

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL

DECISION OF: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

IN CONSULTATION WITH: CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LEISURE, CULTURE AND TOURISM AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE ORGANISATION POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

WITH ADVICE FROM: MONITORING OFFICER AND S151 OFFICER



DECISION NO: 19/20 DE 343

In light of the COVID 19 crisis it is proposed that the 2020 Weston super Mare Air Show due to take place in June is cancelled.

This decision is being taken under the urgency/emergency powers provided in the officer delegations in the Constitution – General Director powers para 2.2:

To take emergency action on behalf of the Council on any matter in cases of urgency or emergency with, wherever possible, prior consultation with the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services and the Executive Member and the Chairman of the appropriate Policy and Scrutiny Panel or Committee and Subject to a report as soon as possible afterwards to the appropriate body.

SUBJECT: WESTON SUPER MARE AIR FESTIVAL

KEY DECISION: YES

REASON: This decision is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the Local Authority.

BACKGROUND:

The Air Festival is an annual, weekend long, event taking place in June each year on the Weston seafront. It is a popular attraction drawing many thousands of people to the town. The event fills hotel bedrooms and causes a significant trading uplift for bars restaurants, seafront traders and concessionaires. The council also benefits from increased car parking income and improved trading the Bay Café and through the Tropicana bar.

The festival is supported by a £90,000 subsidy from the council. This pays for the air show itself. The military assets, such as the Red Arrows and professional flight control. For the past two years an events management company, Richmond Event Management (REM) have been employed to manage and coordinate the event. REM are engaged on the basis that they develop the show and earn their fees from income that they can generate from temporary traders, exhibitors and attractions who pay a fee to pitch on the beach lawns during the festival weekend.

The Air Festival is a recognised event on the British Air show circuit and has, particularly in recent years, attracted a great deal of media coverage both locally and nationally.

This year's festival is planned for the weekend of 27th 28th of June and work is already underway, both by REM and the council. It is believed however that a decision needs to be made on the feasibility of staging the event during a year which is being significantly affected by the Coronavirus.

Measures are already in place to restrict access to the seafront and the country is in a period of lockdown in order to control the spread of the virus. It seems unlikely that things will return to normal by June 2020.

DECISION:

To cancel the 2020 Weston super Mare Air Show.

REASONS:

Several major events have been cancelled in the United Kingdom and worldwide as part of the measures to control the Coronavirus. It seems highly unlikely that the virus will be under control by June 2020.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Postponement of the event until later in the year has been considered. This option has been discounted for the following reasons:

- The event would have to take place before winter, by the end of September at the latest. This does not allow enough time to re book the military assets as the lead times for this are very long.
- Without attractions such as the Red Arrows the event would be severely reduced and would become less attractive to traders, exhibitors and members of the public.
- A September event would interfere with the set up for the Weston Beach Race.
- There is no guarantee that the Coronavirus will be fully under control by September 2020

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The event is weather dependant and because of this the income can vary. The estimated saving of cancelling the event is approximately £45,000

The cancellation will also have a negative financial impact on the town, particularly amongst hoteliers, restaurants, seafront traders and concessions. This is difficult to quantify in financial terms, not least because these businesses are also directly negatively impacted by Covid-19 control measures.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

There are no contractual obligations at this time.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

CONSULTATION

There has been consultation with our event management partners REM and other local authorities who stage air show. There has also been consultation With the Weston super Mare BID.

RISK MANAGEMENT

There is minimal risk attached to this decision

EQUALITY IMPLICAIONS

No

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

None

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER:

Signed:  Director of Development and Environment

Date: 26 March 2020

With advice from:

Signed:  Monitoring Officer

Date: 26 March 2020.....


Signed:S151 Officer

Date: 26 March 2020

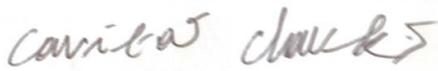
Consultees:



Signed:

Chief Executive

Date: 31 March 2020



Signed: ..
Tourism.

Executive Member for Leisure, Culture and

Date: 31 March 2020



Signed:

Chairman of the Community and corporate organisation policy and scrutiny panel

Date: 1st April 2020



Key decision items not included in the Forward Plan

Where a matter that is a key decision item has not been included in the Forward Plan, that decision may only be made where –

- (1) the relevant Director has informed the Chairman of the relevant Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panel or, if there is no such person, each Member of that Panel by notice in writing, of the matter about which the decision is to be made;
- (2) the relevant Director has made a copy of that notice publicly available at the offices of the Council and on the Council's Website. A copy of the notice should also be sent to all councillors for information;
- (3) at least five clear days have elapsed since the relevant Director complied with (1) and (2); and
- (4) if (3) cannot be complied with then the decision can only be taken if the decision taker (if an individual), or the Chairman of the body making the decision, obtains the agreement of the Chairman of the relevant Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panel that the taking of the decision is urgent and cannot be reasonably deferred. If there is no Chairman of the relevant Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panel or if the Chairman of each relevant Policy/Overview and Scrutiny Panel is unable to act, then the agreement of the Chairman of the Council, or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman, will suffice.

Notice of a key decision on an item not in the Forward Plan

To Councillor Steve Bridger being the Chairman of the Community and corporate organisation policy and scrutiny panel

A copy of this notice must be displayed at offices of the Council and published on the Council's website as soon as reasonably practicable after compliance with the above.

Take notice that Director of Development and Environment has made a key decision on:

19/20 DE343 Weston-super-Mare Air Festival that has not been included in the Forward Plan and we are unable to comply with (3) above. This decision will be taken by the Director of Development and Environment in consultation with the Executive Member for leisure, culture and tourism

This will be available to view on the council's website:

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-council/councillors/decisions/executive-member-decisions/2020-executive-member-decisions/march-2020-executive-member-decisions/>

Reasons why key decision was not included in the Forward Plan: This is an urgent decision is in response to Covid-19

Agreement of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel is required in accordance with (4) above
If agreement is required, the Chairman is requested to notify the Director accordingly.

I have had regard to and complied with (1) to (4) above.

If the item will also need to be considered as an urgent item, a reason for urgency will be required.

Signed



Director

Date 1 April 2020

Ref. – Constitution, Access to Information Procedure Rules, ss 14, 15.