

MAJOR EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME 2012-13: UPDATE

Executive summary

1. This Paper seeks the SPCB's agreement for an additional event to be added to the 2012-13 Major Events and Exhibitions Programme (MEEP). The SPCB approved the MEEP for 2012-13 at its meeting on Wednesday 21 March 2012. The event proposed is a Public Petitions Committee event in the Debating Chamber chaired by the Presiding Officers on a Friday morning in March 2013.
2. The Public Petitions Committee requests approval to use the Debating Chamber chaired by the Presiding Officers for this event as part of its consideration of two long-running public petitions on school bus safety. The SPCB will recall that the previous Public Petitions Committee held a very successful event in the Debating Chamber on knife crime. The current Public Petitions Committee is keen to undertake a similar event.
3. The updated draft MEEP for 2012-13 for the SPCB to consider is attached at **Annex A**.

Issues and Options

4. Although Committees are consulted in the development of the MEEP, the work programmes and priorities of Committees can and do change as business evolves.
5. Work on these petitions to date by the Public Petitions Committee has resulted in the Scottish Government entering into talks with the UK Government about devolving powers relating to school bus safety. The Public Petitions Committee is keen to progress the issues raised in the petitions and is seeking to bring all interested parties and stakeholders together to debate the issues raised, share best practice and agree ways in which improvements can be expedited.
6. At its business planning event 30 August 2012 the Public Petitions Committee agreed to seek approval to use the Debating Chamber for an event as part of its consideration of the petitions. The Committee originally hoped to be able to hold the event before the end of the year. After discussions between the clerks and the Events and Exhibitions Team and taking into account the risk of difficulties for attendees with travel/weather conditions in December it was agreed that March 2013 might be better. The intention is that the event take place on a Friday morning and lunch be provided. **Annex B** sets out further information on who the Committee would intend to invite and the proposed format for the event.

The SPCB is asked to consider this request and to agree that on this occasion the Public Petitions Committee event on school bus safety is added to the MEEP 2012-13.

7. In order to reduce the impact directly on the Events and Exhibitions Team and other teams supporting major events, much of the work will be undertaken by the clerking team of the Public Petitions Committee.

The SPCB is asked to note this and agree that the Public Petitions Committee clerking team assist the Events and Exhibitions Team and other teams to deliver a successful Debating Chamber event which will inform the Committee's consideration of the petitions, share best practice and raise awareness in relation to school bus safety.

Resource Implications

8. Given the number of major events and exhibitions already approved for the 2012-13 Programme, as noted already, much of the organising work will be undertaken by the clerking team. As the event will be part of the Committee's formal Parliamentary consideration of these petitions, the intention is that both Broadcasting and Official Report resources will be required.
9. The costs associated for this event including hospitality, Audio-visual and travel and subsistence costs for delegates will be met from budgets already allocated to the Corporate Events and Exhibitions budget.

Governance issues

10. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out on this proposal if the SPCB approve this event as part of the MEEP 2012-13.

Publication Scheme

11. This paper should not be published until the details of the event, including the participation of key stakeholders, has been confirmed and made public.

Next steps

12. Once the SPCB has made its decision the Events and Exhibitions Team will work with the Public Petitions Committee clerking team and take forward all the necessary planning.

Decision

13. The SPCB is asked to agree that the event is included in the updated MEEP 2012-13 and that the event take place in the Debating Chamber chaired by the Presiding Officers.

**Events and Exhibitions Team
October 2012**

MAJOR EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME 2012-13

Date	Event / Exhibition	Type	Location
May 2012			
Friday 4	Scottish Communities Alliance Conference	Conf	DC
Monday 14	SEET: Euroquiz	Quiz	DC
Thursday 17	Scottish Opera	Con	MH
Friday 25	Horizon 2020 Conference	Conf	DC
June 2012			
Thursday 7	Business in the Parliament Dinner	Din	GL
Friday 8	Business in the Parliament Conference	Conf	DC
Sun 10 to Wed 13	BIMR Regional Conference	Conf	Various
Monday 11	John Smith Fellows	Din	MR
Thursday 14	Dewar Debate	Deb	DC/GL
July 2012			
Wednesday 4	World Press Photo Exhibition Preview Reception	Rec	MH
Thursday 5 to Saturday 28	World Press Photo Exhibition	Exhib	MH
Wed 25 to Saturday 28	BIPRA Conference	Conf	Various
August 2012			
Friday 10 to Sat 8 Sept	Special Delivery: The William Wallace Letters Exhibition	Exhib	MH
Monday 13 & Tuesday 14	Edinburgh International Culture Summit	Conf	Various
Wednesday 15	Special Delivery: The William Wallace Letters Launch Reception	Rec	MH
Friday 17 and Saturday 18	Festival of Politics 2012	Fest	Various
Friday 24 and Saturday 25	Festival of Politics 2012 incl. Young Person's Day	Fest	Various
October 2012			
Monday 1	Carers Parliament	Conf	DC
Wednesday 24	Poppyscotland Reception	Rec	GL
Saturday 27	UIYSP Conference	Conf	Various
Wednesday 31	Childline 25 th Anniversary	Rec	GL
November 2012			
Friday 16	S6 Modern Studies Summit	Conf	DC
Wednesday 28	Scotch Whisky: From Grain to Glass Preview Reception	Rec	MH
Thurs 29 to Friday 25 Jan	Scotch Whisky: From Grain to Glass Exhibition	Exhib	MH
December 2012			
Saturday 1	St Andrew's Weekend inc. Gaelic Language Day 2012	Various	Various
Monday 3	St Andrew's Day Debate	Deb	DC
Wednesday 19	Carol Service	Service	GL/MH
January 2013			
Wednesday 23	Consular Corps Burns Supper	Dinner	MH/MR
February 2013			
w/b Monday 4	Large Hadron Collider	Exhib	MH
w/b Monday 18	Environment Week	Various	CR/GL
March 2013			
	Public Petitions Committee School Bus Safety	Conf	DC
Friday 1 and Saturday 2	Scottish Youth Parliament Spring Sitting	Conf	DC/CR
Saturday 9	International Women's Day	Conf	GL/DC

Background

1. The Public Petitions Committee, and its predecessor Committee, have actively pursued issues raised in two petitions related to safety on and of school buses through the consideration of petitions PE1098 and PE1223. These petitions raise concerns about seatbelts, signage and lighting. The Committee has been instrumental in opening up lines of communication between the Scottish Government and the UK Government on devolving relevant powers to the Scottish Parliament.
2. The Committee has been advised that it may take some considerable time to implement any powers after they are devolved. Meantime, the Committee is keen to bring parties together to establish what measures could be progressed more quickly.
3. There are variations in how local authorities use the existing powers available to them to ensure the safety of pupils travelling to school in their areas. Holding such an event in the Chamber will, it is hoped, create the opportunity and the momentum for all interested parties to debate the issues and barriers to improvement, share best practice and where appropriate agree a consistent approach and the best way forward.

Format for event

4. It is proposed to invite key stakeholders to participate in the debate which will include:
 - Petitioner
 - Minister for Transport and Veterans / Transport Scotland officials
 - Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's languages
 - Education and Culture Committee members
 - Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee members
 - Representatives from all local authorities
 - Association of Chief Police Officers (Scotland)
 - Scottish Youth Parliament representatives
 - School pupil representatives
 - YoungScot
5. As a Debating Chamber event one of the Presiding Officers will chair the event. The Convener of the Public Petitions Committee will summarise the history of the petitions. The relevant Ministers would be invited to contribute. The Petitioner would be invited to speak and explain his reasons for bringing forward his petition and invitations would be sent to all local authorities requesting short statements on their current policies. Representatives from the Scottish Youth Parliament and school pupils who travel by bus would be invited to give their perspectives and ACPOS would be invited to comment on enforcement.