

To: City Executive Board

Date: 11th June 2009

Item No:

Report of: Head of City Development

Title of Report: City Centre Events and Filming Fees and Charges 2009/10

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To seek approval of City Centre Events and Filming Fees and Charges for 2009/2010

Key decision? No

Executive lead member: Councillor Bob Price

Report approved by: Head of City Development, Michael Crofton-Briggs

Finance: Chris Kaye, Group Accountant

Legal: Jeremy Thomas, Head of Legal Services

Policy Framework:

- stronger and more inclusive communities
- Improve the local environment, economy and quality of life

Recommendation(s): City Executive Board RECOMMENDS this report and recommend it to Full Council for approval.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The attached fees and charges were omitted from the Budget Book 2009/10 which was approved by Full Council on 16th February. The new fees and charges relate to events and filming in City Council owned City centre locations.
- 1.2 Currently the City Council levies fees and charges for outside events held in parks, and for one city Centre location: Gloucester Green. The recent opening of Bonn Square, an attractive new public space the heart of the City, has prompted a review of the current arrangement.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 The proposal is therefore to widen the scope of fees and charges to include other City Council owned City centre locations, including Bonn Square.
- 2.2 The proposed fees for Bonn Square have been agreed in principle by the Bonn Street management committee with income from fees being split between the landowners ; 75% to the City Council and 25% to New Road Baptist Church.
- 2.3 The introduction of filming charges reflects the city centre's increasing popularity as a location for shooting film and television, and the City Council's investment in setting up Film Oxford, a brokerage agency between venues and film production companies.
- 2.4 The proposed fees and charges are designed to ensure that the costs to the City in terms of administering and monitoring event and filming activity is covered, and to generate additional financial returns towards efficiency management.

3. 0 Level of risk

- 3.1 The proposals are low risk. However, without Full Council approval for these fees and charges the potential income from City centre events and filming will be lost.

4.0 Climate change / environmental impact

- 4.1 There is no significant environmental impact as a result of this decision.

5.0 Equalities impact

5.1 The majority of city centre events are expected to be held by community organisers and reflect a diverse range of interest groups. Charitable, community and commercial status of event organisers is reflected in the rates and charges.

6.0 Financial implications

6.1 The additional income generated through Town Centre events and filming will contribute towards in year efficiency savings.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 All event organisers are required to indemnify the City Council by having Public Liability Insurance. However, the council does have statutory responsibility for site management, including health and safety issues for all public spaces under its jurisdiction.

8.0 Recommendation

8.1 That City Executive Board RECOMMENDS this report to Full Council for approval.

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List of background papers: List of Fees and Charges attached
Version number: 1