

## Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	10/08/15
Originator	Christine Dora
Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	Safety at public events

Please indicate if access to the document is to be "unrestricted" or "restricted", with regard to the terms of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

Unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	-------------------------------------	------------	--------------------------

If the document is "restricted", please state on what grounds (click on grey area for drop-down menu):

For Publication
-----------------

Please indicate which committee this document should be recorded into (click on grey area for drop-down menu):

East Lothian Council
----------------------

Additional information:

This document is a response on behalf of the Council to the COSLA Safety at Public Events Working Group - the group's request is also included for ease of reference.

Authorised By	Tom Shearer
Designation	Head of Communities and Partnership
Date	11/08/15

For Office Use Only:	
Library Reference	140/15
Date Received	11/08/15
Bulletin	Aug15

Safety at Public events working group – survey to local authorities

<b>Questions to local authorities</b>	
1. Does your local authority already have a Safety Advisory Group process or equivalent multi-agency planning group in place?	
<i>Please provide detail:</i>	
<p><i>East Lothian Council has brought together an Event Planning and Operations Group (EPOG) for significant events such as the 142<sup>nd</sup> Open at Muirfield in 2013 and the recently completed Scottish Open in July 2015. Both EPOGs were chaired by a senior Council official. The Council also takes part in EPOGs established for other major events within East Lothian such as the annual East Fortune Airshow.</i></p> <p><i>However we have not had a standing group looking in the round at significant events taking place in the county, or defining which events require special attention in terms of event safety.</i></p>	
<hr/>	
2. If not, is this something you would consider adopting?	<b>Yes</b>
<i>Please provide detail:</i>	
<p><i>We are beginning to review our processes in relation to Events Planning, seeking to deliver a consistent approach to event safety and encourage event organisers to build safety into their planning.</i></p> <p><i>We would consider adopting the recommended activities of a SAG but not necessarily to have a standalone group. It may be possible to deliver the activities of a SAG through modifying the responsibilities of an existing group. The Council is involved with a multiplicity of multi-agency and partnership groups and it may be appropriate to look at the remit of one of these groups to make sure that the relevant responsibilities are formally covered in its planning and activities.</i></p>	
<hr/>	
3. What challenges would your local authority face in adopting a SAG process?	
<i>Please provide detail:</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Resource</b> <i>We anticipate that running such a group would require extra resource, at a time when the Council has been facing significant resource reduction.</i></li> <li>2. <b>Limited powers of compulsion</b>, <i>leaving organisers free to ignore advice.</i></li> <li>3. <b>Other people's perception of responsibility</b> <i>on the part of the local authority whereas responsibility should rest squarely with the event organiser.</i></li> </ol>	
<hr/>	
4. Do you have any further comments on the draft recommendations of the group? (draft document attached)	
<i>Please provide detail:</i>	
<p><i>We would recommend national guidance for the safe running of events, to ensure consistency of approach among local authorities and to allow a level playing field for authorities of different sizes who will be in competition with each other to attract events. It would not be appropriate for event organisers to have the choice of siting their event in an area because it has less stringent public safety requirements than other areas. Also, larger authority areas can resource Events departments more easily than smaller authorities, but all should have access to good advice and guidance.</i></p>	

*The Council is currently reviewing its definitions of events that require a licence under the Civic Government (S) Act 1982, and it could be that tying events more closely into the licensing regime would deliver better control.*

5. Do you have any examples of best practice you would like to share with the group?

*Please provide detail / attachments as appropriate:*

*The existence of event-specific EPOGs has been useful, and we have learned from our experiences, so as to deliver even better event the following year (for example in our planning for this year's Scottish Open following on last year's British Open, we were able to improve information about, and facilities for travel to, local businesses.*

6. Please provide contact details for a lead individual within your local authority for any further correspondence from the Safety at Public Events Working Group.

*Tom Shearer is Head of Communities and Partnerships: [tshearer@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:tshearer@eastlothian.gov.uk)*

Angela Leitch  
Chief Executive  
East Lothian Council

10 August 2015