

WARDS: ALL

AGENDA ITEM NO.

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NORTH DUDLEY AREA COMMITTEE - 17 JUNE 2003

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

DUDLEY BOROUGH FESTIVAL

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To update the Committee on the arrangements for the Dudley Borough Festival 2003.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 At a meeting of the Select Committee for Leisure and Culture in November 2002 Members were advised of the key outcomes of last year's Festival and outline proposals for 2003.

2.2 In summary the outline proposals were:-

- i. To seek to extend the Festival period.
- ii. To develop a programme of town centre events.
- iii. To seek to target a programme of arts activities to areas previously under-represented in the Festival programme.
- iv. For the Council to take the lead role in the co-ordination of the Caribbean event.
- v. To prioritise 6 large events as the focal point of the Festival.
- vi. To seek external funding to support the Festival.
- vii. To stimulate participation by disability groups and artists within the Festival programme.
- viii. To utilise Dudley Castle as a major Festival venue.

- ix. To encourage community participation in the Festival involving community groups, arts and sports organisations.

2.3 Following the Select Committee meeting a working group of Officers has been involved in the preparation and development of the Festival programme through a variety of means, including:-

- ❑ Presentations to community sports and arts organisations.
- ❑ Establishment of specific working groups for the large scale events such as the Asian Mela and the Caribbean event.
- ❑ Proactive development of a range of community arts events in target areas alongside the introduction of disability arts within the programme.
- ❑ Administering of a grants application process for community groups to access.
- ❑ Liaison with Town Centre Managers, Community Education Officers and Priority Neighbourhood Managers to develop the local programmes.

2.4 This has resulted in a strong core of key events for the Festival as detailed at Appendix 1. In addition to these events there are a significant number of smaller, local events that have been grant aided from the Festival budget to be included in the Festival Programme brochure which is currently in production.

2.5 The Festival Programme for 2003 has, by and large, met the targets set by the Select Committee in its review of the 2002 Festival, including the attraction of a significant external sponsor of the event.

2.6 Furthermore considerable experience has been gained from operating the grants process this year which will lead to improvements for next year. In particular there needs to be clearer guidance to applicants and the criteria for grant aid needs to be developed further. Similarly the timescale for the process needs to be increased, so that event organisers are given more time to prepare their initial application for support, and their event following an award.

3.0 PROPOSALS

3.1 That Members note the preparations made for the Borough Festival 2003.

4.0 FINANCE

4.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LAW

5.1 Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976 empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities in its area.

5.2 Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1972, enables the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its statutory functions.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 This report contains proposals which accord with the equal opportunities policies of the Council

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 That the proposal set out in Section 3 of this report be approved.

Director of the Urban Environment

John Millar:

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DUDLEY BOROUGH FESTIVAL 2003**CONFIRMED MAJOR EVENTS**

Date	Event	Venue
10/11 June	Borough Dance Festival	Stourbridge Town Hall
14 June	Caribbean Festival	Himley Park
21 June	Wordsley Festival	Wordsley Park
27 June	Under 5's Fun Day	Himley Park
28 June	Rock the Castle	Dudley Castle
29 June	Dance Odyssey	Dudley Castle
29 June	Stourbridge Carnival	Stourbridge Town Centre
2 July	Jazz in the Castle	Dudley Castle
5/6 July	Dudley Youth Music Live	Dudley Castle
5 July - 3 August	Schools Arts Exhibition	Himley Hall
5 July - 3 August	Asian Arts Exhibition	Himley Hall
6 July	Asian Mela	Himley Park
12 July	Wild West Picnic, Concert & Fireworks	Himley Park
13 July	Summer XS	Himley Park
15/16 July	Disability Arts Showcase	Netherton Arts Centre
20 August	Central Youth Arts Festival	Netherton Arts Centre
30/31 August	Dudley Pageant	Dudley Town Centre

- In addition to the above there are a number of local community based events within the Festival Programme, the details of which are to be found in the Festival brochure.