



B O S T O N

B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

REPORT TO: BOSTON TOWN AREA COMMITTEE (BTAC)

DATE: 27 NOVEMBER 2019

SUBJECT: 2020/21 EVENTS PROGRAMME UPDATE

REPORT AUTHOR: CLLR PAUL GOODALE, BTAC CHAIRMAN

EXEMPT REPORT: No

SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on the outcome of BTAC's recommendation to the 23 October Cabinet Meeting, when it considered the planned programme of events for the 2020/21 financial year, with an increased budget of £27,000 to support the delivery.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That this committee determines the way forward.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To advise Members of the Cabinet's decision and seek views on the way forward.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- Not to present an update to this meeting.

REPORT:

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The BTAC budget incorporates a number of services for the residents of Boston including event delivery.

2.0 BTAC Report on Event Delivery 2019/20 Financial Year

- 2.1 As a reminder to members, the Town Centre Services Manager presented a report at the 2 October 2019 BTAC meeting, which provided an update on the 2019/20 programme for the Committee to note and options for a planned events programme for the 2020/21 financial year. The report included budgeted financial breakdowns covering both financial years, to support the Committee in its deliberations.
- 2.2 The report set out three options for Members' consideration for delivering an events programme during 2020/21. It was pointed out that the Christmas Market and Lights Switch-On event had been developed and fully funded through the Controlling Migration Fund programme, but that this funding was ending during 2019/20 and would add cost to the events programme going forward.
- 2.3 The three options, all of which included the Christmas Market and Lights Switch-On event, were set out as follows:
- Option One: incorporated some larger scale events in addition to the existing community based events. This option aimed to keep all the free community events, which people have enjoyed this year but add/combine some of the existing larger scale events, some of which would have or could have a charge on entry. Option One, would cost BTAC an additional £27,000 for the 2020/21 financial year.
 - Option Two: focused on larger scale events within the BTAC funded events programme with a more limited programme of smaller scale community focussed events delivered principally through the BBL funding stream. This option could be delivered with an additional £12,000 for the 2020/21 financial year.
 - Option Three: retained the existing BTAC budget at £41,500 and the programme reduced to retain current spending, again this option focused on larger scale events within the BTAC funded event programme, and a limited programme of smaller scale events funded entirely through the BBL funding.
- 2.4 During debate, Members voiced support for the larger events, particularly the 1940s Event, Boston Show and the Party in the Park, and favoured Option 1

as the additional £27,000 would be needed to keep the existing smaller events and support the running of the larger events.

- 2.5 Due to the proposed expenditure being above the delegated limit of £10,000, BTAC resolved that it be recommended to Cabinet that an additional £27,000 expenditure be approved in order to go ahead with Option One for the 2020/21 Events Programme.

3. Cabinet Meeting

- 3.1 Cabinet at its 23 October meeting considered the recommendation and I addressed Cabinet to present the committee's recommendation and offered to answer any questions Cabinet Members might have.
- 3.2 Members were supportive of BTAC's wish to provide an events programme for 2020/21, but concern was expressed that as the Portfolio Holder for Events who had worked with officers to draw up the programme was no longer in post, it would be appropriate to defer the item to allow a new Portfolio Holder to have their input. The Leader confirmed that, in the interim period, he would be taking on the Tourism, Arts, Culture and Heritage Portfolio and suggested that an alternative method of delivery could be considered by using community groups and providing grant funding to support their activities. Cabinet had a duty to ensure all funding was spent wisely and proportionately and the proposed expenditure should be scrutinised in detail before being agreed. The information presented to Cabinet was not considered sufficient to make an informed decision.
- 3.3 I stated that if Cabinet were not to approve the requested budget, it would have a significant detrimental effect on the ability to adequately plan and organise to achieve delivery of the events programme. I also added that the budget for 2020/21 had reduced by £25,000 due to the cessation of the Controlling Migration Fund contribution, which would potentially result in the number of events in the proposed programme being reduced.
- 3.4 The Chief Executive clarified that decisions with regard to BTAC 'activity' rested with the Executive, but had been delegated by Cabinet to BTAC. A limit of £10,000 had been included whereby consent to spend over that threshold was to be brought to Cabinet. Decisions relating to the detail and delivery of BTAC funded events rested with BTAC.
- 3.5 Cabinet's decision was for the request for approval of an additional £27,000 expenditure for the 2020/21 events programme to be deferred until the next meeting of the Cabinet, for a detailed report on the proposed events and associated expenditure to be considered.
- 3.6 I subsequently asked Officers to draft an alternative proposal that did not require Cabinet's intervention as an alternative option and this option is attached to the report. This proposal is based on Option Two, as detailed in paragraph 2.3, which would have cost an additional £12,000. Where Option

One aimed to keep all the free community events and add/combine some of the existing larger scale events, Option Two focused on larger scale events within the BTAC funded events programme with a more limited programme of smaller scale community events delivered principally through the BBL funding stream. The revised Option re-profiles some events to reduce the Option Two additional cost by £2,000 to keep within the £10,000 BTAC delegated authority.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 It is now for the committee to consider the way forward.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The annual events budget is £41,500. It is proposed that any additional sums approved above this sum, be funded from the existing unallocated BTAC reserve in 2020/21.

LEGAL & EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The Council is required to conform to the requirements of the EU Procurement Directive and its own Contract Procurement and Procedure Rules Part 4 (H) of the Constitution.

The Council uses its powers to encourage tourism within the Borough through the Local Government Act 1972, section 144.

There are no equality implications within this report, any equality implications arising from an individual event are identified and managed through individual event planning processes and risk assessment.

ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

CONSULTATION

- N/A

APPENDICES

Chairman's revised option budget – 2020/21

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.