Appendix 1).

## 1. Context

- 1.1 On 11 July 2016 Cabinet approved the recommendations of the report 'EventLambeth – Events Strategy'. The report sought approval for the implementation of the new events strategy 2016-2020. On 21 July 2016 a call-in of that decision was received from Councillor Bernard Gentry.
- 1.2 In accordance with the constitutional provisions relating to call-in (Part 3 – Procedure Rules – Section 6), a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) was held on 22 August 2016 to consider the call-in and discuss the issues raised.
- 1.3 At that meeting OSC decided not to refer the decision back to the decision maker (Cabinet) for re-consideration, and the original decision therefore could go ahead. However the committee resolved that arising from its scrutiny of the decision there were a number of matters on which it wished to provide recommendations to Cabinet and to seek formal response.
- 1.4 Accordingly this report sets out the matters the committee resolved to refer to Cabinet for comment. Detailed information on all issues raised during the meeting is set out in the minutes of the meeting which are attached (Appendix 2) and can also be found at:  
  
<http://moderngov.lambeth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=113&MId=9968&Ver=4>
- 1.5 A draft response to these matters has been prepared by officers for submission to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is attached as Appendix 1.

## 2. Proposal and Reasons

- 2.1 In submitting his call-in Councillor Bernard Gentry cited numerous issues including the potential number and size of events, consultation and transparency, noise levels and financial issues related to the strategy. At the meeting on 22 August 2016 OSC heard from and put questions to Councillor Gentry and to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business and Culture (Councillor Jack Hopkins) as well as council officers. The committee also heard from local residents and interested parties, including a Lambeth Parks Forum representative and councillors from both Lambeth and neighbouring borough of Wandsworth.
- 2.2 OSC considered all the headline matters raised in Councillor Gentry's call-in form as well as some wider issues which followed on from these. At the conclusion of the discussions and in coming to a decision, members of the committee highlighted sixteen recommendations that they wished to submit to Cabinet for consideration and comment. These key matters are set out below (in bold), with a brief contextual supporting commentary; further information is contained in the minutes of the meeting.
- 2.3 Recommendation on the number and size of events
  - (1) **That consideration be given to using cumulative attendance figures when deciding how an event is classified.**

- 2.4 The committee heard from Councillor Gentry that while the strategy placed a limit on the number of Major events which could be held, smaller events – including those classified as Large, which could have capacities of up to 19,999 – were in theory unlimited. A particular concern related to smaller events which ran for long periods of time and the damage to parks and open spaces which could result. It was noted that such events could have a cumulative footfall far in excess of Major events yet would not be subject to any specific limits.
- 2.5 Officers responded that the classification of events was in part based on the proportion of the green space in question that was being used for events purposes, and this explained why certain small but long-running events were not considered Major. It was noted that the Council was aware cumulative damage could be an issue, particularly if the weather was bad, and safeguards such as not allowing events to take place on consecutive weekends in the same green space would help alleviate this.
- 2.6 Recommendations on consultation and transparency
- (2) **That all local ward councillors (including those in neighbouring boroughs, where relevant) as well as area leads be involved in consultations, pre-event planning meetings, LESAG meetings and post-event evaluation in relation to events in their area;**
  - (3) **That local councillors and residents be given a clear understanding prior to an event of plans regarding post-event cleaning;**
  - (4) **That more detail and greater guarantees regarding closer consultation and early engagement with councillors, Friends groups and the local community be included in the Events Strategy, and form a standard part of event contracts;**
  - (5) **That examples of proposed draft contracts for event organisers be inserted into the Events Strategy;**
  - (6) **That finalised events contracts be shared as openly as possible;**
  - (7) **That actual noise levels recorded at the agreed monitoring points for music events should be routinely published in order to provide transparency as to whether pre-agreed thresholds were adhered to. These should also be included in the annual review of the strategy. Where levels have been breached, details of the penalty charges should also be published. These should be severe in order to deter non-compliance;**
  - (8) **That licensing sub-committee reports related to music events should include an acoustics report as standard;**
  - (9) **That licensing applications for events be routinely advertised to local community groups in order that they are informed of the plans and their right to make representations;**
  - (10) **That clearer comparative analysis from other boroughs be included in the Strategy; and**
  - (11) **That a clear, concise guide be produced for community groups interested in holding events, outlining the process and the help and support available (for example, with regards to public liability insurance).**
- 2.7 One of the key themes of the comments made by Councillor Gentry and subsequent questions from committee members to the Cabinet Member was consultation, including perceived deficiencies in mechanisms by which local people and councillors could be

involved in event planning and evaluation. Wider issues were also highlighted regarding openness and transparency.

- 2.8 Repeated references to consultation were made by residents and interested parties who addressed the committee as well as Councillor Gentry. Many felt that greater input was needed from local groups such as Friends of parks when event planning was at a formative stage, and Members were also keen to ensure that all local councillors, not just the area lead, would be able to play a part. Councillor Hopkins reiterated his commitment to working with local groups and acknowledged the importance of effective consultation. Garage Nation in Streatham was cited as an example of best practice which might be used as a guide.
- 2.9 Further discussions on transparency focused on contracts. It was felt that proper scrutiny of proposed events could not take place until contracts were drawn up, and that opportunities for local people and councillors to help shape these should be built into the governance mechanisms of the strategy. Committee members also felt that a more open approach to contracts should be introduced, and that having examples of draft contracts appended to the strategy would be beneficial.
- 2.10 On noise levels, Members felt that a more transparent approach was again needed, and that actual noise measurements should be published as a matter of course in order that local people could see clearly whether pre-agreed levels were adhered to, and hold organisers to account if not. Councillor Wilson, Licensing Committee Member, also made comments regarding the advertising of events applications and the need for acoustic reports to accompany all music-focused events.
- 2.11 It was noted that one of the purposes of the Events Strategy was to encourage more community-led events, yet there were concerns bureaucratic burdens such as the need to hold expensive public liability insurance were inhibiting this aim. Officers responded that there were mechanisms whereby community groups could buy appropriate insurance in a more manageable way but it was accepted that more could be done to inform local bodies of the process of applying for events, and the help available.
- 2.12 Recommendations on financial issues related to the strategy
- (12) That further analysis of the costs and income generation of the Lambeth Country Show be carried out in order to assess whether it can be delivered more efficiently;**
  - (13) That an analysis be carried out of the benefits to local businesses of holding events;**
  - (14) That clear performance measures and targets, including on income generation, be established in order to assess at the one year review point whether the Events Strategy has been successful; and**
  - (15) That as detailed an analysis as possible in relation to total events income and costs including externalities (that is, impacts on the Council and others and their costs), be made openly available, including a clear outline for the disbursement of the Parks Investment Levy (PIL).**

- 2.13 Various financial aspects of the Events Strategy were discussed, particularly with regards to expectations around revenue raising, the wider cost benefit analysis of the strategy (including the funding model for the Lambeth Country Show), and how income would be spent.
- 2.14 It was noted that the Lambeth Country Show was a popular flagship event but questions were raised from residents and councillors over the amount of money it cost to stage and whether more revenue could be raised from it. In responding, Councillor Hopkins acknowledged that it would be appropriate to analyse whether costs could be reduced as well as looking at possible opportunities for greater revenue raising; for example, through sponsorship.
- 2.15 Discussions took place on the wider costs and benefits of the Events Strategy, and the need for these to be more clearly set out in order to justify the strategy. This included the benefits to local businesses. Officers stated that post-event surveys were currently carried out to try to gauge this but agreed that a broader assessment of the economic benefits was needed. Firm plans were not yet in place but it was posited that this could be done to coincide with the two year review.
- 2.16 The financial specifics of the strategy also came under scrutiny, with Members expressing a view that there was insufficient detail on aspects including total events income and the precise plans for the Parks Investment Levy. Though a review of the strategy had been committed to, Members felt that greater clarity was needed over how success would be judged, and recommended that clear performance targets, including on income generation, be devised.
- 2.17 Recommendation on pre-decision scrutiny  
**(16) That a mechanism be established to facilitate regular liaison between Cabinet members and the Overview and Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chairs, aimed at strengthening pre-decision scrutiny.**
- 2.18 In summing up, the Chair commented that the number of post-decision call-ins had risen dramatically in the past year or so, and that this suggested liaison between OSC and decision makers could be improved. As well as ensuring more effective pre-decision scrutiny, this would also reduce the reliance on backbench councillors to raise concerns – on behalf of themselves or local residents – in a reactive way.

### **3. Finance**

- 3.1 There are no capital or revenue financial implications arising as a direct result of this report. Following consideration by Cabinet a formal response will be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The formal response will include an opportunity to set out any financial or resource implications of actions in response to the Committee's recommendations.

### **4. Legal and Democracy**

- 4.1 Section 9F(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) requires that executive arrangements by local authorities must ensure that its overview and scrutiny committee has

the power, amongst other powers, to review or scrutinise decisions made and make reports or recommendations in respect of the discharge of functions which are the responsibility of the executive.

- 4.2 Part 3, Section 6, paragraph 27 of the Council's Constitution sets out the procedure for call-in and states as relevant that:

*(e) Should the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolve not to refer the decision back to the decision-making person or body for reconsideration, it can nevertheless submit such recommendations to the decision-making person or body as it sees fit. The making of such recommendations shall not however prevent the decision from being implemented.*

- 4.3 There are no further comments from Democratic Services.

## **5. Consultation and co-production**

- 5.1 This report incorporates feedback and views from stakeholders (councillors, residents and officers).

## **6. Risk management**

- 6.1 N/A.

## **7. Equalities impact assessment**

- 7.1 An EIA was undertaken as part of the Events Strategy and submitted to Cabinet on 11 July 2016.

## **8. Community safety**

- 8.1 N/A.

## **9. Organisational implications**

- 9.1 N/A.

## **10. Timetable for implementation**

- 10.1 N/A.

<b>Audit trail</b>				
<b>Consultation</b>				
<b>Name/Position</b>	<b>Lambeth cluster/division or partner</b>	<b>Date Sent</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Comments in para:</b>
Andrew Pavlou	On behalf Strategic Director Corporate Resources	01.09.16	02.09.16	
Martin Crump	Finance, Business Partnering	01.09.16	06.09.16	
Jean Marc Moocarme, Legal Services	Corporate Resources: Integrated Support	01.09.16	02.09.16	Section 4
David Rose, Democratic Services	Corporate Resources: Corporate Affairs	01.09.16	02.09.16	Throughout
Councillor Ed Davie	Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee	01.09.16		
Councillor Jack Hopkins	Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Business and Culture	01.09.16	07.09.16	

<b>Report history</b>	
<b>Original discussion with Cabinet Member</b>	N/A
<b>Report deadline</b>	07/09/16
<b>Date final report sent</b>	09/09/16
<b>Report no.</b>	302/16-17
<b>Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report?</b>	No
<b>Key decision report</b>	No
<b>Date first appeared on forward plan</b>	N/A
<b>Background information</b>	Cabinet Report – EventLambeth: Events Strategy (11 July 2016)
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1: Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee  Appendix 2: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes 22/08/16