

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

6 June 2014

Report by Chief Officer (Legal & Procurement)

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCES: ONE OFF EXEMPTIONS TO THE REQUIREMENT
TO PAY ASSOCIATED FEE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek approval of the proposal not to charge selected local community groups for public entertainment licences for community events which they have been asked to organise and host on 13 July 2014 to mark East Renfrewshire Council receiving the Queen's Baton Relay prior to commencement of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

BACKGROUND

2. In terms of Section 41 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 a public entertainment licence is required for the use of premises as a place of public entertainment, as defined in the Act.

3. East Renfrewshire Council will be receiving the Queen's Baton Relay on 13 July 2014 which is day 33 of the Commonwealth Games Relay. To mark this historic event East Renfrewshire Council has planned a day of community events throughout the authority. The following local community and other groups have been asked by the Council to organise and host various events on this date.

- The Avenue Shopping Centre, Commonwealth Circus
- Newton Mearns Baptist Church Community Celebration
- Clarkston Bid, Clarkston Car Park, Cycling event
- Eastwood Park Theatre, Community Celebration inside and outside the building
- ERC Cowan Park, Evening Celebration, Musical Concert 5.30-7.30pm

REPORT

4. There has been some discussion at Queen's Baton Relay preparatory meetings and also within the Civic Government Licensing Working Group as to whether it is fair to ask these organisers to bear the financial cost of an application for a public entertainment licence when they have been requested to host these events by the Council.

5. It is not proposed to change the current licensing system as community events should still be required to obtain a licence, however, in recognition of the financial outlay involved which may jeopardise the holding of an event it is proposed that the associated fee be waived for events planned in connection with the Relay (for 13 July 2014 only).

6. The cost of a public entertainment licence is £239.00 for a one year licence. The introduction of this proposal demonstrates the Council's commitment to social justice, social inclusion and community safety by supporting community events whilst still retaining the ability to ensure they are conducted in a safe manner.

RECOMMENDATION

7. That the Committee approve the proposal that community events held in conjunction with the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay in respect of which a public entertainment licence is required should be exempt from the requirement to pay the appropriate fee.

Report Author: Emma Stevenson, Trainee Solicitor, Ext.4645