

Item: 22

General Meeting of the Council: 8 December 2020

Natwest International Island Games – Orkney 2023.

Report by Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider continued commitment from the Council to financially support Orkney hosting the International Island Games should the Games be postponed to 2025.

2. Recommendations

The Council is invited to note:

2.1.

That, on 28 February 2017, when considering whether to make the financial commitment required to support a bid by the Orkney Island Games Association to host the 2023 International Island Games, the Policy and Resources Committee recommended:

- That the Council should financially support a bid by Orkney Island Games Association to host the 2023 Natwest International Island Games.
- That a sum no greater than £1M, to be met from the Strategic Reserve Fund, be made available to Orkney Island Games Association, towards Orkney hosting the 2023 Games.
- That the bid committee should submit a business case, highlighting risks and mitigation thereof, prior to submission of the formal bid to the International Island Games Association, for consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee no later than September 2017.

2.2.

That a master contract between the International Island Games Association and Orkney Island Games Association agreeing to Orkney hosting the 2023 Island Games was signed in July 2018, including signature by the Chief Executive of the Council.

2.3.

That grant funding conditions between the Council and the Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company were signed in July 2018.

2.4.

That, to date, the Council has paid a total of £22,157 to the Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company.

2.5.

That, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Island Games Association announced that there would be no Island Games in 2021.

2.6.

That all member islands were consulted on five potential options for when to next host the Island Games, as detailed in section 5.3 of this report.

2.7.

That the Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company's preferred option is Option 3, namely to hold the Island Games in 2023, 2025, 2027 and 2029.

2.8.

That the Scottish Government is content, in principle, to move its award of £500,000 to fund the Island Games in Orkney, confirmed in September 2017 by the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs to the Chairman of the International Island Games Association, to an event in 2025, rather than 2023.

2.9.

That the Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company is not seeking any additional funding from the Council in respect of an event in 2025, beyond the original funding committed in 2017.

It is recommended:

2.10.

That the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, together with the Head of Finance, should review the Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company's financial projections for an event to be held in 2025.

2.11.

That the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, in consultation with the Head of Finance and the Solicitor to the Council, should review and, where necessary, update the Grant Funding Conditions agreement between the Council and the Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company based on an event to be held in 2025.

2.12.

That, subject to the financial projections for an event to be held in 2025 being no less favourable than the projections for the proposed 2023 Games, the Council's financial support in respect of the 2023 International Island Games in Orkney be amended to support an Orkney Island Games in 2025.

3. Introduction

3.1.

At its meeting held on 28 February 2017, the Policy and Resources Committee noted:

- That the Natwest International Island Games (the Games) started in 1985 and ran on a biennial basis.
- That, on 5 December 2014, Orkney Island Games Association submitted an intention to bid letter to the International Island Games Association (IIGA) to host the 2023 Games.
- That the IIGA required a definite indication, by April 2017, if Orkney wished to host the 2023 Games or not, with a formal bid requiring to be submitted by September 2017.
- That, on 16 November 2016, the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee recommended:
 - That the principle of Orkney hosting the Natwest International Island Games in 2023 be approved.
 - That the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing should submit a report, to the Policy and Resources Committee, regarding the detailed financial implications to the Council of hosting the Island Games.
- That the total cost of Orkney hosting the 2023 Games was estimated at £1.279M, at today's prices.
- That the total cost to the Council of hosting the 2023 Games was currently estimated at £800K, with an inflated estimate of between £900K and £1M.
- Options available for funding the Games, as set out in section 8 of the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.
- The policy of presumption against new commitments, as set out in section 10.6 of the report by the Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing.

3.2.

The Committee recommended:

- That the Council should financially support a bid by Orkney Island Games Association to host the 2023 Natwest International Island Games.
- That a sum no greater than £1M, to be met from the Strategic Reserve Fund, be made available to Orkney Island Games Association, towards Orkney hosting the 2023 Games.

- That the bid committee should submit a business case, highlighting risks and mitigation thereof, prior to submission of the formal bid to the International Island Games Association, for consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee no later than September 2017.

4. Background

4.1.

In September 2017, the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs wrote to the Chairman of the International Island Games Association confirming the Scottish Government's support to fund the Island Games in Orkney to the value of £500,000.

4.2.

At the twenty eighth Annual General Meeting of the International Island Games Association held on 7 July 2018 Orkney was announced as the host island for the 2023 International Island Games by a unanimous vote.

4.3.

Following Orkney being awarded the 2023 International Island Games, a Master Contract between the International Island Games Association and Orkney Island Games Association was signed. The Master Contract was also signed by the Chief Executive of Orkney Islands Council recognising and approving the contract, that the Council was fully supportive of the Games taking place in Orkney in 2023 and that the income amount of £1,000,000 would be provided.

4.4.

Grant funding conditions between Orkney Islands Council and the Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company were signed in July 2019. The grant funding conditions were only for the period of the agreement which was from 1 April 2019 to 31 July 2023.

4.5.

It was agreed that funding be payable to the Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company in instalments which were linked to key milestones detailed in the grant funding conditions agreement. In line with the grant funding conditions agreement, the Council has received and paid two claims from the Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company totalling £22,157.

4.6.

The host island for the 2021 International Island Games is Guernsey.

4.7.

During the first months of 2020, COVID-19 was declared a pandemic and, in March 2020, Britain, along with large parts of Europe and the world, entered a lockdown to try and control the spread of the virus. Restrictions on travel, hosting large events and many other non-essential activities were put in place. Athlete training and preparation for major sporting events, such as the International Island Games, was also affected due to the closure of all sport and leisure facilities.

4.8.

Given the challenges posed across the world by the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Island Games Association, together with the Guernsey Organising Committee, announced that there would be no Island Games in 2021.

4.9.

As there are legal contracts in place with Guernsey and Orkney, the executive Committee of the International Island Games Association has been in communication with both organising companies to try and establish when the Island Games will next be held.

5. Options for when to hold the next Island Games

5.1.

The International Island Games Committee forwarded a questionnaire to all member islands requesting feedback on the following options:

- Option 1 – Hold the Island Games in 2022, 2023 then 2025 and 2027.
- Option 2 – Changing the hosting of the Island Games permanently to 2022, 2024, 2026.
- Option 3 - Hold the Island Games in 2023, 2025, 2027, 2029.
- Option 4 - 2022, 2024, 2025, 2027.
- Option 5 - 2022, 2024, 2027, 2029.

5.2.

The chair person of the Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company sent a letter to the Chairman of the International Island Games Association detailing potential positives and negative of the above options.

5.3.

The 2023 organising company strongly feel that there is a need for a minimum two year gap between Island Games, therefore if Guernsey were to postpone its event to 2022 Orkney would give consideration, subject to funding, to moving its event to 2024.

5.4.

However, given the continuing uncertainties relating to COVID-19, the Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company feel that a 1 year postponement would be a high risk strategy by Guernsey that could have potential negative financial implications and reputational damage for the Orkney Games.

5.5.

The preferred option, subject to funding, of the Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company is Option 3 which keeps the Island Games taking place on odd years, meaning that 2021 will be the only year without a Games.

5.6.

Option 3 would mean Guernsey hosting the Island Games in 2023 and Orkney hosting them in 2025.

5.7.

The International Island Games Association has indicated that it will make an announcement regarding when future games will be held at the beginning of December 2020.

6. Funding for 2025 Island Games

6.1.

Scottish Government is content in principle to move its award, referred to at section 4.1 above, to an event in 2025 rather than in 2023.

6.2.

EventScotland, the agency that manage and distribute the Scottish Governments award for the Island Games, has indicated that it does not anticipate any other approvals or permissions being required prior to confirming funding for a 2025 event, but will need to understand the financial projections for the 2025 event and establish a funding agreement.

6.3.

The Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company is not seeking any additional funding if the games are moved to 2025 other than that already approved by the Council in 2017 for the hosting of the 2023 Island Games.

7. Equalities Impact

The Equality Impact Assessment, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, was undertaken in respect of the report presented to the Policy and Resources Committee on 28 February 2017. At this stage there have been no changes to the original position. Any new Equality Impact Assessment may be undertaken as part of future plans.

8. Links to Council Plan

8.1.

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan strategic priority theme of Quality of Life.

8.2.

The proposals in this report relate directly to Priority 5.10, “Work with partners to support Orkney’s hosting of the 2023 Island Games”, of the Council Delivery Plan.

9. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priority of Strong Communities.

10. Financial Implications

10.1.

The report is seeking approval for the extension from 2023 to 2025, of an existing commitment by the Council to financially support by up to £1M, the Island Games being held in Orkney. The commitment of £1M is included in the ten-year budget projection for the Strategic Reserve Fund.

10.2.

With a two year delay there is a risk that costs will increase and the overall cost of running the games, previously estimated at £1.279M will be greater. The additional two years however will also afford the organising company a longer period for fundraising and to secure sponsorship for the games.

10.3.

The Council has paid £22,157 to the Orkney Island Games 2023 Organising Company to date.

10.4.

The Scottish Government has indicated in principle support to moving its award of £500,000 to the Island Games in Orkney from 2023 to 2025.

11. Legal Aspects

11.1.

In terms of section 14 of the Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Act 1982, the Council shall ensure that there is adequate provision of facilities for the inhabitants of their area for recreational, sporting, cultural and social activities.

11.2.

In terms of section 15(2) of the Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Act 1982, a local authority may provide or do, or arrange for the provision of or doing of, or contribute towards the expenses of providing or doing, anything necessary or expedient for the purpose of ensuring that there are available, whether inside or outside their area, such facilities for recreational, sporting, cultural or social activities as they consider appropriate.

11.3.

In terms of section 20 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, a local authority has power to do anything which it considers is likely to promote or improve the well-being of its area and/or persons within its area.

11.4.

The above legislation is the statutory basis for Orkney to host the Natwest International Island Games.

12. Contact Officers

James Wylie, Executive Director of Education, Leisure and Housing, extension 2401, Email james.wylie@orkney.gov.uk

Peter Diamond, Head of Education (Leisure, Culture and Inclusion), extension 2436, Email peter.diamond@orkney.gov.uk

Garry Burton, Sport and Leisure Service Manager, extension 2440, Email garry.burton@orkney.gov.uk

13. Appendix

Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment



Equality Impact Assessment

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is to improve the work of Orkney Islands Council by making sure it promotes equality and does not discriminate. This assessment records the likely impact of any changes to a function, policy or plan by anticipating the consequences, and making sure that any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised and positive impacts are maximised.

1. Identification of Function, Policy or Plan	
Name of function / policy / plan to be assessed.	Orkney to host the 2023 Natwest International Island Games.
Service / service area responsible.	ELH
Name of person carrying out the assessment and contact details.	Garry Burton garry.burton@orkney.gov.uk Ext 2440
Date of assessment.	20 th February 2017
Is the function / policy / plan new or existing? (Please indicate also if the service is to be deleted, reduced or changed significantly).	Orkney has never hosted the Natwest International Island Games, and as a result this proposal is new. It would not be lead by Orkney Islands Council. There would be an organising committee established and made up of volunteers.

2. Initial Screening	
What are the intended outcomes of the function / policy / plan?	That Orkney hosts the 2023 Natwest International Island Games
State who is, or may be affected by this function / policy / plan, and how.	A significant percentage of Orkney's population, due to the requirement of volunteers, catering, accommodation providers, transport providers and facility providers. Also all of Orkney's sporting community would be affected due to the requirement to have qualified coaches and officials, facility improvements and athlete development leading up to the games and beyond.
How have stakeholders been	The Orkney Island Games Association (OIGA)

involved in the development of this function / policy / plan?	held a workshop with all of Orkney's sports clubs to establish if "Orkney sport is up for the challenge of hosting the 2023 Island Games". A seminar regarding the Island Games has also taken place with members of the Council.
Is there any existing data and / or research relating to equalities issues in this policy area? Please summarise. E.g. consultations, national surveys, performance data, complaints, service user feedback, academic / consultants' reports, benchmarking (see equalities resources on OIC information portal).	The Natwest International Island Games is held biennially since their inception in 1985, each host island has produced reports, as well as the International Island Games Association holding participation information for each games, and guidance for islands wishing to host a games which provides standards, sports to be offered and general guidance.
Could the function / policy have a differential impact on any of the following equality strands?	(Please provide any evidence – positive impacts / benefits, negative impacts and reasons).
1. Race: this includes ethnic or national groups, colour and nationality.	No
2. Sex: a man or a woman.	No
3. Sexual Orientation: whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.	No
4. Gender Reassignment: the process of transitioning from one gender to another.	No
5. Pregnancy and maternity.	No
6. Age: people of different ages.	No
7. Religion or beliefs or none (atheists).	No
8. Caring responsibilities.	No
9. Marriage and Civil Partnerships.	No
10. Disability: people with disabilities (whether registered or not).	No

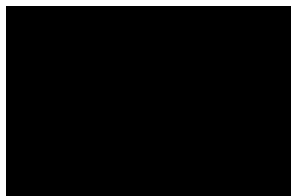
3. Impact Assessment

Does the analysis above identify any differential impacts which need to be addressed?	No
How could you minimise or remove any potential negative impacts?	N/A
Do you have enough information to make a judgement? If no, what information do you require?	yes

4. Conclusions and Planned Action

Is further work required?	Yes
What action is to be taken?	Possible report to the Policy and Resources Committee to identify funding.
Who will undertake it?	Sport and Leisure Service Manager
When will it be done?	February 2017
How will it be monitored? (e.g. through service plans).	Financial monitoring and overall project management will be undertaken by the games organising committee. There would also be regular reports to the Education Leisure and Housing Committee.

Signature:



Name: Garry Burton

Date: 20th February 2017

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Please sign and date this form, keep one copy and send a copy to HR and Performance. A Word version should also be emailed to HR and Performance at hrrsupport@orkney.gov.uk