

Harbour Committee

18 March 2025



Report of: Patsy Mellor - Director of Management of Place

Title: Harbour Events and Festivals

Ward: Hotwells and Harbourside, Centre, Lawrence Hill, Brislington East, St George Troopers Hill, Southville.

Officer Presenting Report: Head of Service – Harbour Authority

Recommendation To note the contents of this report.

Summary Harbour estate sites and water spaces accommodate a range of events, festivals, promotional and film location activities.

Corporate Event Site Permissions and Film location fees are applied as rental charges for the spaces.

The significant issues in the report are:

In 2024/25 the Harbour hosted fifty events that generated £81k of income and attracted 400k attendees.

21 Commercial land
19 Community land
2 Commercial water
6 Community water

There were fifteen cancellations.

At present there are fifty events provisionally booked for 2025/26.
Predicted income is £117k, attracting 430k attendees.

Sixteen are new proposals that are yet to be agreed. There have been nine cancellations. The expression of interest process is still open.

The Harbour Service KPI Events target for 2025/26 is 420k attendees.



1. Policy

State if not applicable

2. Consultation

Event Permissions processes involves an established format for consultation about events

Internal

- Safety Advisory Group for Events members (SAGE) Highways, transport network, Health and Safety, Site Permissions, Licencing and Public Health
- The booking of sites is coordinated with the Film Office, who also use harbour locations for Film locations and production base units.

External

- Safety Advisory Group for Events (SAGE)
Blue light services – Police, Fire, Ambulance
- Local residents and business are consulted through the Premises Licence and Site Permissions processes.

3. Context

It is expected that the full event programme will be scheduled by May 2025.

There are sixteen new event proposal for Harbour sites that are moving through the application consultation process.

Since COVID the national outdoor event industry is experiencing challenges. This is due to rising production costs and the cost-of-living situation that is negatively effecting ticket sales.

Attracting high quality commercial events is a competitive process. There is a need to ensure that the event sites are fit for purpose and well maintained.

Harbour and all other event applications are subject to a City Events rating system scoring criteria. This assesses how an event delivers on sustainability, inclusion and diversity, economic and social impact. Events that do not meet a basic standard can be supported with improving standards or refused permission.

The scheduled Amphitheatre site power supply improvement work will ensure that organisers are enable events to operate in accordance with sustainability guidance.

Harbour site event income represents 85% of the total site fees. BCC City Events Team retains the balance to offset their operational costs. The team promote the available locations, attract commercial event operators and administer the event applications, safety group and permission process.

As a council and Business Improvement Districts (BID) funded event, The Harbour Festival does not generate any site income fees for the Harbour Service. The economic impact for the city is estimated to be circa £5m

In September 2025, the Amphitheatre will also host a Women Rugby World Cup event.

The Events Team is working closely with the Harbour Service and the Festival event organiser to explore increasing the level of income that can be generated from mooring fees from boats that visit the festival.

BCC Film Office promote the available Film Unit and locations for suitable use and administer the permission process. A Service level agreement is in place for provision of these service which include a 50% of unit or location fee payment to the Harbour Service. In 2024/25 this activity generated £40k are income for the Harbour. Filming activities are scheduled around event use.

4 Proposal

N/A update for information and committee feedback for consideration.

5. Other Options Considered

6. Risk Assessment

All permitted events provide comprehensive risk assessment and management plans that are scrutinised by the SAGE Group.

7. Summary of Equalities Impact of the Proposed Decision

The City Events application rating system includes are scoring criteria that assesses their equalities and diversity policy and procedures.

8. Legal and Resource Implications

N/A

9. Land

N/A

10. Personnel

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None