

Purpose of the report:

This report is intended to agree the scope of activity delivered by SCC for the purposes of celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III – the formal coronation taking place on Saturday 6th May, with the opportunity to support to community activity in line with the proposed Big Lunch Out and Big Help out projects which have recently been launched.

This report also proposes that SCC capitalises on the UK delivery of the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) by following through on its commitment, at the time of bidding to host ESC, to support our Ukrainian community and celebrate its culture by hosting a cultural festival, to take place on the same day as the ESC final - 13th May. In addition, we have an opportunity to host a licenced (i.e. able to officially use ESC branding etc) Eurovision 'party' to help drive footfall to the city centre and support local businesses on the evening of the final.

The Kings Coronation:

It is proposed that the main focus of SCC activity is to deliver a one-day event on Saturday 6th May 2023. This will be held in the Peace Gardens, with a focus on providing typically British entertainment, in line with the pomp and ceremony of this historic occasion.

The time of the live broadcast of the Coronation will dictate the start and finish times of the event but it is envisaged to run between 11am and 3pm (subject to confirmation).

The focus of the day will be to encourage people to enjoy the spectacle of the coronation via a large screen sited in the Peace Gardens. The area will be awash with 'red, white blue'. This could possibly be delivered under the heading of 'The Lord Mayor's Coronation Party'.

The Peace Gardens will be turned into an informal event arena where people can stand or sit for a while and watch as much or as little of the pageantry as they want to. They'll be invited to bring their own refreshments (no glass will be allowed) so to create a family friendly atmosphere at minimal cost to people attending. Clearly, there will be opportunities to utilise the hospitality businesses around the city centre if people wish to purchase refreshments and sit awhile, whilst others may cast a fleeting glance as they go about their usual Saturday business.

A staged area will be the focal point for traditional live musical performances e.g. brass bands; swing bands etc playing music from a range of genres to appeal to all age ranges. These performances will take place before and after the live broadcast of the coronation so as to enhance the event, rather than detract from the broadcast.

There will be a programme of high quality street entertainment and activation throughout the day to engage people and encourage them to participate in any small way which will make it memorable for them – for many, the Coronation will be a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence and we want to create a positive 'where were you when...' memory. At a time when many citizens of the city are dealing with the cost of living crisis, this is an opportunity to provide them with a positive experience.

Engaging the retail & hospitality sectors in the city centre, by supporting them with appropriate window dressing materials, and siting some of the street entertainment along side busy areas of the city centre will provide further engagement and encouragement to participate in the event.

In addition to the outdoor activities, there is also an opportunity to host a small exhibition in the Town Hall the books of remembrance in respect of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II and memorabilia of royal visits to the city.

Additional activity:

It is further proposed that we support communities to make a weekend of the celebrations:-

As per the recent communication from the Secretary of State, DCMS is encouraging local authorities to further support communities to celebrate the Coronation weekend by encouraging street parties or Street Meet events by relaxing road closure rules and making residents aware of the support available.

These street party activities might take place on 6th May or on 7th May when communities are being encouraged to come together as part of the Coronation Big Lunch. This national project has online support available, with national sponsors on board.

As with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the LACS have a part to play in engaging and encouraging communities to come together, by the dispersal of small grants to support community activities focussed around the weekend celebrations.

It is not proposed that we broadcast the concert which has been announced for the evening of Sunday 7th May; this is based on the knowledge that the retail opening hours limit the number of people in the city centre at the time the concert is likely to broadcast and the costs of retaining the infrastructure needed, outweighs the benefits as people are more likely to watch the concert in their own homes.

Budget

It is expected that any budget for this activity will come from revenue budget (rather than committee budgets). To ensure events are delivered in a safe and legal environment, with resources to provide quality broadcast and entertainment; and to provide a small grant fund for each LAC to distribute, a draft budget of circa £100,000 has been drawn up.

Recommendations:

That the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III be broadcast live to an event arena at the Peace Gardens & that the event arena is free to enter

That a programme of entertainment, appropriate for the occasion is commissioned

That a budget of a similar amount to that allocated for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is allocated for distribution to communities to support street parties and other community engagement

That the live music concert on 7th May is not broadcast

That a communications plan is developed to encourage participation in community events

That a communications plan is developed to engage stakeholders and local businesses to support the event with window dressing and instore events appropriate to the occasion and that some support for window dressing materials will be available

That a communications plan is developed to engage citizens with The Lord Mayor's Coronation Party (working title!)

Notes/assumptions:

The committee system will need to be formally used and officers will need to follow process

There is a need for a speedy decision making process to ensure entertainment and infrastructure can be booked in a timely manner

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