

## **REPORT TO KINCARDINE AND MEARN'S AREA COMMITTEE – 27 FEBRUARY 2018**

### **USE OF MARKET SQUARE, STONEHAVEN AT HOGMANAY**

#### **1 Recommendations**

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- 1.1 agree to the request for the use of the Market Square Car Park in Stonehaven for a community run event on Hogmanay 2018.**
- 1.2 agree that the use of the car park is given free of charge as this event is to be run entirely for the benefit of the community, but that if there is a commercial profit to the organiser then the loss of car park income be recouped.**

#### **2 Background / Discussion**

- 2.1 On Hogmanay most years since 2000 have seen some form of event taking place in Market Square, Stonehaven. For a number of years this was a fairly low key free event run by volunteers. From 2012 – 2016 events were run by a local community group (Open Air in The Square) who charged entry to the event. Unfortunately these events did not manage to bring in the funds hoped for and the group folded in early 2017.
- 2.2 This led to an approach in 2017 by a commercial organisation. The Area Committee agreed to the use of the Square with all costs being recouped. Unfortunately, the event did not take place.
- 2.3 The Council has now been approached by a local resident who runs a DJ/events business to put on a family friendly event for the residents of Stonehaven. Detailed discussions are due to take place on the nature of this event but it is believed to be a not for profit event purely for the benefit of the community.
- 2.4 In the past the car park was provided free of charge when the event was promoted as a community event which would provide any surplus funds to local charities. Therefore Members are being asked to agree to provide the use of the Market Square Car Park again free of charge. However, if there is an element of profit for the event organiser business then it would be appropriate to recoup the lost car parking charges income.
- 2.5 Any proposed event will almost certainly require a Public Entertainment Licence which would have to be granted by the Council as licensing authority under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. This would be a separate matter to any agreement by the Council for the use of the car park in terms of this report. Allowing the use of the car park would not imply that a Public Entertainment Licence would be granted as different considerations apply.

- 2.6 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation. The Transportation Strategy Manager has also been consulted.

### **3 Scheme of Governance**

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section B.1.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to a matter specific to the Kincardine and Mearns Area not otherwise properly delegated to another Committee.

### **4 Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the activity will not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

- 4.2 There are no staffing implications.

- 4.3 There are potential financial implications to the Council through the loss of revenue from car park charges whilst the car park is closed for the event. Typically the car park makes an income of £100 per day inclusive of VAT.

In addition costs are incurred in preparing the necessary Traffic Order at £389 plus VAT and also signage on the A90 Trunk Road and within Stonehaven which based on historic costs has been around £600 plus VAT.

- 4.4 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: Budget pressures to Infrastructure Service budgets. No risks have been identified as relevant on a Strategic Level.
- 4.5 A Town Centre Impact Assessment was carried out and there are positive and negative impacts as follows:
- a) Negative – Potential increase of traffic in town centre due to closure of car park. Temporary loss of car parking which serves town centre businesses.
  - b) Positive – Potential increase in people visiting Stonehaven and spending money in the various businesses in the town centre.

**Stephen Archer**  
**Director of Infrastructure Services**



## TOWN CENTRE FIRST IMPACT ASSESSMENT (TCFIA)

Aberdeenshire Council recognises that town centres have an important role to play in the sustainable development of local economies.

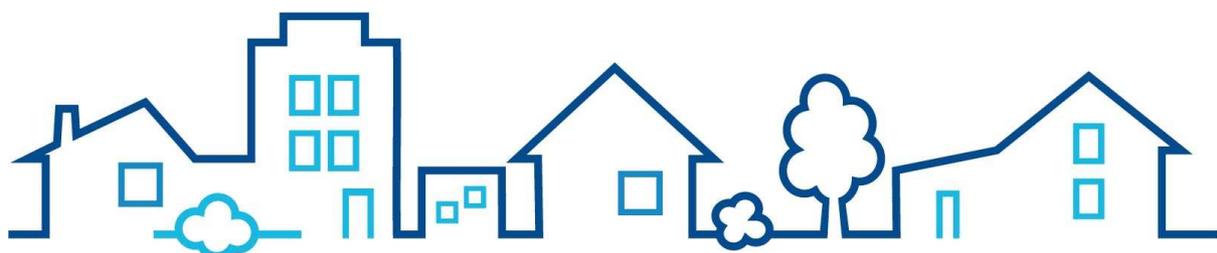
The Town Centre First Impact Assessment (TCFIA) allows officers in all services to identify the detrimental and beneficial effects that decisions we take may have on our town centres. It will allow officers to consider any implications that council decisions may have on Aberdeenshire's key town centres. Examples of this include changes to: the provision of civic and community facilities, employment land, retail, residential buildings, cultural assets, transportation, leisure and tourism.

A Town Centre Ambassador has been nominated within your service, you can locate your Town Centre First Ambassador through the Town Centre First Principle Arcadia pages.

Project Information	
Title of Committee Paper	Use of Market Square, Stonehaven
Service	Infrastructure
Department	Area Manager
Author	Diane Strachan
Have you consulted your Town Centre First Ambassador?	Yes

1) Could your Project Paper cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres? – Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Inverurie, Westhill, Stonehaven, Ellon, Portlethen, Banchory, Turriff, Huntly, Banff, Macduff.	
Yes – please specify Stonehaven	No

2) If approved would your project cause an impact (either positive or negative) with regards to the footfall of any of these town centres?	
Yes	



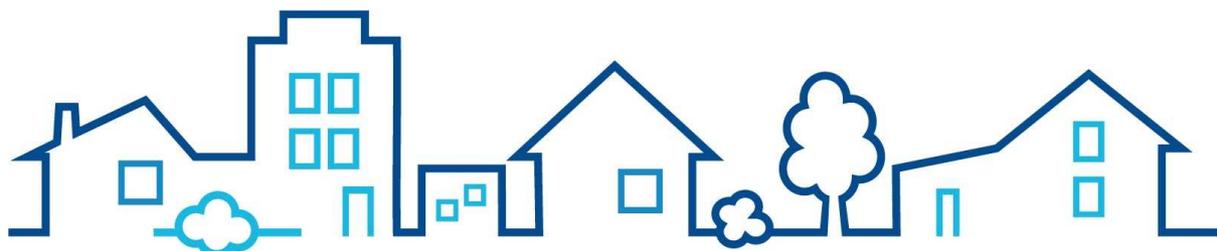


3)	
Please describe the aims of the committee paper?	The Committee report seeks approval to allow a community event to be held in the Market Square Car Park in the centre of Stonehaven.

4) What are the positive and negative impacts?		
Impact	Describe the positive impact?	Describe the negative impact?
Please detail any potential positive and negative impact the project may have on Aberdeenshire's Key Town Centres.	The will provide a family event for the residents of Stonehaven and the wider area. It has the potential to bring in increased trade to the businesses in the town centre including shops, bars, restaurants, hotels etc	Potential increase of traffic due to closure of town centre car park

5) What mitigating steps will be taken to reduce or remove negative impacts? If none see Q6	
Mitigating Steps	Timescale
An Event Safety Plan will be required which should include a Traffic Management Plan	September 2018

6) Set out the justification that the activity can and should go ahead despite the negative impact.
The Traffic Management Plan should help ensure any traffic congestion is kept to a minimum. There will be minimum disruption to the nearby business due to the closure of the car park as Hogmanay falls on a Monday therefore only affecting one day of business for most companies. However, there is also a resulting positive effect in bringing visitors into the town centre who will spend their cash in the nearby shops, restaurants, bars etc.





Question 7: Sign off and Authorisation	
3) <b>Author:</b> I have completed the TCIA impact assessment for this policy/ activity.	Name: Diane Strachan Position: Area Project Officer Date: 15 February 2018 Signature:
4) Consultation with Service Manager	Name: William Munro Position: Area Manager K&M Date: 15 February 2018
5) Authorisation by Director or Head of Service	Name: Stephen Archer Position: Director of Infrastructure Services Date: 15 February 2018
6) Have you consulted with your Town Centre First Ambassador?	Yes  
7) TCFIA author sends a copy of the finalised form to: tcfia@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Date Sent: 17/02/18

