

Edinburgh's Winter Festivals 2003/4

The City of Edinburgh Council

18 March 2004

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 At its meeting on 22 January 2004 the Council considered a report on the cancellation of events on the night of 31 December 2003. The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Council with a full analysis of Edinburgh's Winter Festivals 2003/4.
- 1.2 The report is based on written feedback from a range of individuals, groups and organisations closely involved in the planning and implementation, together with the results of customer/participants surveys.

2 Main report

Edinburgh's Capital Christmas 2003

Programme

- 2.1 Edinburgh's Capital Christmas (ECC) had its best programme of events ever in 2003 and visitor numbers were up on the previous year by approximately 8% at 432,000.
- 2.2 One of the core programme events, the Christmas Light Night switch-on, enjoyed its highest ever attendance to 8,000. The support of Scottish Power as major sponsor allowed a significantly enhanced level of lighting of the trees in Princes Street.
- 2.3 The enhanced festival lighting in St Andrew Square was sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland. George Street also enjoyed the benefit of new Christmas lighting through the sponsorship of Standard Life and the George Street Business Association.
- 2.4 The programme was further strengthened by the inclusion of events and concerts which were taking place at the Usher Hall, the 10th Spar European Cross Country Championships, the Edinburgh's Farmers Market and exhibitions and events at the City Art Centre and galleries and museums across the city.

Economic Impact

- 2.5 The additional visitors increased the economic benefits to the city centre from £7 million in 2002 to approximately £8 million in 2003.

- 2.6 The number of bednights sold by the Edinburgh Principal Hotels Association (EPHA) during December 2003 increased by nearly 4,000 an increase of 5% over the previous year. This is a significant increase considering there has been an increase of 600 rooms over the same period.

PR and Marketing

- 2.7 5,316 people viewed the Edinburgh's Capital Christmas pages on www.eventful-edinburgh.com. This site is operated by ELTB with the support of the City of Edinburgh Council to market events and festivals taking place in Edinburgh throughout the year. 1,613 people registered to receive ECC updates from Eventful Edinburgh. This compares with 1,795 for the Fringe and an average of 1,206 for all events.
- 2.8 In addition, 1,700 off-line customers, who asked to be kept informed of winter deals and events were sent a copy of the Edinburgh's Capital Christmas brochure complete with a themed letter containing seasonal accommodation offers.
- 2.9 For the first time Real Radio was the radio sponsor for ECC, Real Radio has 591,000 weekly listeners in total. Successful negotiations with The Scotsman Publications resulted in £50,000 worth of in-kind media sponsorship across the groups titles. GMTV also broadcast live weather reports from Winter Wonderland at 15-minute intervals on the morning of 3 December.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2003/4

Background

- 2.10 Edinburgh's Hogmanay has developed over the years to become a four-day festival comprising a programme of public events of different kinds : some indoor, some outdoor; some free, some ticketed. It is widely acknowledged to be one of the best events in the world.
- 2.11 Edinburgh's Hogmanay has been presented annually since 1993. The most recent event, therefore, was the eleventh. The planning and management of Edinburgh's Hogmanay is the responsibility of a partnership of agencies, led and core funded by the City of Edinburgh Council, with a contract to a specialist events contractor to deliver the event. In this respect, and others, it is different from any of Edinburgh's other established festivals.
- 2.12 In March 2000, the Council approved revised objectives for Edinburgh's Hogmanay:
- to provide a high quality event for the enjoyment of visitors and residents;
 - to raise Edinburgh's profile as an all year round tourist destination both nationally and internationally.
- 2.13 Measured against the above, it has been very successful:
- it has positioned Edinburgh in the top league internationally as a New Year destination;
 - it has brought Edinburgh extensive and positive national and international media coverage
 - participants' satisfaction ratings are very high – on average, scores of 9 out of 10 recorded;

- a first time survey of Edinburgh people who do not attend Edinburgh's Hogmanay events shows that nine out of ten regard the Royal Bank Street Party as good for Edinburgh's reputation and three quarters believe the Council should continue to fund Edinburgh's Hogmanay;
- it has generated over £30 million for Edinburgh in each of recent years.

2003/4 Programme

- 2.14 The main components of Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2003/4, promoted under the "04 Auld Lang Syne" theme, are set out below.

Monday 29 December 2003

Winter Wonderland
The Edinburgh Wheel
The Hogmanay Carnival
The Torchlight Procession

Tuesday 30 December 2003

Winter Wonderland
The Edinburgh Wheel
The Hogmanay Carnival
Night Afore International, including the Runga Rung Indian street theatre and the longest Strip-the-Willow

Wednesday 31 December 2003

Winter Wonderland
The Edinburgh Wheel
The Hogmanay Carnival
Candlelit Concert at St Giles
The Big Splash
Colours
Vegas
The New Year Revels
The Royal Bank Street Party
The Concert in the Gardens
The Seven Hills Fireworks

Thursday 1 January 2004

Winter Wonderland
The Edinburgh Wheel
The Hogmanay Carnival
The Looney Dook
Parklife
The Edinburgh Bicycle Triathlon
The One' O'Clock Run
Music for New Year's Day at the City Art Centre and Fruitmarket Gallery
Huskies Go To Holyrood
A New Year Conversation
Labyrinth
Runga Rung, Indian Street Theatre Spectacular

- 2.15 All these events and attractions (apart from the Royal Bank Street Party, the Concert in the Gardens and the Seven Hills Fireworks) took place successfully over the period. The official programme of events opened with some 12,000 people participating in The Torchlight Procession. On the following night, some

20,000 people attended the Night Afore International. The 1 January 2004 saw some 25,000 enjoy Parklife and associated events.

- 2.16 For the first time ever, all ticketed events were completely sold out and all other events (eg the One O'Clock Run) were fully subscribed. These, and other factors, led all concerned to believe they were moving into what would be the most successful Edinburgh's Hogmanay.
- 2.17 The cancellation of the Royal Bank Street Party is addressed later in the report. It is important to record, however, that the safety planning structures worked well for what continues to be a potentially high risk event.

Unique Events Recommendations

2.18 The biggest difficulty which faced Unique Events, the Council and others was uncertainty about levels of available funding. Despite this situation, the events package was delivered, including a number of innovations.

2.19 Recommendations for the future are:

- decide whether the Night Afore and Parklife are to be considered "core events"
- the budget has to be determined and essentially signed-off with sufficient time to deliver the event. A signed off budget by 1 June should be a target. (This has been achieved in the context of the new contract with Unique.)
- continue to theme Hogmanay by aligning with another nation, which has a discernible street culture and is receptive to cultural export
- the Night Afore International needs a budget of a least £150,000. It is useful to have one main company whose show can be advertised (and perhaps reprised on 1 January) but there are few of any merit available (cheaply) in the UK
- continue with the Scottish Ceilidh stage and the longest Strip the Willow at the Night Afore – perhaps there can be more information on the night so that visitors are more prepared for what is going to happen
- at the Night Afore, consider having a screen rather than a stage at the West End Afore (as we did this year) as long as we have a competent and creative camera crew and on-line producer
- the One o'clock Run should become a core event along with the Triathlon. (These are specified in the new contract and, as such, are core events.)
- every effort should be made to continue with and develop Parklife
- the New Year Conversation should be continued
- consideration should be given to the position of the stages in Princes Street at the Royal Bank Street Party
- efforts should be made to make all components of the Royal Bank Street Party as weather resistant as possible
- the firing zone and the type of fireworks should be examined to improve the weather resistance of at least part of the display

- all aspects of insurance should be re-examined and a paper trail should be produced to justify what insurances are taken and which are not.

Participants' Profile

2.20 The split between males and females throughout Edinburgh's Hogmanay was 56% female, 44% male.

Overall 62% of participants were under 35 years old compared with 71% in 2002/3.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay in general appealed to people in the higher socio-economic groups (78% ABC1).

Most participants are in full time employment (73%). The next highest category is students (14%). Interestingly, this profile is similar for the Royal Bank Street Party, counteracting a perception in some quarters of it being a "students night out". The proportion of participants coming from outwith Scotland is 56%. At the Royal Bank Street Party this increased to 63%.

More than half of all visitors were staying in Edinburgh for at least 3 nights.

The most popular choice of accommodation by visitor was staying with friends and relatives (38%) but hotels (24%) and guesthouses (18%) were also important.

60% of respondents had attended Edinburgh's Hogmanay before.

Just over half of all people attended more than one event.

Participants' Views

2.21 For 60% of people Edinburgh's Hogmanay was their only reason for visiting Edinburgh and for a further 19% it was a very important factor in their decision.

Ratings achieved for Edinburgh's Hogmanay in general were all very high: 76% rating it as very good or excellent. The Torchlight Procession achieved the highest scores: 95% rating it as very good or excellent.

As regards perceptions of safety at the Royal Bank Street Party, 93% of respondents felt safe or very safe. On a scale of 1-5, the average score was 4-5.

Importantly, some 89% of respondents indicated their intention to return to Edinburgh's Hogmanay in future years and 96% stated they would come back to Edinburgh at other times of the year.

(The views described above must be considered with some caution as the interviews conducted at the Royal Bank Street Party were completed before the cancellations.)

Economic Impact

2.22 The economic impact of Edinburgh's Hogmanay in Edinburgh was £36.5 million while at the Scotland level it was £45.6 million (cf £34m and £41m respectively in 2002/3). As outlined earlier, hotel occupancy rates for December 2003 reached an all time high, a significant achievement considering the large increase in bed spaces.

Media and Marketing

2.23 As well as working to reinforce the overall objectives of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, the PR and Marketing Group's communications plan for 2003/2004 specifically aimed to:

- to broaden the appeal of the Festival as a four day winter festival
- to create confidence in the safety and format of the Royal Bank Street Party
- to provide full information on events, arrangements and practicalities
- to improve customer information for revellers and residents affected by the Street Party arena
- to improve information on the festival to retailers, pubs/clubs and stakeholders
- to promote the First Foot Club
- to promote www.edinburghshogmanay.org
- to maintain the perception that Edinburgh is the place to be for the very best new year celebrations
- to maintain a link between Capital Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay activities

Additionally recommendations from the 2002/2003 review were taken on board.

2.24 There were 33 main items of print with print runs in the order of 400,000.

2.25 There were 2 main media conferences: the events programme launch in November 2003 and Street Party in December 2003. Each was covered extensively by the media. Additionally 30 press releases/photocalls/briefs and over 200 interviews were organised.

2.26 Three separate media analyses were undertaken: overall coverage; Royal Bank coverage; and financial value. In total, 354 articles were recorded of which 133 were negative. Prior to the cancellations 168 articles were positive and only 16 negative. There were 102 articles recorded about the Street Party. The value of print coverage was £1,901,431.

2.27 Edinburgh's Hogmanay was covered in 147 Radio and TV reports from 14 November 2003 – 21 January 2004 TV coverage was increased this year. Coverage would have been considerably more extensive had events on 31 December not been cancelled. Both BBC and STV had planned live transmissions for their Hogmanay shows not just in Scotland but also nationally. Additionally, live and recorded footage would have gone out through Sky News, Sky News Active, Fox, CBS, APTN and ENEX.

2.28 Over 330 journalists were accredited for the Royal Bank Street Party and other Edinburgh's Hogmanay events, including a wide range of broadcasters and print media from the UK and overseas (cf 250 in 2002/3). There was an increase in media accredited for The Royal Bank Street Party. In the main, this was due to the BBC Hogmanay Live show, STV's Hogmanay show and Real Radio's live broadcast.

2.29 Over 40 "Frontliners" (eg tour guides, taxi drivers) attended a briefing session in December in the City Chambers. The opportunity to be informed and raise issues was welcomed and there was very positive feedback.

2.30 The website was run by the Scotsman.com. There were close to 400,000 page impressions in December alone. First Foot Club members joining online increased from the previous year's 7,723 to 10,750.

2.31 One measure of the effectiveness of the communications plan is complaints from the public. They had been consistently falling from 46 in 2000, to 20 in 2001 and to 10 in 2002. As a direct result of the cancellations that increased to over 300, the vast majority from First Foot Club members unhappy about no refunds.

Media and Marketing Recommendations

2.32 The following recommendations are made:

- Improve general understanding of events tickets v passes and access restrictions.
- Co-ordinate early promotional material (July).
- Edinburgh's Hogmanay identity to be used consistently on all Edinburgh's Hogmanay products (web/advertising/print material/merchandise etc)
- Review all existing print material - quantities/dates/ format/schedules etc.
- Continue improve Edinburgh Hogmanay Branding –(banner tower spec).
- Insure that 'Not for resale' and £0.00 is always printed on Royal Bank Street Party Passes.
- Identify appropriate print material for safety/public information messages.
- Future advertising design should carry the same look (a template) throughout the festival this will ensure that key information is always consistent and will speed up the proofing process.
- Agree schedule including proofing process with all concerned parties in advance.
- Agree who has authority to sign off as well as substitutes for times main contact is unavailable.
- Review possible future ticket needs to manage completions/promotions more efficiently.
- Investigate possibility of including official merchandise completions/promotions.
- Emphasise to photographers that edited contact sheets are still required as well as images on disk.
- Review cancellation procedures.
- Produce media centre procedures.
- Secure Project Team meeting space close to media centre at the ROSL.
- Liaise with Lothian and Borders Police on broadcast messages.
- Encourage use of broadcast media for safety message /congested areas etc.
- Provide direct link with JACC.

Safety/Events Planning and Operations Group (EPOG)

- 2.33 The organisations/agencies directly involved include the City of Edinburgh Council, Lothian and Borders Police, Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade, Lothian NHS, Scottish Ambulance Service, Lothian Medcover, St Andrews Ambulance Service, British Red Cross, Unique Events and Rock Steady Security. Others, such as Starhire, Pyro One have contributed through the principal EPOG members.
- 2.34 Debrief meetings to discuss all submissions and comments were held on 3 and 10 February 2004.
- 2.35 The debriefing process has produced a number of primary and secondary action points for the future.

EPOG Primary action points are:

- Contingency Arrangements: require to be in place to address the issues arising from adverse weather conditions. These arrangements will differ from the Emergency Contingency Plan and Event Safety Plan. The Adverse Weather Contingency arrangements require to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the decision making process on the night. The arrangements should define a plan of action and should apply to each of the events that go to make up the Winter Festivals.
- Communications: Several key areas require to be looked at with respect to improving overall communications. These include the provision of appropriate equipment to the First Aid Agencies and Radio communication with the Social Work Drivers.
- Temporary Infrastructure: a review of all temporary infrastructure with respect to suitability. this to include – barriers, gated structures, public address system, camera platforms, stages and toilet units.
- Medical/First Aid: the arrangements for the First Aid Post at St Andrews and St George's require to be reviewed in light of the inappropriate accommodation provided within a temporary Portacabin.
- Mobile Video Screens: the West End screen has been problematic in recent years with congestion in and around this area. A review of the Video Screen location is necessary.

EPOG Secondary action points are:

- Tactical Liaison Officers from Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade worked in tandem with Lothian and Borders Police. This proved problematic when Police called away on emergency ambulance escort duty. Review required.
- Planning Process: while accepting that a Medical Co-ordinator was at the JACC Scottish Ambulance Service (Ambulance Event Commander) was not involved in decision making. Review present set up.
- Signage: general review of signage required. Although the weather was a contributing factor it was felt that overall the signage could be improved.

- Meal Vouchers: the voluntary agencies of British Red Cross and St Andrews Ambulance Association were disappointed by the lack of service received from the various food outlets. Review.
 - Vehicle Movements: a considerable number of unauthorised vehicle movements were noted within the event arena following the implementation of the road closures. A review of the barrier configurations and enforcement of the road closures to be undertaken.
 - Carnival (Market Street): issues involving the location of the Carnival within the Street Party arena and day to day operation of the Carnival to be reviewed.
 - Concessions within Princes Street: several areas of concern raised with respect to the suitability of some stalls (hat sellers), the reversing of vehicles and trailers in crowded areas without due care and attention. In addition comments were received with regard to the amount of litter that was created by the vendors.
- 2.36 Overall, the safety planning structures continue to work well. Importantly, as recorded earlier, the public feel safe.

Cancellations

- 2.37 The Royal Bank Street Party, the Concert in the Gardens and the Seven Hills Fireworks were cancelled for health and safety reasons arising from severe weather conditions. The decision was made by senior operational managers from the key organisations involved: the City of Edinburgh Council; Lothian and Borders Police; Unique Events Ltd; Edinburgh and Lothians Tourist Board and Pyro 1, the fireworks company. The decision was unanimous and supported by representatives of the principal sponsor, the Royal Bank of Scotland. The decision making process was conducted in a formal manner under the direction of the Assistant Chief Constable in his capacity as Gold Commander on the night.
- 2.38 The cancellations were in two stages. Firstly, it was concluded that the Concert in the Gardens could not proceed, as a result of structural damage to the stage constructed at the Ross Theatre. The damage, together with water penetration threatening the electrical systems, made the stage unsafe both for performers and the audience. Other damage was also occurring away from the stage including the TV platforms. Secondly, it was concluded that the wider Royal Bank Street Party and the Seven Hills Fireworks should be cancelled. A combination of factors led to the decision: very high winds were continuing to gust to dangerous levels; structural damage was occurring to buildings in Princes Street and to temporary structures; four stewards had been injured; one of the giant screens was under threat; a risk remained of overcrowding around the remaining stages if they had become the sole focus of entertainment, and finally the fireworks could not have been launched safely due to the strength and the gusting of the winds which were not expected to abate until around 3 am.

2.39 Once these decisions had been taken, it was important to convey the situation to the public in the event arena and to encourage people to leave in order to reduce any further risk of injury. Announcements were made over the PA system and on screens advising people of the cancellations. Alternative entertainment, such as taped music broadcast through the PA systems, would simply have encouraged people to remain in the area and remain with expectations that circumstances might change later in the night.

Consequences and Actions Arising

2.40 Clearly there is a number of consequences, some immediate and others in the longer term.

2.41 Firstly, it should be noted that the first and immediate priority after cancellation was to inform people in the arena and to manage the safe evacuation of everyone from the event arena. That operation was more difficult than actually managing the event in normal circumstances but proceeded efficiently and effectively. A further immediate, and related, consequence was to deal with unparalleled media interest and pressure on the night and over subsequent days. Not surprisingly, too, the volume of complaints and questions from the general public was high.

2.42 Most people appeared to understand why the decision to cancel was taken and accepted that it was the correct decision. Concern and interest since has focussed on various aspects of financial compensation and the potential longer term impact on Edinburgh's Hogmanay and on the City's reputation as an events destination.

2.43 Taking into account ticket refunds and other outgoings on the one hand and savings and income on the other hand the net additional cost arising from cancellation is estimated to be £130,000 over the maximum funding approved by Council on 21 August 2003. The Council is discussing with the contractor options for managing this.

2.44 More important, arguably, are the financial and other consequences for Edinburgh's Hogmanay in the longer term. A number of actions have already been taken and others will follow in the weeks and months ahead, following from the Motion approved by the Council on 22 January 2004 (Appendix 1). The Motion requires the Director of Corporate Services to investigate and report on issues concerning the longer term development of the Winter Festivals.

2.45 One of the key issues which has been highlighted as a result of the cancellations and subsequent scrutiny and concern is the vulnerability of the funding base for Edinburgh's Hogmanay and, in particular, its disproportionate dependence on Council financial support. It is beginning to be recognised that Edinburgh's Hogmanay is not a "local event" and cannot be viewed in the same way as New Year events anywhere else in Scotland, or indeed the UK with the possible exception now of London. Edinburgh's Hogmanay not just for the city but for Scotland as a whole. Edinburgh's Hogmanay is a "flagship" event, a significant economic generator for the city and the country, and one that reaffirms Edinburgh as the gateway to Scotland.

- 2.46 Financial input is necessary from the Scottish Executive and/or the various relevant national agencies as well as from the private sector to ensure the:
- continuation of its “flagship” status nationally and internationally;
 - development of excellence across every element;
 - provision of more robust and international standard facilities, venues and resources for mounting the outdoor elements of Edinburgh’s Hogmanay and other events during the year;
 - strengthening of the marketing of Edinburgh and Edinburgh’s Winter Festivals in the domestic and overseas markets.
- 2.47 The Council Leader has already hosted a "summit meeting" of the relevant national agencies to agree a course of action. Increased efforts are being made to strengthen support from the business community.
- 2.48 A particular issue which the cancellations have highlighted is the inadequacy of the Ross Bandstand. All parties concerned agree that a replacement facility is long overdue. However, there is an impediment to moving forward immediately with a redevelopment scheme because of restrictions contained within the City of Edinburgh District Council Order Confirmation Act, 1991. This matter and other pertinent issues have been raised in the Scottish Parliament with the First Minister. The Motion approved by Council on 22 January 2004 requires the Directors of Corporate Services and Culture and Leisure to report on the feasibility of replacing the Ross Bandstand with a more appropriate venue for concerts and events.
- 2.49 As regards the private sector, it is important to recognise the continuing commitment and support from the principal sponsor associated with Edinburgh’s Hogmanay – The Royal Bank of Scotland. Discussions have taken place with the Royal Bank of Scotland and these will continue throughout the year.

2004 Onward

- 2.50 Together, Edinburgh's Capital Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay are important events for the city's economy, generating some £44.5 million in 2003/4. Renewed efforts are required to sustain this and to seek opportunities for growth.
- 2.51 In terms of future planning and management arrangements for Edinburgh’s Hogmanay, the Council last year approved the bringing together of Edinburgh’s Capital Christmas and Edinburgh’s Hogmanay under the Edinburgh’s Winter Festivals, a resource previously not available to the projects, supported by a dedicated small team of staff. An appointment has been made to the post and the postholder joined the Council at the start of February 2004. Although there is now a single management structure for the Winter Festivals, the separate brand identities of Capital Christmas and Edinburgh’s Hogmanay will be maintained.

- 2.52 Jointly with Scottish Enterprise Edinburgh and Lothian a Commercial Development Manager will be appointed, again a resource previously not available. Again jointly with Scottish Enterprise Edinburgh and Lothian, a new business plan will be prepared and longer term management and structures options will be investigated.
- 2.53 The tendering process for an events contractor for Edinburgh's Winter Festivals, which started in May 2003, was completed in January 2004 and an appointment made for the next 3 years. The successful company is Unique Events Ltd. Amongst other things, this should allow both continuity and a wealth of "hands on" experience.
- 2.54 Arising from the recent Budget Review process, the Council has agreed to allocate increased funding, from the Cities Growth Fund, to Edinburgh's Winter Festivals 2004/5 – 2006/7. The funding allocated will secure, at least, all the core components, generate a degree of confidence for all concerned and assist in longer term planning.
- 2.55 Similarly, the Council has approved funding for improved city dressing during the Winter Festivals period in Princes Street and the Old Town.
- 2.56 The process for planning Edinburgh's Winter Festivals for 2004/5 is consequently now moving forward under the new arrangements and with the newly appointed contractor for the next three year period.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council notes the contents of the report.



JIM INCH
Director of Corporate Services

Appendices	1 Extract of Minute of Meeting of the City of Edinburgh Council, 22 January 2004
Contact/tel	Norman Ireland, Special Projects Manager 529 4433
Wards affected	All
Background Papers	<p>"Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2003/4" – Report to the City of Edinburgh Council, 22 January 2004</p> <p>"Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2003-04" – Unique Events Report, 16 February 2004</p> <p>"Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2003/2004 : Review of Marketing and Media", February 2004</p> <p>"Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2003/2004" – Debrief Report, Events Planning and Operations Group, 16 February 2004</p> <p>"Edinburgh's Hogmanay : Research Report and Economic Impact Assessment" – DRAFT report by The Audience Business, February 2004</p>

Extract of minute of meeting of The City of Edinburgh Council, 22 January 2004

11 Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2003/04

Details were given of Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2003/04 programme and in particular the cancellation of the Street Party, the concert in Princes Street Gardens and the Seven Hills Fireworks on the night of 31 December 2003 because of severe weather conditions. The consequences of the cancellation were outlined together with possible actions to ensure the future viability of the Hogmanay event.

Motion

- 1 To note the report by the Director of Corporate Services.
- 2 To note the actions of the staff of the Council and other agencies in dealing with the cancellation of this year's Hogmanay Street Party.
- 3 To note that the safety of residents and visitors had always been given the highest priority in the organisation of events and activities in Edinburgh and that the Council's decision was in the best interests of the public and the Street Party event.
- 4 To welcome the strong support for Edinburgh's Hogmanay that had been forthcoming from a wide variety of agencies and individuals and to express sincere regret that residents and visitors had not had the enjoyable experience that had become the norm in Edinburgh at Hogmanay.
- 5 To further note that this had been the first time in the history of the event that any part of the programme had been cancelled.
- 6 To support fully the retention of the Hogmanay Street Party and call for the successful relaunch of the event in 2004 as part of the Winter Festival, now the biggest in the UK.
- 7 To ask the Director of Corporate Services to report on:
 - a the outcome of the summit of partner agencies being held in the near future;
 - b the proposals of partner agencies to support the event;
 - c the opportunity to develop additional events and activities to support the Winter Festivals programme; this to include options for improved street dressing during the Winter Festival period in Princes Street and the Old Town;
 - d the possible rephasing of Cities Growth Fund monies to support the programme; and
 - e the organisational arrangements to support this year's Winter Festival.
- 8 To ask the Directors of Culture and Leisure and Corporate Services to report jointly on the feasibility of replacing the Ross Bandstand with a more appropriate venue for concerts and events in Princes Street Gardens.

9 To consult extensively with the Festivals and Events Champion Working Group and to refer the Director's report to the Working Group for consideration.

- moved by Councillor Anderson, seconded by Depute Convener Cardownie (on behalf of the Labour Group).

Amendment 1

To note the report by the Director of Corporate Services and agree that any additional costs resulting from the cancellation of the event be borne by the contractor.

- moved by Councillor Ghilchrist, seconded by Councillor Whyte (on behalf of the Conservative Group).

Amendment 2

In similar terms to the motion except to replace paragraph (6) with

"To remit all decisions including a review of all options regarding the future of the Street Party to a new Working Group".

- moved by Councillor Mrs MacLaren, seconded by Councillor Dawe.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	30 votes
For amendment 1	-	13 votes
For amendment 2	-	14 votes

Decision

To approve the motion by Councillor Anderson.

(References - Act of Council No 16 of 21 August 2003; report no CEC/131/03--4/CS by the Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)