



ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE CHARITABLE TRUST

SPECIAL BOARD PANEL MEETING

15 MARCH 2021

Report Title: Park Licence Variation

Report of: Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose: This report seeks the Board's approval to apply to the Licensing Authority to vary the Park Licence.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - N/A

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider the report attached at Appendix 1, taking into account any feedback and advice from the Advisory and Consultative Committees;
- 1.2 To approve the Trust's application to the Licensing Authority to:
 - i. Extend the licensable area of the Parkland to include the East & Pavilion Car Parks (currently under the Palace Licence) and Pitch and Putt area;
 - ii. Maintain the cap of 30 licensable events days within the Park Licence;
 - iii. Include within the Park Licence the ability to host an unlimited number of small scale licensable events for under 600 attendees.
 - iv. Increase the number of events permitted over 55Db level (from 4 events at 65Db to 5 and from 0 events at 70db to 4) to accommodate events in the added areas, within the existing 30 event days permitted;
 - v. Ring fence 2 of the 4 proposed event days at 70db, if the licence variation is approved by the Trustee Board, for the Pavilion Car Park;
 - vi. Include, within the Park Licence, the ability to sell alcohol as part of an improved food and beverage offer across the Park site as detailed in this report.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Indoor music events are unlikely to resume for some months and the licence variation will provide the Trading Subsidiary (APTL) with opportunities to generate income, in order to contribute its profits as a charitable donation to the Trust, to support delivery of the charitable purposes.

2.2 An Outdoor Events monitoring Framework was approved by the Trustee Board to ensure effective monitoring and management of potential impact of outdoor events on the Park, wildlife and local residents. The SAC/CC receive updates throughout the year on the impact of events and an annual report is produced. The 2019-20 Outdoor Monitoring Framework was presented to the SAC/CC on 1 September 2020.

3. Reason for Urgency and Risks

3.1 The next scheduled Board meeting is on 29 March and falls during the period of purdah. The Trust does not feel this matter falls within *business as usual* (a requirement for decision-making during purdah) because outdoor licensing is a contentious issue.

3.2 The decision will support business and budget preparations for the new 2021/22 financial year starting in April and there is an urgency in relation to negotiations with event promoters and funders about programming in the Park. Two weeks is a long time in these negotiations and could result in the interest of commercial and other partners being lost.

3.3 However, this Board Panel meeting has been arranged at short notice and the Trustees could be challenged that the Board has not been provided with sufficient opportunity to fully consider any significant issues raised by the SAC/CC. Therefore, subject to the feedback from SAC/CC the Board may decide to delay making a decision to enable further information to be provided and the application to vary the licence will be deferred and another Panel will be arranged before the start of purdah.

3.4 If the licence variation is not approved by the Board, or granted by the licensing authority, the ability of APTL to return to profitability in the next 12-18 months will be impacted and in turn affect the timescale in which it is able to make a Gift Aid donation to the Trust.

4. Is the decision/ action consistent with the Charity's Vision, Mission Purpose and Values?

4.1 The proposed licence variations will support the overall objective of Alexandra Park and Palace and will enabling the team to use the site in a variety of ways to meet the varied requirements of the public, whilst ensuring this takes place responsibly for the benefit of the long-term future of the site.

4.2 Diversifying income streams is a priority to generate income to support the work of the Trust (to repair, maintain and restore the Park and Palace). The Park will benefit from the additional income generated in restoration levy charged to ticket sales for events in the Park.

4.2 The Charity's purpose is "Enriching lives, through great experiences". The visitor experience will be improved by complementing the park environment with a food and beverage offer in a variety of locations. The additional toilet arrangements required as a result of offering increased catering will benefit all park users.

4.3 The Charity's value: We are Passionate and Fun will be demonstrated with the creation of small-scale events in the Park, when pandemic restrictions are eased.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Revising the Park Licence to incorporate the areas of the Parkland which are currently covered by the Palace Licence is a governance improvement in line with best practice.
- 5.2 The Council's Head of Legal & Governance (interim) has been consulted and has no comment.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The application to vary the licence will have an administrative cost of under £100 but obtaining the variation will enable income to be generated by the Trading Company assisting the financial recovery from the Covid pandemic.
- 6.2 The Council's Chief Financial Officer has been consulted and has no comment.

7. Use of Appendices: Appendix 1 – SAC/CC Park Licence Variation Report

8. Background Papers: None