

**Report of the Portfolio Holder- Leisure and Health****Events Programme 2026/27****1. Purpose of Report**

To put forward proposals for the Council's Events Programme for 2026/27.

**2. Recommendation**

**Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the Council's Events Programme for 2026/27 be approved, with the associated costs and funding being included in the budget setting process for 2026/27.**

**3. Detail**

As part of the Cultural Strategy 2023-2026, the Council organises an annual programme of cultural events each year as a means to promote social cohesion, improve health and wellbeing, support economic growth, provide educational opportunities and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Alongside the event programme, the Communications, Cultural and Civic Services Team work with local cultural groups and organisations to promote the rich culture and heritage already present in the Borough through projects including the CCity project.

The event programme is designed to provide free, community events targeted at specific areas of need, such as free family activities in areas of deprivation.

The Council has a well-established Safety Advisory Group (SAG) with representatives from the Emergency Service (Police, Fire and Ambulance) and Transport Authorities. SAG members review all events being organised and provide further advice and guidance to ensure all events are delivered with high levels of safety and welfare.

Twelve events took place as part of the core 2025/26 programme, with attendance expected to reach 35,800, which is an 11% increase on 2024/25. The highlights include:

- The introduction of Beeston Summer Fete with a community parade through the town, homegrown produce and activities, attracting over 1,200 attendees.
- Friday18 returned in Beeston for eight weeks with a finale two-hour event. with a growing audience of over 1,000 people and a pilot event taking place across venues in Kimberley for seven weeks.
- Culture and Events Team being highlighted as gold standard for Event Safety Management by the county-wide Safety Advisory Group.

- Income of £37,278 is expected to have been generated by the end of the programme, which is an increase on 2024/25, which is used to support further enhancements to the event activities.

A full analysis of this year's event programme is shown in **Appendix 1**.

The annual budget for the Council's Events Programme is £112,000. This is supplemented with external contributions from event partners including Town and Parish Councils, County Council Divisional Funds and sponsorship to enhance the events. In 2025/26, a further £20,000 was secured from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to deliver additional Proms in the Park and outdoor theatre events.

Whilst the current event programme has consistently delivered successful and well-attended activities, its format has remained largely unchanged for a number of years and it is becoming increasingly vulnerable to the challenges of rising costs, inclement weather conditions and limited opportunities to engage with people across the whole year rather than just at peak times in the summer and leading up to Christmas.

With this in mind, the 2026/27 programme includes core events known and enjoyed by residents, but with some adjustments to keep the programme fresh and address the challenges faced. The proposed programme is detailed in **Appendix 2**.

The wider Communications, Cultural and Civic Services Team and other Council services also organise events throughout the year which enhance the event programme and a list of these is shown in **Appendix 3**.

#### 4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

#### 5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable

#### 6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

The total cost of the proposed events programme for 2026/27 is estimated at £167,900. The net cost to the Council, after external funding contributions, would be £137,500, which is an uplift of around £32,000 on the 2025/26 events

programme. If approved, the total cost and funding will be recognised as part of the budget setting process for 2026/27.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications arising from the report

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable

9. Union Comments

Not applicable

10. Climate Change Implications

Not applicable

Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment is shown in Appendix 4.

12. Background Papers

Nil.