

Leeds Festival 2023 Debrief

Date: Tuesday, 21st November 2023

Report of: Chief Officer Elections and Regulatory

Report to: Licensing Committee

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief Summary

Leeds Festival (“the Festival”) takes place each August Bank Holiday at Bramham Park.

The Festival is authorised under a Premises Licence (“the Licence”), granted under the Licensing Act 2003 and issued by the Licensing Authority to Festival Republic Limited (“Festival Republic”) in 2006.

The Licence is subject to a condition that the Event Management Plan and any revisions to the Event Management Plan must be approved by the Licensing Authority prior to the Festival.

Following the Festival a debrief meeting is held through the Safety Advisory Group, followed by a debrief before the Licensing Committee.

The licensing regime contributes to Best City Priorities 2020-25 (see the [latest version available here](#)):

- Culture
- Safe, Strong communities
- Inclusive Growth

Recommendations

The Licensing Committee is asked to hear from Mr Melvin Benn and representatives of Festival Republic and partners of the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) following the Leeds Festival 2023.

Members may consider it appropriate for the public to be excluded from part of the meeting to allow Mr Benn of Festival Republic and other attendees to provide Members with confidential information associated with the Festival which falls under the Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3), as it includes information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person or organisation; and/or Rule 10.4 (7), information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime and in each case in all the circumstances of the matter the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

The Licensing Committee is to receive a debrief following Leeds Festival 2023 in the form of a verbal report from Mr Benn of Festival Republic and from partners of the Safety Advisory Group (SAG), which includes representatives from the following agencies:

- West Yorkshire Police
- Security Industry Authority
- West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service
- Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- LCC Public Health
- Highways England
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
- LCC Highways and Urban Traffic Control
- LCC Environmental Health
- LCC Health & Safety/Building Control
- LCC Cleansing
- LCC Entertainment Licensing
- LCC Safety Advisory Group representative

In addition, the Licensing Committee may hear from representatives of the ward/parish council working group.

History

- 1) The Licence for Bramham Park was granted in 2006.
- 2) The Licence is subject to a condition that an Event Management Plan (“EMP”) and any revisions to the EMP must be approved by the Licensing Authority prior to the Festival.

The EMP sets out all arrangements for the event which contribute to the licensing objectives:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
 - The prevention of public nuisance;
 - Public safety; and
 - The protection of children from harm.
- 3) The EMP is uploaded by the document owner to Resilience Direct, a secure national government platform for the storing of sensitive documents and information. Resilience Direct is accessible to all partners of the Leeds Safety Advisory Group (“SAG”) co-ordinated by the Leeds City Council’s Resilience & Emergencies Team.
 - 4) Members of the Licensing Committee were granted access to Resilience Direct, strictly for the purpose of accessing the current version of the EMP and subject to maintaining the confidential nature of that information.
 - 5) In August 2023, after receiving information in preparedness of the 2023 Festival from Mr Benn and SAG partners, the Licensing Committee resolved to delegate approval of the final EMP to the Chief Officer, Elections and Regulatory.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: Wetherby & Harewood

Have ward members been consulted? Yes

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 6) The original premises licence application approved in April 2006 was subject to the formal consultation process as prescribed by the Licensing Act 2003, including consultation with designated responsible authorities and public notice.
- 7) The 2023 EMP was accessible via Resilience Direct to Licensing Committee Members and partners of the Safety Advisory Group.
- 8) The final EMP was subsequently approved by the Chief Officer, Elections and Regulatory, on the 22nd August 2023 following consultation with all SAG partners.
- 9) On-site multi-agency meetings took place throughout the duration of the festival, and a formal debrief meeting was held on the 6th October 2023.
- 10) A traffic sub-group debrief was held on the 5th October 2023.
- 11) Local residents are engaged through the ward/parish council working group, a debrief meeting of which was held on the 12th September 2023.

What are the resource implications?

- 12) No resource implications for the licensing authority have been identified.

What are the legal implications?

- 13) Members may consider it appropriate for the public to be excluded from part of the meeting to allow Mr Benn and other attendees to provide Members with confidential information associated with the Festival which fall under the Access to Information Procedure Rules: specifically Rule 10.4(3) (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person); and Rule 10.4 (7) (information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime) and, in each case, whether, in all the circumstances of the matter, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
- 14) The Licence is subject to the following condition:

“The Event Management Plan and any revisions to the Event Management Plan must be approved by the Licensing Authority prior to the Festival.”
- 15) There is no scope for the Licence to be amended, suspended, or revoked under the recommendations in this report.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 16) There are no key risks identified.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

- a. Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 17) The Festival will bring benefits to the region supporting the City's economy and highlighting Leeds as a place to visit. Attracting up to 89,999 attendees, some of whom will visit the City's hospitality and retail sector, stay in accommodation, and use public transport. For many it will be their first experience of Leeds and they may return later to enjoy the City.
- 18) A range of welfare and wellbeing services are available throughout the site provided by several voluntary/social care agencies.
- 19) Festival Republic has responded to the climate emergency by introducing composting, recycling and reusable energy source in all possible situations throughout the site, widely promoting "No Music on a Dead Planet". An eco-campsite was introduced for 2022 with aspirations to expand year on year.
- 20) A sub-group involving Licensing Committee Members and Festival Republic's Sustainability Team has been established to consider options for enhancing the salvage operation.
- 21) The traffic management plan includes an extensive shuttle bus service which frequently runs between Leeds City Centre and the festival site with additional services during times of peak demand. A limited service is also provided to the North of the City.

Options, timescales and measuring success

- 22) De-brief meetings of the SAG and Ward/Parish Council working group have taken place which provide the event organiser with key information to take away and build on for the next festival.
- 23) The draft EMP for 2024 will be uploaded to Resilience Direct by February 2024, to be followed by the next series of SAG partner meetings and specialist sub-groups.

Appendices

None

Background papers

None