

## SUB-GROUP APPLICATION and APPROVAL

### Contents

Organiser’s obligations (Key Principle) .....	1
Managing activities and events in public spaces (Guideline).....	3
5. Approval for event, filming or festival .....	7
Long term approval for yearly events.....	10
Community Groups.....	11
Also see the Challenge ‘Additional stakeholder organisation engagement’ .....	12
Contribution from Edinburgh’s Festivals .....	12

### Organiser’s obligations (Key Principle)

	<b>Sub-Group: Application and Approval</b>
Title	<b>Organiser’s obligations (Key Principle)</b>
Idea	<p>This key principle includes the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The organiser must have appropriate insurance and liability cover</li> <li>• Permissions, licences and safety documentation must be provided well in advance, in accordance with the timetables set out in the more detailed guidelines</li> </ul>
Why the contribution is important	<p>Organisers must operate professionally, in a planned, organised and efficient manner.</p> <p>If you don’t like something (and we won’t all agree!), try to come up with something better, that you feel may be accepted, possibly as a compromise, by the wider group.</p>
Created by	Charlotte_CEC (Site Admin)
Date	09 Oct 2020 10:20AM
URL	<a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/organiser2019s-obligations-key-principle">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1lw/organiser2019s-obligations-key-principle</a>
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 3.25, Number of votes: 4
Topics	
Number of comments	9
Comment by Caroline_CEC	Event organisers should cover the Council's costs for processing their application and for providing the appropriate permissions/licences.

<p>12/11/2020 17:19 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Event organisers should be charged a fee which is then used for improvements to the particular Park/Area which they are operating.</p>
<p>Comment by Stephen 18/12/2020 02:26 Status: Approved</p>	<p>There must be a stronger vetting process for events organisers, especially commercial ones, to avoid disreputable applicants. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- evidence of financial stability including lodging sums to cover failure to reinstate / damage, bankruptcy etc</li> <li>-- all costs to be met by organisers, no subsidies or fees to be paid by Council to any commercial organisations;</li> <li>-- in addition to upfront costs, an agreed percentage of all net income from an event to be shared with the city for public space betterment;</li> <li>-- rejecting applications from organisations with a poor track record including those who have in the past failed to apply for necessary planning and other permissions; who have not met basic requirements on safety, noise limitation, adverse impact, crowd control, modern slavery requirements; have shown lack of consideration for or co-operation with neighbours, or who have left unpaid debts to city businesses. Also proposals which have no perceived local benefit;</li> <li>-- all decisions on major events to be subject of full consultations, to take account of public comments, and to be determined openly by CEC members and not secretive deals by city officials.</li> </ul>
<p>Comment by MTrail 17/01/2021 12:37 Status: Approved</p>	<p>All such documentation should be published so it can be scrutinised by citizens.</p>
<p>Comment by tomketley 19/01/2021 15:37 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Stephen makes a very good point here and I totally agree with vetting event organisers.</p> <p>The EPOG process is very good for this in terms of ensuring all required event criteria is met and bond payments for any damages &amp; rental fees are required before the event can open.</p> <p>However, I do think that premier parks such as Princes Street Gardens should only be used for premier events. It is a world heritage site and it's beauty needs to remain in tack so it should not be over used or undervalued with sub standard events.</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Tom</p> <p>FLY</p>

Comment by AndrewAnderson 19/01/2021 17:21 Status: Approved	Not sure what a "premier event" is (Tom's comment). Is it one that makes a lot of money for the organisers?
Comment by CliffHague 19/01/2021 17:43 Status: Approved	Stephen makes important points. The contracts should be tied to contributing to community wealth building, social and economic inclusion and carbon targets.
Comment by BradleyM 19/01/2021 23:04 Status: Approved	<p>On the "Permissions, licences and safety documentation must be provided well in advance, in accordance with the timetables set out in the more detailed guidelines", there also needs to be something making sure that the licensing department of CEC is engaging with the organisation to process things in advance of events. I am aware of several times where the CEC has needlessly delayed the processing of licenses that were put in good time ahead of events, so as well as expecting timely submissions from organisers, CEC should also be held to the same standard of timely processing.</p> <p>I think comments above seem fair, although the idea of "addition to upfront costs, an agreed percentage of all net income from an event to be shared with the city for public space betterment" should only be applied to commercial organisers and NEVER to charity or community groups.</p> <p>And yes, the council should not be giving subsidies or paying fees on behalf of commercial organisations, but should look at whether maybe there is a cause for doing so on behalf of smaller, charity or community groups that bring a benefit from their events being held.</p>
Comment by Peter 20/01/2021 12:40 Status: Approved	It is fine to have requirements and guidelines, but they need to be properly enforced.
Comment by WECC 21/01/2021 01:17 Status: Approved	<p>This really overlaps with comments in the stream for organisers which it should be read in conjunction with.</p> <p>Event fees should be transparent and should also reflect the event type, the organiser (commercial or community led) size and also application stage</p>

## Managing activities and events in public spaces (Guideline)

	<b>Sub-Group: Application and Approval</b>
Title	<b>Managing activities and events in public spaces (Guideline)</b>
Idea	Events and activities in public spaces must adhere to the Standard 'terms and conditions of use' for Council-managed public spaces; previous management issues

	<p>will be taken into consideration by the Council, before further use of public space is agreed.</p> <p>Higher demand sites have specific area conditions that must also be met by event organisers in addition to standard terms and conditions.</p> <p>The Council may instruct additional conditions for any event, if required, at any stage before or during an event.</p> <p>Organisers of larger events are required to support and facilitate Event Planning and Organising Group meetings and will be instructed on event specific safety (or other) requirements.</p> <p>Organisers of events need to be aware that further roads consent, planning permissions or licensing conditions may be required.</p>
Why the contribution is important	Temporary activities or events in public spaces must be well managed and adhere to standard terms and conditions.
Created by	Ian_CEC (Site Admin)
Date	09 Oct 2020 12:54PM
URL	<a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1w/managing-activities-and-events-in-public-spaces-guideline">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/ksm6bjz1w/managing-activities-and-events-in-public-spaces-guideline</a>
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 3.00, Number of votes: 2
Topics	
Number of comments	18
Comment by Celdon 15/10/2020 12:41 Status: Approved	Ensure that any damage deposits are of a sufficient size to encourage event organisers not to do any damage in the first place. Make them non-returnable in the event of any damage
Comment by lizziethecatherd 19/10/2020 16:16 Status: Approved	Favour community events over commercial enterprises on public good land.
Comment by alanlawson 20/10/2020 11:07 Status: Approved	Events organised by spare-time volunteers shouldn't be burdened with huge amounts of bureaucracy,,, especially if those events have never caused any significant problems or complaints in previous years.
Comment by ollydavies 23/10/2020 13:18 Status: Approved	Reinforced EPOG process to consider applications for using public space, taking into account views from all stakeholders, e.g. for the Royal Mile in August - resident representation, buskers / street performers, local businesses, Fringe Society etc. Clear and open evaluation process at the end of each event.
Comment by ollydavies 23/10/2020 13:23 Status: Approved	Strict adherence to Council policies on noise, after-hours operations (especially where it relates to food and beverage outlets), recycling / litter collection, provision of security / terror prevention etc where appropriate. Clear mechanism for impacted stakeholders to report issues with any of the above.

<p>Comment by ollydavies 23/10/2020 13:39 Status: Approved</p>	<p>For annual events that appear in the same space each year, it would be extremely useful to have a clear steer on any development work - gas, water, data cabling, renovation works etc - that might impact on future operations ahead of licence application. This should also help in the decision-making process for new events that are due to pop up in particular parts of the city.</p>
<p>Comment by Aspinall 12/11/2020 11:49 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Small community groups are discouraged from using parks for what seems to be bureaucratic reasons such as the necessity of third party insurance. This may discourage community cohesion and assistance should be offered by officers to work together to arrive at a reasonable outcome. It looks to some that the Council bends over backwards for large organisers eg. waiving planning restrictions but comes down hard on small local groups.</p>
<p>Comment by Caroline_CEC 12/11/2020 17:00 Status: Approved</p>	<p>All event organisers should have public liability insurance and appropriate risk assessments for their event, this should be a condition for any permission granted. If vehicular access is required (off-road) the event organiser should obtain a licence agreement from the Council, this would ensure appropriate surveys were undertaken prior to the event and, if appropriate a bond held, therefore any damaged caused could be claimed from the event organisers.</p>
<p>Comment by Holledge 10/12/2020 17:13 Status: Approved</p>	<p>This needs to be rewritten and developed to serve as a guideline.</p>
<p>Comment by lizziethecatherd 11/12/2020 11:13 Status: Approved</p>	<p>I attended a zoom last night where a representative of CEC told us that filming was the responsibility of licensing, so as events champion he wasn't able to influence filming issues. Why then are events and filming together in the public consultation taking place at present?</p>
<p>Comment by esc 15/12/2020 23:43 Status: Approved</p>	<p>I think it would be useful to have a clear distinction between different types of event organiser. I agree with comments to the effect that what is appropriate for an event organised by a local community group entirely staffed by volunteers is completely different from what is appropriate for an event organised by a for-profit company for which the event is a business opportunity.</p>
<p>Comment by Stephen 18/12/2020 02:02 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Agree that deposits should be provided for reinstatement / repair. Also effective enforcement with a dedicated team to ensure compliance with all conditions; penalty for non-compliance to be immediate shut-down of event. Complaints from neighbours etc to be acted on immediately.</p>
<p>Comment by tomketley 19/01/2021 12:47 Status: Approved</p>	<p>As an event organiser - we do pay bonds to ensure there is no damage to grass. If the grass is damaged then the cost of repair is taken from this bond.</p> <p>Tom</p> <p>FLY</p>
<p>Comment by bstanton 19/01/2021 15:02 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Specific Conditions for a particular site should be established by CEC and set out to event organisers in the early stages of an application.</p> <p>Adding additional conditions when the event organisation is well established is unacceptable and could be seen to be prejudice against a particular event.</p>
<p>Comment by Rosie_CEC</p>	<p>Filming is distinct from events in a number of ways, including:</p> <p>a) it is not a public activity;</p>

<p>19/01/2021 15:22 Status: Approved</p>	<p>b) it takes place in multiple locations, some of which may be public places, others private,</p> <p>c) duration varies from only a few hours to a few days;</p> <p>d) timings vary, though when filming at night in any location filming has to observe the city's Night Filming policy which draws on the Environmental Protection Act 1990;</p> <p>e) filming varies between small-scale factual TV and news shoots usually involving 2-5 people with no impact on the public and very short lead-ins (often next day), slightly larger-scale filming for commercials which may involve 15-30 people but lasts only a few hours in any one location, and drama which may involve anything from 40-200 people depending whether it's a domestic TV shoot or a Hollywood blockbuster. Drama usually has an impact on the community (e.g. parking, short traffic holds) though usually for only a short amount of time (e.g. 1 day).</p> <p>These large-scale productions are well aware that community engagement is key to a successful production and will spend time contacting all residents and businesses likely to be directly affected by the shoot to find out about issues and concerns, and mitigate as much as possible. Confidentiality is usually expected of the Council and the community, especially during the early stages of discussions, so as to minimise public attention - filming aims to get in and out of each location as quickly as possible without attracting crowds.</p> <p>Each filmed production has its own set of requirements and flexibility is needed in dealing with every request. Key to the city's success as a filming destination is being able to adapt to the different needs of different kinds of production. The Code of Practice for Filming defines expectations of conduct, communication and planning requirements.</p>
<p>Comment by CliffHague 19/01/2021 16:18 Status: Approved</p>	<p>There is clearly a difference between a TV crew doing a brief street interview on a hot topic for that evening's news, and a crew filming a blockbuster where they need to alter the streetscape. Procedures should recognise this difference. Similarly, I am sure that filming does try to complete the work ASAP - why wouldn't they? However, I am not comfortable with "Confidentiality is usually expected" (and presumably accepted). Whose city is it, and on whose terms are commercial organisations allowed to use the city? The mindset here is revealing of how we have come to a situation where many citizens feel their interests come behind those of the council as a commercial entity and its commercial partners.</p>
<p>Comment by MarieOwen 19/01/2021 18:17 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Filming can often add so much to the perception of a city. Many people love to know where Hollywood movies and their favourite TV drama or commercial are filmed. If managed well, safety and with the intention of looking after our fantastic spaces, parks, roads, gardens and much more, filming can be a positive experience. Again with the support of a centralised and well funded film office, we can welcome directors and producers from across the globe who wish to film in our beautiful city. This inbound activity not only promotes the city but more importantly creates jobs for local people, both within the industry and out with-</p>

	<p>the industry relies on an abundance of local people and suppliers to be able to operate.</p> <p>Filming in Edinburgh has a positive economic impact for Scotland as a whole and as the Creative Industry sector in Scotland continues to grow we should embrace these opportunities, manage each project well, ensuring that productions leave locations as they found them ( or in an even better state) and have the support of a well funded Film Office to allow them to plan and execute their productions to the highest standards for all.</p>
<p>Comment by BradleyM 19/01/2021 23:50 Status: Approved</p>	<p>There needs to be more distinction between commercial and community / charity organisers of events throughout most of this consultation. A lot of the consultation makes sense in relation to commercial practices that the citizens of Edinburgh have complained about over the last few years, but when looking at community / charity events, some things, such as licenses, are if not unworkable, not beneficial for the organiser.</p> <p>Events that are organised by charities or are community-based should not be burdened with the same costs of licencing fees on top of the costs of bureaucracy, when they are not operating for-profit, especially those with a proven track record of organising events properly and safely. There are certain spaces in Edinburgh, such as the Meadows or Calton Hill, where charities are paying £5,000 for a license to hold a one day event.</p> <p>Events organised by communities and volunteers shouldn't be burdened with huge costs or mountains of bureaucracy to bring their events to the local area for the benefit of the local community, Edinburgh, and Scotland. This is especially true of those events which have never caused any significant problems or complaints in previous years.</p> <p>There should be a clearer distinction between charitable/community events and commercial events, and this should be reflected in the licencing fees. It might also help boost confidence in the process by the application process being clear, efficient, and transparent. This means making the forms easy to complete with FAQs available, making sure the licencing department is being held to the same standard we are expecting of those submitting applications, and that the rules and guidance are open for all to access. One key way to help increase transparency is to provide applicants a breakdown of the costs of involved with a licencing application so organisations can better understand why a one-day event by a charity costs the same as it would to hold a festival across the city for the month of August.</p>

## 5. Approval for event, filming or festival

	<p><b>Sub-Group: Application and Approval</b></p>
--	---



Title	<b>5. Approval for event, filming or festival</b>
Idea	<p>This would be the final stage of the approval process. If the Events and Filming Office are satisfied that all the required elements are or will be in place, including licences, permits, permissions etc, and conditions have or will be met, they will send a formal approval on behalf of the whole of The City of Edinburgh Council to the organiser.</p> <p>The Events and Filming Office will also update the proposal on the public Events and Filming Web Portal and mark it as approved.</p>
Why the contribution is important	It would provide an early outcome for an organiser on their application and make clear and updated information available on the public web portal, 'booking' an area and setting rest periods for the area
Created by	Charlotte_CEC (Site Admin)
Date	09 Oct 2020 10:17AM
URL	<a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/8n1rlkmoof/approval-for-event-filming-or-festival">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/8n1rlkmoof/approval-for-event-filming-or-festival</a>
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 3.00, Number of votes: 1
Topics	
Number of comments	8
<p>Comment by SuzanneL21 02/11/2020 12:27 Status: Approved</p>	<p>We are concerned about the "approval" process - this does make us feel that we have to tick a number of boxes to prove that it is viable event. Also it leaves the process open to censorship - for example staging a religious event should be allowed but in the present climate, it feels that sort of event would be discriminated against. Currently groups are able to stage events without there being "approval" or having to tick boxes. This new proposal concerns us greatly.</p> <p>We do support an easier method of applying for events licensing etc as the system currently is too confusing and it will be great to have an online events team/page which is a one stop shop.</p>
<p>Comment by Caroline_CEC 12/11/2020 17:50 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Events held on Council land are currently subject to permission from the Council and organisers should not be undertaking events without the appropriate permission, although we sometimes hear of events which have taken place and permissions weren't sought. Hopefully, a simpler, more streamlined approach to the application process will encourage event organisers to engage fully. A clear approach to the event application process should benefit everyone irrespective if they are organising a small event, large event, charity event, religious event.</p>
<p>Comment by sandrascott 18/01/2021 14:42 Status: Approved</p>	<p>I feel that perhaps there needs to be consideration of different stages of 'approval'. Some events recur annually and have for many years. There needs to be an initial of assessment of an event which would allow for organiser experience, previous delivery outcomes and at that stage perhaps it requires a approval on principle which means that CEC, based on previous experience of the event and that organiser is comfortable that the event will go ahead. Perhaps a brand new event or organiser to the city may have approval pending until they are further</p>



	<p>down the process. At the moment, for a major event in the city, we have heard the day before that our event is 'approved' and that a letter to that effect will be posted. We know due to the EPOG process that the event is going to go ahead as planned but that system at the moment isn't always appropriate for an event which has taken 18 months to plan.</p>
<p>Comment by bstanton 19/01/2021 12:28 Status: Approved</p>	<p>A clearly defined time line from application to permission is vital to allow organisers to market an event knowing they have the permission to operate.</p> <p>This should include license applications, all too often, even when license applications are submitted months in advance, they are only examined by the licensing department a few weeks prior to the event taking place. If there are objections made and the application has to then go to a hearing it may only be approved a matter of days prior to the event opening. Worse case scenario the license is not approved, but by this time organisers are committed financially having already promoted the event, paid suppliers/accommodation etc.</p>
<p>Comment by HughG_FilmLocations 20/01/2021 15:13 Status: Approved</p>	<p>Filming projects - especially TV adverts - can happen with a very short lead-time. If all projects have to go through the approval process, this process must be able to reach a conclusion quickly or Edinburgh will loose out on these projects.</p>
<p>Comment by HughG_FilmLocations 20/01/2021 15:19 Status: Approved</p>	<p>When filming approval is agreed, the details on the website must be limited to ensure the protection of the production companies intellectual property. Currently when TTRO's are approved for filming and publicly advertised, the reason is just stated as "Filming". This is a precedent that must be maintained.</p>
<p>Comment by Amy_LS_Productions 20/01/2021 17:55 Status: Approved</p>	<p>The application process needs to accommodate the evolving and fast paced nature of the filming process. The timelines we work to could typically be a few days – a few weeks for a stills shoot, 2 – 6 weeks for a commercial or music video and 1 - 2 months plus for a feature or TV drama. Typically we tentatively enquire about locations and assess suitability and feasibility with the council, film office or location owners whilst simultaneously seeking feedback and evolving ideas with key individuals on our side. We begin each shoot with the broad strokes of what we are looking to achieve and work with flexibility as the shoot date approaches to ensure all parties involved are happy. Once locations have been scouted and viewed remotely or in person by the director/photographer and HOD's we are then able to provide more detailed intentions. Up until this point details are more speculative and broadly we're looking for permission in principle or more general feedback to help guide us up until a point at which we can confirm our plans. As an example, whilst we might broadly show interest in wanting to film on a particular street, we may be considering multiple streets for one brief, and it's only once we have scouted, have client feedback, communicated broad plans with the film office and council, liaised with any key businesses or residents to our plans, that we will then have the confidence to commit to filming at the location and to really refine exact details. Often it's not quite as simple as a shoot being rejected or approved immediately and we have an established way of working with film offices, councils and location owners throughout the filming process with flexibility, compromise, trust and negotiation. Any new process needs to be able to accommodate this way or working. Any details about our film shoots are secured with NDAs and publicly any documentation of ours or any TTRO approved will contain minimal details including dates, times and the fact that the permit or TTRO is for 'filming.' It's</p>

	imperative that no other details should be released as part of any overhaul of this process.
Comment by WECC 20/01/2021 19:03 Status: Approved	Approval is an essential requirement for any event in many respects especially where conditions have been agreed as part of the approval. This should be public and include all relevant stakeholder input whether internal CEC, external organisations or local businesses/residents consultations. Relevant will vary depending on the event type, location, size, duration, impact etc.

## Long term approval for yearly events

	<b>Sub-Group: Application and Approval</b>
Title	<b>Long term approval for yearly events</b>
Idea	<p>Hi Ian,</p> <p>we think there is missing the possibility for a long term application for yearly returning events. Edinburgh Oktoberfest e.g. have been a beloved event with 8-10,000 guests joining each year over the 5 event days since 2013. We attract guests from all over the city, whole Scotland and England and even international from countries like USA, Iceland, Norway and many more.</p> <p>Among things fill the innercity hotels the weekend we are on and are a very attractive event for the city and its citizens.</p> <p>I believe if there was an option to do a long term application it would greatly benefit events in Edinburgh and their guests. E.g. people are able to plan in advance for Oktoberfest as they knew we come to Edinburgh the same weekend each year in October so they are able to book rooms and organize gatherings. We as organizers could invest in specific setup for the Garden to optimise our impact.</p>
Why the contribution is important	<p>It would make life much easier for organizers. They could already start marketing for the following year when the event is live and would save a lot of time in not having to redo the application process each year.</p> <p>I believe the events which are highly popular and bring the city many advantages should be able to plan long term.</p> <p>Thanks a lot.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Carsten Organizer Edinburgh Oktoberfest</p>
Created by	CarstenRaun
Date	25 Dec 2020 05:05PM
URL	<a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/8n1rlkmoof/long-term-approval-for-yearly-events">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/8n1rlkmoof/long-term-approval-for-yearly-events</a>
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 4.00, Number of votes: 1
Topics	

Number of comments	4
Comment by Holledge 03/01/2021 19:48 Status: Approved	Long term applications should be sustainable (both financially and environmentally) and comply with Edinburgh's goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. Ideally such events should be independently certified so CEC have objective criteria by which to judge the proposals.
Comment by bstanton 19/01/2021 12:12 Status: Approved	An option for a long term application for x number of years for established events to enable forward planning for both organisers, CEC and visitors to the event.  A transparent procedure of tendering or a fixed price for the space, dependent on area used and/or projected attendance of the event.
Comment by BradleyM 19/01/2021 23:36 Status: Approved	We know that CEC will not permit an annual licence (or at least that has been our experience when putting in an application), but I think the idea of formally having an agreement that each year an event will be taking place in an area helps provide stability and forward planning benefits for both CEC, the organiser, and the area under consideration. This could be subject to review each year to make sure both parties are still happy to proceed and no complaints or serious issues have arisen in regards to the organiser in question.  If events have been operating for a certain number of years and intend to operate for many years to come, is there a scope for an exceptional licence fee on a case by case basis? This might help to reduce bureaucracy, reduce costs, and allow for forward planning for all involved. Where events have been going on for a period of years and have not caused any issues or serious complaints, they should receive more support and commitment from CEC. Frequent users of a space would then feel more involved as one of the spaces stakeholders and would probably seek to further improve that area and ensure their events were not causing damage to the area or those nearby.
Comment by WECC 20/01/2021 19:07 Status: Approved	Long term event approvals are a good idea but should be time limited 3 or 5 years and subject to performance review each year post-event to confirm any changes are required or whether the licence should be revoked in the case of major breaches of licence conditions etc.

## Community Groups

	<b>Sub-Group: Application and Approval</b>
Title	<b>Community Groups</b>
Idea	Community groups often have severely limited resources in terms of personnel and financial resources. This may mean that they are disadvantaged when making applications for the use of public spaces because they simply cannot compete with the resources available to commercial firms who may want to use the same public spaces within the same timeframe. Provision needs to be made to help and support community stakeholders to facilitate their meaningful equal access to the application process for the use of public spaces.

Why the contribution is important	Community-wide events bring people from all walks of life together, strengthening the bonds between them. Those bonds act to improve mental well-being, while helping to alleviate personal struggles. The PSMP should facilitate this.
Created by	Cockburn
Date	20 Jan 2021 03:48PM
URL	<a href="https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/8n1rlkmoof/community-groups">https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/8n1rlkmoof/community-groups</a>
Status	Approved
Rating	Average: 5.00, Number of votes: 2
Topics	
Number of comments	1
Comment by WECC 20/01/2021 17:54 Status: Approved	We agree, there should be a dedicated officer to help communities apply and CEC provided resources such as insurance.

## Also see the Challenge ‘Additional stakeholder organisation engagement’

<https://edinburghtalksclimate.dialogue-app.com/29fuel9z7l>

## Contribution from Edinburgh’s Festivals

### FESTIVALS EDINBURGH OVERALL KEY MESSAGES

- The fragile situation the city faces emerging from the Covid-19 crisis must be fully reflected in the Public Spaces guidelines in order to realise the best balance of benefits for city residents
- Success means achieving a balance of cultural, social, economic and environmental sustainability.
- Local residents make up the biggest single segment of audiences for our world-renowned festivals with 1.8 million attendances a year
- Their love for our signature homegrown events over 70+ years has made world-class festivals an integral part of Edinburgh’s intangible heritage along with our architecture and natural environment.
- We want to work with partners across the city to nurture the extraordinary layout, fabric and environment of Edinburgh as part of the identity of the city and its festivals critical to future success.
- The Plan must focus on achieving a balance between the wide range of needs and preferences of different residents to enjoy their public spaces through everyday use and experiences beyond the everyday; and the need to realise social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits for the whole city.

## **APPLICATION AND APPROVAL**

As part of the architecture of planning the major annual cycle of festivals and events, a **standing festival city operations planning group is needed bringing together festivals, CEC officials and multi-agency specialists to map out the annual and perennial cycles needed to manage major events at this level of ambition**. This could include consideration of the issues raised by the Fringe Society for annual events in the same space each year, that there should be clear communication of any development work - including for utilities, data cabling and renovations.

Such a group can also contribute to vital **city planning for key aspects of city management that need to be in place to provide a high quality experience for residents and visitors** alike to enjoy major city festivals and events, such as:

- Pedestrianisation, security measures and high quality permanent traffic management measures that don't detract from the quality of the experience for people using city spaces
- Well trained street managers ensuring regulations are in place and being enacted
- Work with local businesses on access and delivery times
- Eco-, family-friendly and accessible facilities – including recycling, water, picnic stations, advice and resources for people with limited mobility.

We support the concept of a fully functioning web platform for applications for public space, a single point of entry approach to the application journey and the proposal to establish an Events & Filming office and team to process all applications.

**The Events & Filming Office needs to have the resources and expertise to be a one-stop shop for potential organisers and to be able to co-ordinate planning effectively across the Council**, similar to functions we have seen in place in other cultural capitals such as Montreal and London. This should take into account the need of smaller, community and volunteer-led organisers for support, as well as the need to sustain Edinburgh's world class standing for major festivals and events.

**Streamlining the application process based on the scale of proposals is important to maximise opportunities for beneficial events to take place with minimum process**. For large, recurring events a reinforced EPOG process and standing festival city operations planning group will be useful models as set out in our comments in previous sections. The Fringe Society also flags that CEC previously usefully played an active role in convening interested local groups to discuss plans for the peak summer festivals season and the festivals collectively endorse the value of such an approach.

The application process will involve a graduated degree of consultation and information sharing depending on the scale of event. In the case of the city's signature major festivals and events, this will need to balance appropriate scrutiny and transparency with keeping up the momentum needed for festivals and events to take place successfully, given the cost and time impacts of additional layers of governance. **Identifying aspects of the approvals process for recurring events that could be put in place long-term and not just on an annual basis will help provide the lead times and certainty needed for events and festivals to have the best chance of returning viably and sustainably to contribute to the city's recovery and renewal.**