

Report on	Corporate Events
Date of Meeting	11 March 2021
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	<input type="checkbox"/>
	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide an update to Council on the Corporate Events Calendar 2021.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Covid-19 pandemic has prompted Council to re-assess the delivery of the corporate events programme for 2021.
2.2	Covid-19 crept into Northern Ireland in March 2020. Since then life has dramatically changed; social distancing, face masks and hand sanitiser has become the new 'norm' with no major events taking place from mid-March 2020 onwards.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Planning for large corporate events is extremely challenging in this ever-changing environment. Event planning is on-going with consultation between vital stakeholders; development of unique event concepts; procurement and the gathering of valid Health and Safety documentation, all of which is a lengthy process. Alongside these a marketing plan which must be developed, designed and implemented.
3.2	It is predicted that relaxations from the current lockdown will be gradual and at a slower pace than previously, to continue to relieve the pressures on our NHS alongside reducing the 'R' rate.
3.3	Over the last twelve months the corporate events teams have had regular discussions with other councils' events teams. The outcome from these meetings is a collective approach in the delivery of safe corporate events throughout Northern Ireland.
3.4	Safety is paramount in addition to rebuilding the confidence and health and wellbeing of our local residents within the district at the same time as protecting the reputational and financial interests of the Council.

3.5	The succession and speed of vaccination programme continues to bring hope that life will return in normal in the year ahead.
3.6	In the meantime, we must continue to follow the legislation. In the absence of a recovery plan it is difficult to predict what relaxations will be place regarding mass gatherings in the months ahead.
3.7	With this in mind, we recommend no planning of any events that would encourage people to come together in single location until such times as the restrictions will facilitate.
3.8	Once the recovery plan has been published the events teams will investigate possible options for the Halloween and Christmas Events based on the revised guidance.
4.0	Other Considerations
	N/A
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
	Human: n/a
	Risk Management: Adhering to the Executive guidance and advice from our Health and Safety team is paramount.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	The Council do not organise any formal or planned events that would attract mass gatherings until the restrictions will facilitate such events.
5.2	The events team will submit a further report in the months ahead to agree plans to celebrate Halloween and Christmas.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A