

Title of meeting: Communities and Central Services Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 16th December 2021

Subject: Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

Report by: Director Culture, Leisure & Regulatory Services

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To outline the proposed events programme to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and to seek funding to support this programme of events.

2. Recommendations

- 2.2 To confirm that the outlined programme of events can proceed and that the request of £50,000 funding to support them will be found from a proposed one-off increase to the service 2022/23 budget being considered by the City Council in February 2022.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II will be celebrated in June 2022 in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth to mark the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II on 6 February 1952. In the United Kingdom, an extra bank holiday has been created and the traditional May bank holiday weekend will be moved to the start of June, to create a special four-day Jubilee weekend from 2 - 5th June 2022.
- 3.2 The British government has promised a 'once-in-a-generation show' that will "mix the best of British ceremonial splendour and pageantry with cutting edge artistic and technological displays". Whilst we have a tradition of supporting long serving monarchs through previous silver, golden and diamond jubilees this will be the first time any British monarch has celebrated a platinum jubilee.
- 3.3 In order to compliment the national programme we would like to propose a series of events centred around the key national events programme to offer opportunities to mark this significant event for all communities from participation in the national

Beacon lighting programme, through individual Street parties and a Big Lunch event all of which would take place through the June Bank Holiday weekend.

- 3.4 An initiative from the DCMS has been circulated to all cities encouraging communities to light a series of beacons across the country on Thursday 2nd June to ensure that the celebrations have a spectacular start. As has been the tradition in Portsmouth on previous jubilees it is suggested that 2 beacons are lit, with the proposed sites being Southsea Castle and Fort Purbrook on Portsdown Hill, to ensure that both north and south of the city are involved and that the beacons can be seen from as wide an area as possible. In order to achieve a safe event temporary gas beacons will need to be installed at both venues.
- 3.5 Following a discussion in the House of Lords it has been confirmed that the Government is planning "the traditional nationwide fanfare of street parties and celebration". For the Queen's 90th Birthday a *Patron's Lunch* was held in The Mall and PCC coincided the street parties in the city with this event.
- 3.6 The Eden Project's annual initiative, The Big Lunch, will also coincide with the Jubilee weekend and this initiative will also become a key part of the national celebrations. The Big Lunch is an annual get-together where UK residents are encouraged to have lunch with their neighbours annually on a weekend in June in a 'simple act of community, friendship and fun'. We would like to suggest that we promote this initiative as part of the street party process to encourage a spread of activities and to ensure that there are opportunities for those where street parties are not possible.
- 3.7 In 2012 for the Diamond Jubilee a request was made to all local authorities asking for the reduction of the red tape and bureaucracy around road closures for street parties and included a guide for organisers which the Council was positively able to respond to. The Events Team has prepared and updated the online event application form with the inclusion of a specific form for residents to apply to hold a street party and to request a road be closed. This includes detailed guidelines for organisers to assist them with ensuring they have looked at all the details to hold their street party from updated Risk Assessment to take into consideration Covid.
- 3.8 Once received the applications would be assessed to ensure that disruption to the road network and other residents is kept to a minimum before they are approved. This will be processed and approved through the Portsmouth Event Safety Advisory Group with particular reference to Traffic and Transport Team and Colas who will need to undertake an assessment of whether the individual road can be closed.
- 3.9 We would suggest that as in previous jubilees permission for street parties will not be given for any roads which are a main bus routes or designated primary routes for blue light services. All applications will be considered for the impact on the surrounding road network i.e. One-way roads, no through roads, pedestrian areas etc and alternative routes for traffic identified before permission is granted. We hope that by offering the option of having a street party on any of the four days of

the bank holiday it will dilute the impact of any road closures as we would seek to support a spread across all days.

- 3.10 The Big Jubilee Lunch proposal builds on the Big Lunch idea which started in 2009 encouraging communities to celebrate their connections and get to know each other a little bit better, coming together in a spirit of fun and friendship. In 2022 The Big Lunch has the capacity to provide an alternative option for residents where street parties are not an option to bring the Jubilee celebrations into the heart of every community.
- 3.11 We propose organising two 'Big Lunch' style events one in the north of the city and one in the south on Sunday 5th June which will run in tandem with our City Wide community celebrations. These would be our central event to mark the Jubilee weekend as well as an offering for anyone who does not have access to a street party in their locality. This would be a day only event with a suggested running time 12 noon -5pm.
- 3.12 Exact locations are still in discussion but we anticipate that one will be in Cosham at King George V Playing Field and the second would be on Southsea Common. We would seek to launch the Live at the Bandstand programme for 2022 over the Jubilee weekend with an appropriately themed music to enhance the Big Lunch event in the south of the city and are currently exploring options for an entertainment offer to compliment the sense of fun and celebration for the north of the city location to enhance the recently procured circus offer which will be in situ on the King George V playing field site at the same time.
- 3.13 With the essence of this bank holiday themed around communities, we would propose reaching out to our community centres and community groups, for example local groups like the Portsea Events Group, to identify what plans they have in place to celebrate the Queens Jubilee. We would support and signpost any local events in place and would promote these events via an interactive map that would be published online.
- 3.14 As well as encouraging and supporting a sense of coming together for communities over the Bank Holiday weekend we wish to support a series of legacy projects across the city. The core proposal for this is to an equal amount of core funding for one community group per ward to support an environmentally focused legacy project which will make a difference in that community. Projects could include elements such as new wildflower gardens, parklets or bee hives which support the City Vision of being a Green City.
- 3.15 More details on the application process and criteria for this funding will be available in early 2022 and applications will be reviewed by an independent panel involving the Hive, Portsmouth Creates, Shaping Portsmouth and the Cabinet member for Communities and Central Services. We appreciate that the relatively short time scale may mean that projects are not completed by the Jubilee weekend however it is anticipated that all will have been awarded by the end of March 2022.

- 3.16 Other events and national campaigns have already commenced. The ‘Queen’s Canopy’ campaign has been incorporated into national plans. ‘Plant a tree for the Jubilee’ has been highlighted by HRH The Prince of Wales to maximise the activity through the best time of the year for tree planting and it is expected this will gain momentum over the coming months. This campaign has started and is due to end in March 2022 so won't be part of the actual bank holiday celebrations in June.
- 3.17 Portsmouth will also be hosting a glittering exhibition of our own civic silver which is being planned to coincide with both the Platinum Jubilee and the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War which occurs a few weeks later. Portsmouth has one of the most significant collections of civic silver in the country and the exhibition, to open at Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery in time for the Jubilee, will showcase objects from the civic silver, loans from the Royal Navy Trophy collection and our museum collections. It will enable visitors to explore Portsmouth's history and its links with the crown, the armed forces and our international relationships.
- 3.18 A range of other activities such as a special Trooping the Colour, National Service of Thanksgiving and a Jubilee Pageant are being planned as part of the national celebrations and where practical these will be shown on the Big Screen in the Guildhall Square.
- 3.19 As in previous years of significant Jubilee celebrations the City of Portsmouth would also seek to formally write a special letter to Her Majesty to thank her for her years of dedicated service to the country.
- 3.20 The estimated outline costs to PCC of this proposed events programme is as follows:

Programme Element	Anticipated cost
Beacon Lighting for 2 beacons	£4,500
Ward grants for Environmental legacy projects	£14,000
Big Jubilee Lunch Southsea Common & KGV	£20,000
Marketing/Publicity/Virtual elements	£6,500
Contingency	£5,000
Total	£50,000

Other elements which will form part of the celebrations will be funded from existing budget areas including the Live at the Bandstand performances and the Silver Exhibition.

- 3.21 We will also continue to highlight and notify community groups, including those recipients of the ward grants of any potential funding which might become available to support the Platinum Jubilee celebrations as we expect further funds from organisations such as Arts Council England to be made available in the near future.

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 Portsmouth has a long history of community-based celebrations to support all forms of previous significant national events from Jubilee celebrations to Royal Weddings. Throughout the pandemic period the sense of community and support were highlighted. It is our view that these proposed celebrations will not only mark the amazing achievement of 70 years of dedicated national service given by the Queen to her country but also allow communities to come together again to celebrate right across Portsmouth.

5. Integrated impact assessment

5.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment report is included as Appendix A.

6. Legal implications

6.1 Under section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the local authority may restrict or prohibit the use of a road for any period up to 3 days to facilitate the holding of a social event, sporting event or entertainment which is held on a road. Similar powers may also exist under the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847.

6.2 It is noted that, as was the case for similar national celebrations in previous years, the Council will seek to ensure that the application process for the holding of street parties will be as simple as is practicable.

6.3 There are no other legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 The estimated cost of £50k for this event will require funding from a one-off increase to the service 2022/23 budget being considered by City Council in February 2022.

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Signed by:
Stephen Baily
Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

Appendices:

Appendix A: Integrated Impact Assessment

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

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by:
Cabinet Member for Communities and Central Services