



Briefing Paper for:	Regulatory Committee 22nd October 2013	Item number	
Title:	FINSBURY PARK OUTDOOR EVENTS POLICY BRIEFING		
Lead Officer:	Simon Farrow – Head of Client Services		
Ward(s) affected: ALL	Report for: Non Key Decision		

Background

Finsbury Park has a long heritage of hosting outdoor events dating back to the turn of the 20th century and has played host to outdoor performances of wide range of cultural genres and other large gatherings concerning gay rights and anti-racism.

The Council has for the last 11 years been managing events in Finsbury Park based on a series of recommendations agreed by cabinet on 3 December 2002. These, however, are now out of date and not fit for purpose, so we want to update and create a new Outdoor Events Policy.

The policy was originally introduced to generate an income to fund the increased cost of maintaining the Park following the multi-million pound Heritage Lottery Fund restoration.

However a reduction in the number of large events in recent years has put significant pressure on the park's budget at a time when the Council has faced an increasingly difficult financial climate.

Reviewing the events policy for Finsbury Park is one way of ensuring we host a range of cultural events that can have significant local economic benefits – generating income that can be used to maintain Finsbury Park, fund community events and improve the infrastructure of other parks in the borough.

In December the Cabinet will consider a report that seeks to introduce a new outdoor events policy. It needs to reflect changes to events that are now taking place in Haringey's parks, particularly in Finsbury Park.

Within the updated events policy the council is proposing:

1. That the number of large events permissible increases from five to six; and increases the duration from one to two days (three days on some occasions)



Haringey Council

2. To reflect the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003, which means attendance numbers will be decided as part of the licensing process
3. That the final area for an event is agreed through the event planning process, as the individual needs of each event is different
4. To extend the control on funfairs to now also include the circus, therefore increasing the number of visits from three to four per year
5. That the use of additional income generated can be used in other parks in the borough as well as Finsbury Park
6. That a sum of £20,000 per annum be set aside from the events income so that:
 - annual community led festivals in the parks will continue to be supported (subject to approval)
 - a wider programme of community activities is supported throughout the year in a number of Haringey parks – this might include initiatives such as a school holiday sporting programme, national play days and cultural events
7. To create a single website for event organisers needing advice and to produce a guide similar to those produced by other London boroughs. This advice and guidance will apply to all parks in the Borough
8. That from January 2014 we:
 - extend the opportunity to local groups that better represent those living in the Finsbury Park area to comment, by introducing a stakeholder meeting two months prior to any large event
 - maintain a list of event applications and their current status on the Council's website
 - include confirmed events on the Council's 'What's On' page at least four weeks prior to the event taking place (two weeks for small events); including 'event specific' information and contact details of event organisers
 - require organisers of any event attracting over 10,000 people to leaflet a defined area adjacent to Finsbury Park two weeks prior to the event (this area will increase as the event attendance level increases)
 - maintain a list of people interested in events taking place in Finsbury Park

Next Steps

These proposals are currently subject to public consultation which commenced on 30th September and will conclude on the 31st October. Residents and stakeholders have



Haringey Council

been alerted to the consultation via a number of routes. The final decision will be taken at the Cabinet meeting on 17 December 2013.

It is expected that this may lead to an increase in the number of licence applications that are received for events in Haringey Parks.