

MAJOR EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME 2012-13: UPDATES

Executive summary

1. The SPCB agreed the Major Events and Exhibitions Programme for 2012-13 at their meeting on Wednesday 21 December 2012.
2. The Major Events and Exhibitions Programme aims to support the Scottish Parliament strategic priorities through supporting Members and engaging with the public and it also strongly supports the top line objectives of the Parliament's Public Engagement Strategy by increasing levels of awareness and understanding of the Parliament's role and remit amongst the public in Scotland and building confidence that the Parliament is "everyday accessible" for the people of Scotland.
3. This Paper seeks the SPCB's approval on a series of events to support the Scotch Whisky Association's 100th anniversary exhibition (28 November 2012 - 26 January 2013) which has already been approved by the SPCB and its consideration of a request for a major event to be added to the Major Events and Exhibitions Programme 2012-13.

Timing

4. Decisions are required to allow planning to progress.

Issues and options

5. Annual planning for events has allowed us to take a considered and measured approach to planning events and supported us, in a climate of austerity, to make a more efficient use of resources.
6. Approximately 450 MSP-sponsored events and exhibitions and major events and exhibitions take place on an annual basis.

Discussion

7. The Scotch Whisky Association's 100th anniversary exhibition - *Scotch Whisky: From Grain to Glass* - has already been approved by the SPCB. This Paper seeks the SPCB's approval on the series of events to support and run alongside the exhibition (**Annex 1**).
8. We have received an approach from Jean Urquhart MSP for the Parliament to host a Women's Parliament in the Debating Chamber to mark International Women's Day 2013. The event is proposed in conjunction with Engender and would represent an addition to the already agreed 2012-13 Major Events and Exhibitions Programme (**Annex 2**).

Resource Implications

9. All costs for the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) events would be met by the SWA with the exception of the Family Weekend which would be met from budgets already allocated. All costs for the Women's Parliament proposal would be met by the organisers.

Publication Scheme

10. This Paper can be published once the information about the events within the Programme is made public.

Decision

11. The SPCB is asked to consider this Paper and its associated annexes and to note the series of events proposed to support the Scotch Whisky Association's 100th anniversary exhibition *Scotch Whisky: From Grain to Glass* and agree that the proposal for a Women's Parliament should not take place in 2013.

EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS TEAM

September 2012

THE SCOTCH WHISKY ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION *SCOTCH WHISKY: FROM GRAIN TO GLASS*

Background

1. The SPCB has approved the Scotch Whisky Association's 100th anniversary exhibition *Scotch Whisky: From Grain to Glass* which will be exhibited in the Main Hall from Wednesday 28 November 2012 to Saturday 26 January 2013.
2. The organisers in partnership with teams from across the Scottish Parliament have developed proposals for a series of events to support the exhibition.

Discussion

3. Events to support exhibitions are a good way of attracting visitors to an exhibition and increase the reach of the exhibition to a broader audience.
4. As always for Parliament hosted exhibitions the Presiding Officers will host a preview reception for MSPs and other invited guests prior to the exhibition opening to the public on Wednesday 28 November. For this exhibition, it is proposed that another reception (date to be confirmed) will be hosted by Mary Scanlon MSP, Co-convenor, Cross Party Group on Scotch Whisky that will focus upon the importance of engagement between the Scottish Parliament, the Scotch Whisky Association, the whisky industry and other stakeholders.
5. A series of education events designed for school groups visiting the Parliament organised in conjunction with the Parliament's Education Team and the Scotch Whisky Research Institute. They would aim to discuss and educate on the science of whisky and would be as interactive as possible with demonstrations. They would look at three potential areas physics - *Distillation: the separation of liquids* (session will use different coloured liquids to show how liquids separate at varying temperatures); chemistry - *Aromas: How sensitive is your nose?* (session would look at a range of different smells and how your nose reacts to various odours); and biology – *Fermentation: the yeast effect* (session will look at yeast growth and what happens during fermentation).
6. As with previous Parliament exhibitions it is proposed to organise a series of evening lectures (dates to be confirmed) that would talk about the importance of Scotch whisky and its international success. However given the topic under discussion it is proposed that following the lectures there would be a whisky tasting. Proposed speakers include Liz Lochhead; Master Blenders Bill Lumsden and Rachel Barrie; Brand Ambassador Ludo Durcrocq; Andy Davidson from Glencairn Glass and writer Ian Buxton. The lectures would be open to MSPs and the public.
7. In addition to the evening lectures it is also proposed that we would organise two film nights and whisky tastings (dates to be confirmed) using the Members' Restaurant. The proposed films are *Whisky Galore* and *Angels*

8. *Share.* These screenings would take place in the Members' Restaurant and would be open to MSPs and the public.
9. It is also proposed that a cooper would come to the exhibition and give a demonstration to the public - cask demonstrations – (this would be aimed at people of all ages) in “the cooperage” section of the exhibition showing how casks come apart and are hammered back together into shape to be used again without nails. This would be an educational event and would show how a craft is still as relevant today as it was over 100 years ago. There is a possibility that this session could be interactive. It would also highlight the importance of apprenticeships, which all coopers must complete. Health and Safety requirements and noise levels will need to be considered in the organisation of this demonstration if it goes forward.
10. The SPCB is asked to note that to coincide with St Andrew's weekend officials will be working on a Family Day of events on Saturday 1 December aimed at families and inspired by the exhibition. Current thinking is that we will explore a partnership with the Glasgow Science Centre looking at a series of events inspired by the science of distilling specifically targeting families.

Resources

11. All costs associated with all the events listed above in paragraphs 4 to 9 will be met by the Scotch Whisky Association. Costs for St Andrews weekend family events will be met from within the existing Corporate Events and Exhibitions budget.

Recommendation

12. As the exhibition is already approved and events around the exhibition are likely to engage the public further with the exhibition and the Parliament it is recommended that the SPCB approves the proposed series of events to support the Scotch Whisky Association's 100th anniversary exhibition *Scotch Whisky: From Grain to Glass*.

Decision

13. The SPCB is asked to consider this annex and approve this series of events listed above in paragraphs 4 to 9 as part of the programme of events to support the exhibition as part of the Major Events and Exhibitions Programme.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT 2013

Background

1. Officials have received an approach from Jean Urquhart MSP for the Parliament to host a Women's Parliament in the Debating Chamber to mark International Women's Day 2013.
2. The event is proposed in conjunction with Engender. Engender works to ensure that Scotland a fairer, safer place where women can flourish and contribute to all areas of life with dignity, freedom and justice.

Discussion

3. The idea stems from the Engender Conference 2012 and its seminar series looking at the implication of constitutional change for women; the work of the Scottish Women's Budget Group; and its input to various working groups.
4. The purpose of the event is three fold. The event aims to reflect upon what might happen if women had equal representation in Scotland. Secondly the events seeks to engage women who want to see a different (equal Scotland) in a parliamentary style debate over what they think needs to change. Thirdly the event proposes a debate between 'the Feminist Party' on one side and the 'Status Quo Party' (existing politicians on the other). The debates would focus upon the need for alternative economic models and what constitutional reform means for women.
5. It is proposed that speakers for the 'Feminist Party' would include Dr Ailsa Mackay; Jackie Waring; Emma Ritch; Linda Somerville; Marsha Scott; Maggie Kelly; Nina Murray; Sandy Brindley and Lily Greenan. It is proposed that speakers for the 'Status Quo party' would be drawn from female MSPs representing different political parties and a number of parliamentary committees.
6. Officials indicated to the organisers the SPCB's existing commitment to the Scottish Women's Convention for an event to mark International Women's Day and suggested that they may all wish to work together. The organisers have indicated that whilst the two organisations can and do work well together that this event could not be a joint event between the two organisations.

Recommendation

7. Although the proposal is unique in its approach and format the Parliament already marks International Women's Day through an annual event with the Scottish Women's Convention and as such given the existing commitments supporting this event we would recommend that this new proposal is not approved as part of the Major Events and Exhibitions Programme for March 2013. However, we would also recommend that parliamentary officials further discuss this proposal with Engender and Scottish Women's Convention to see

whether they could work together in the future to organise an event at the Scottish Parliament to mark International Women's Day.

Decision

8. The SPCB is asked to consider this proposal and agree that given existing commitments for an event to mark International Women's Day that the new proposal is not approved as part of the Major Events and Exhibitions Programme 2012-13.