

Report on	Special Events of Roads Legislation
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Sharon Arbuthnot

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To notify Council of the impact of the new Special Events on Roads legislation for Corporate events.
2.0	Background
2.1	Besides being enjoyable, corporate events provide important economic benefits to our town centres, increase civic pride and maintain/improve the reputation of Mid Ulster District Council as an area that delivers high quality public facing events.
2.2	Roads closures were previously carried out by the PSNI for free under general Policing powers, however back in September 2017 legislation came into force giving powers for many events to Council's.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The underlying principle in relation to special events on roads, is that it would not be reasonably practicable to hold the event elsewhere. Consequently, Lead Officers should be aware that holding an event on a public road should only be considered when other options/locations for holding the event have been ruled out. Therefore, this may have an impact on our town centre events, whilst being mindful of the aims and objectives of Town Centre Events.
3.2	Lead Officers will be required to complete an application form along with a Traffic Management (TM) Plan a minimum of 12 weeks prior to an event. The Special Event Road closure must then be publicly advertised.
3.3	When the application is being assessed, any impact/disruption to local businesses or residents must be considered.
3.4	The onus is on the Council to ensure that anyone carrying out TM duties for the event is competent and suitably qualified. It is the Council's responsibility to ensure only legally prescribed signs, barriers and cones that conform to Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual (TSM) may be used on the public road.
3.5	Department of Infrastructure (DFI), suggest there are 4 Traffic Management (TM) companies that have been approved by their Head Quarters and are professionally trained and accredited for TM for special events. At present DFI have

	suggested event organisers should employ one of these companies. If the Council decide to use one of these companies, the liability for traffic management will transfer to the company.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>An addition cost of the TM plans, per event</p> <p>Human:</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Linking with our Corporate plan, we design and deliver corporate events which are customer focussed events, in response to and around the needs of our customers. Each year, more people are positively engaging and taking pride in their towns and surrounding areas. Events bring cohesion within communities, creates lasting memories, and builds relationship and even dreams.</p> <p>Looking for alternative locations for certain events may conflicts with the aims and objectives for the event.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To follow up with DFI to investigate if Council Staff could be suitably trained and qualified to compile Traffic Management Plans for corporate events.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	N/A