

Title of meeting: Culture, Leisure and Sport Decision Meeting

Subject: Bandstand 2017 Evaluation Report & 2018 Proposals

Date of meeting: 26 January 2018

Report by: Director of Culture and City Development

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

Wards affected: All

- 1. Requested by**
The Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport
- 2. Purpose**
 - 2.1 To provide an evaluation of the delivery of the Live at the Bandstand programme 2017 to inform the way forward for 2018.
- 3. Recommendations for delivery of the event in 2018**
 - 3.1 That officers be authorised to contract out the delivery of the Bandstand programme 2018 to an organisation with good links with local promoters who will plan, oversee and deliver all elements of the 2018 programme of free music events on the seafront.**
- 4. Background to the Bandstand Programme of events**
 - 4.1 Live at the Bandstand is a unique and popular brand with a strong identity that presents a positive family friendly activity during the core summer months on the seafront. 2018 will be its 20th year the Sunday Live at the Bandstand programme which continues to remain popular with both residents and visitors, attracting approximately 30,000-40,000 people during a season.
 - 4.2 The event is an attraction to communities and visitors to Portsmouth and is a major attraction on the seafront over the summer. It offers a free live outdoor music programme on Southsea seafront in a natural amphitheatre overlooking the sea and offers a different style of music each week.

- 4.3 The Saturday Bandstand was started 5 years ago with a focus on local bands, attracting up to 10,000 over the summer and in doing so extending the free music programme to a weekend event.
- 4.4 A number of different models for delivery of the Bandstand programme have been supported over the last 5 years however the decision was made in 2017 to contract out the delivery to ensure a continuity of infrastructure support and ensure that effective measures could be put into place within the context of increasing national security threats. This was applied to both the Saturday and Sunday events which ran from Saturday 27th May to Sunday 13th August 2017.

5. Evaluation of regular Bandstand programme events

- 5.1 The programme of bands was put together to attract and appeal to family groups and to ensure audience numbers and demographics were suitable for the bandstand site. This worked well throughout the season.
- 5.2 The organisation and booking of the bands was contracted out for the first time to the Victorious Team who were able to apply their high standards of documentation and continuity of approach across both the Saturday and Sunday events and provided further assurance of capacity to respond to any issues or concerns which were raised during the event delivery. The documentation was also assessed and amended following feedback from the Portsmouth Event Safety Advisory Group (PESAG) meeting where it was shared with all members and incorporated elements such as a Show Stop Procedure showing the formal flow of decision making and announcements to audiences should this be implemented.
- 5.3 The range of crowd management measures that PCC had previously incorporated as a result of the excessive crowd numbers in 2016 continued to be implemented by the Victorious Team including spray lines to identify walkways and exits as well as Emergency Exit flags positioned at all major exits. This allowed movement around the site and prevented pinch points and areas of congestion.
- 5.4 A weekly update to the Event Management Plan (EMP) detailing resourcing for the following weekend, specifically including Security numbers and locations which differed depending on the anticipated audience demographic and numbers and weather conditions were also produced. The weekly update was received positively by PESAG members although there were occasions when this was delayed as late as possible due to uncertain weather conditions.
- 5.5 In early 2017 the Premises Licence was updated to rectify some of the outdated and unachievable conditions, this included amending the maximum noise levels permissible and detailing the process for managing the noise levels as well as increasing the numbers of people able to be onsite at any one time to 8000.
- 5.6 Two noise complaints were received regarding Saturday 17th June's Bandstand and one complaint was received about the 1st and 2nd July's Bandstand. The organisers provided their weekly noise monitoring sheets to PCC's Environmental Health to

ensure the appropriate level of control was maintained. This worked well and enabled Environmental Health to respond to concerns raised in a timely way.

- 5.7 Overall the bandstand programme worked well with no significant issues. PESAG considered the programme of bands to be appropriate and the numbers of attendees each week were satisfactory for the site.
- 5.8 In addition to the regular events on the Bandstand site a specific stand-alone event with the provision of a Rhythm of the 90s concert took place on Castle Field. Whilst overall this concert was good it did attract approximately 10,000 people to the event at its peak and as such this type of event does not fit in with the wider ethos of the Bandstand programme which is to appeal to a family audience with low levels of alcohol at the event and an audience capacity for the site of 8,000.
- 5.9 Despite the event being well organised and run, after the event there were a number of incidents that impacted heavily on Policing resources both immediately and for the rest of the evening.
- 5.10 Rhythm of the 90s had been part of both Mutiny and Victorious Festivals as well as having a further ticketed event at the Pyramids Centre. It is felt that whilst this band is popular there are plenty of opportunities to see them play locally without the need for a free showcase event on Castle Field and that going forward opportunities should be given to other local bands within the context of the Live at the Bandstand programme.

6. Reasons for recommendations

- 6.1 The Bandstand programme of events will benefit from being contracted out to a company who already have links and a good knowledge of music in the city. It is important that a wide range of local promoters are used to broaden the programme further whilst keeping the music focussed on local bands and artists.
- 6.2 It is important to continue to appropriately address the management of the crowd safety and the operational issues of the site. This will also ensure robust companies are employed to manage the site that are capable of reacting to raised terror threat levels at short notice as well as issues on site.
- 6.3 Recent discussions with Hampshire Police have indicated further support for the programme along with a small clarification of the communication methods which are proposed to support the whole season. This will ensure effective feedback to allow both internal PCC and other services to provide appropriate resources to support the events which take into account the programme and also the forecast weather conditions on a weekly basis.
- 6.4 Working with PCC and PESAG we would seek to request that one Sunday Bandstand to be allocated to a Pride themed event. The local Pride organisers are establishing themselves in the city and will eventually set up as a charity. Whilst this process is taking place the Pride organisers struggle with obtaining resources to create a good quality event on their own. Allocating a Bandstand session to Pride

would build on their initial Pride event in 2017 and assist the organisers in establishing a regular Pride event in the city whilst they are in their set up stage.

- 6.5 It is recommended that the Bandstand programme remains in its substantive location with bands selected based on their anticipated audience to ensure crowds are manageable on site and that it is continued with no bar on site but with the public being allowed to drink their own alcohol. This is in keeping with the wider ethos of the Bandstand programme of events.

7. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 7.1 An equality impact assessment is not required as the recommendations to not have a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010. This is an annual review of the Bandstand programme and as such there is not a change of policy

8. Director of Finance comments

- 8.1 It is anticipated that the funding required to implement the recommendation in this report will exceed the current available budget. Officers will continue to explore options that will to secure the remaining balance.

9 Legal Comments

- 9.1 The proposed contracting out of the delivery of the 2018 programme will need to be carried out in accordance with a process having due regard to the requirements of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

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Signed by:
Stephen Baily
Director of Culture and City Development

Appendices: None

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location