

Decision Maker: EXECUTIVE

Date: Wednesday 12 January 2022

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Key

Title: PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Contact Officer: Lydia Lee, Assistant Director Culture and Regeneration
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Chief Officer: Director of Housing, Planning, Property and Regeneration

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

HM Queen's national Platinum Jubilee celebrations are planned to take place 2nd to 5th June 2022. The London Borough of Bromley will be marking this through a local programme of events as well as by taking part in the national celebrations. This report sets out all activity strands and asks the Executive for budget approval.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That Members of the Executive:

2.1 Note the contents of this report and the borough's Platinum Jubilee programme of activities.

2.2 Approves drawdown and spend of up to £105,500 from the Investment to Community Fund earmarked reserve to deliver the Platinum Jubilee programme.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The events and activities will be delivered across the borough and accessible to all Bromley residents.
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Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: £105.5k
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost
 3. Budget head/performance centre: N/a
 4. Total current budget for this head: £0
 5. Source of funding: Investment to Community Fund earmarked reserve
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 1 new temporary dedicated Events Manager
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: c.750 hours
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None
 2. Call-in: Applicable
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: The procurement implications in this report can be authorised at an officer level.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): all borough residents
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 In June 2022 the nation will be celebrating HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This report sets out the measures the London Borough of Bromley is taking to celebrate this important occasion.
- 3.2 The decision has already been taken by the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services to waive road closure fees in relation to street parties for 'The Big Jubilee Lunch'. Applications for road closures from community and resident groups are required to be submitted by February 2022 to ensure they are processed in time for the June bank holiday weekend.
- 3.3 In addition to enabling community street parties across the borough, the borough will participate in: the national beacon lighting and Queen's Green Canopy; deliver a cultural activity programme; make small grants available for the decoration of High Streets and local shopping parades; host a Thanksgiving Service and reception; host an outdoor concert or televise the Party at the Palace event; name a road to commemorate the occasion; and deliver an Access to Sport week for disadvantaged young people.
- 3.4 Officers have been in contact with the borough's Uniformed Groups, and both the Scouts and the Air Cadets would like to support the boroughs Platinum Jubilee activities. Once the programme is agreed we will work with them to identify the details of their involvement.

Events Manager

- 3.5 The Platinum Jubilee programme will be cross-departmental with officers across the Council contributing to its delivery. Its coordination will be managed by the Culture and Regeneration division, and therefore a temporary resource is required in this team to manage the programme.
- 3.6 At the time of writing this report a temporary six-month Events Manager post had been advertised with interviews scheduled to take place before Christmas. The cost to the Council of this fixed term post will be £25k.

National events: lighting of the beacon and Queen's Green Canopy

- 3.7 There is a long unbroken tradition in the UK of celebrating Royal Jubilees through the lighting of beacons. London boroughs are invited to take part in this tradition through the lighting of a beacon on Thursday 2nd June 2022 at 9.15pm. There is an option for music, which has been specially written for the occasion, to accompany the lighting.
- 3.8 The beacon can either be a freestanding beacon fuelled by bottle gas, a beacon brazier or a bonfire beacon. The location of the beacon will be Crystal Palace Park as set out by the organising committee. The proceeding music is 'Diu Regnare', a piece written for a solo piper or pipe band. Additionally it is being encouraged for choirs to sing a particular song, which is yet to be chosen, at the moment the beacon is lit.
- 3.9 The cost of the beacon lighting and accompanying music has been estimated at £7k. It should be noted that the lighting of each beacon is expected to attract a large audience and therefore the management of the crowd and any facilities will need to be considered. This could generate significant additional cost, however officers will aim to work with partner organisations to ensure that any additional costs are mitigated by income generation at the event.
- 3.10 The second national initiative is the Queen's Green Canopy. All places, organisations and individuals are being encouraged to plant a tree between October 2021 and March 2022, and/or between October and December 2022.

3.11 The Council's Environment and Community Services Division will be overseeing the mapping of all trees planted by the Council and its partners during this period on the Queen's Green Canopy national digital map. The Lord-Lieutenant presented 32 English Oak tree saplings to London's Mayors at a special presentation in Hyde Park on the 17th November 2021, and the Council is planting this Oak as part of this initiative.

Cultural activity programme

3.12 A cultural activity programme themed around the Platinum Jubilee will be delivered through a cross-section of libraries focussing on Bromley Central Library and those in areas with the highest levels of deprivation in order to reach disadvantaged young people who have had limited access to art and cultural experiences. The cultural programme will be centred around a Jubilee Tree theme, which will include tree murals and collages at libraries with children creating leaves to decorate the tree.

3.13 Storytelling will focus on children's books written over the 70 years of the Queen's reign starting in 1952 when Charlotte's Web and the Borrowers were published to stories from the silver, golden and diamond and platinum jubilees. Storytellers, authors, and performers will celebrate these stories and bring them to life, engaging children and young people to get creative inspired by art and literature across the decades and for the future. Events will mainly be intergenerational or focussed on young people, and will range from puppet shows to immersive theatre to explorations of Bromley's historical archive.

3.14 Primary school children across the UK will be receiving a free book which will teach primary school children about recent and historical events, inspirational people, landmark innovations and inventions, and a selection of our best art, design, and culture. The book will also look at a diverse range of rich culture and notable names for children to explore, including famous artists, designers, fashion designers, and musicians, capturing the true spirit of the last 70 years and the Queen's reign. The themes of the book will form part of our programme of events and activities.

3.15 In addition, a schools arts competition, again Platinum Jubilee themed, is proposed with commended and winning entries across age groups displayed in Bromley Central Library. The Mayor of Bromley will be invited to present certificates to the winning entries at an exhibition opening event. The exhibition will run for an extended period and a copy of the winning entry will be included in a time capsule which will be a legacy of the cultural programme.

3.16 The Culture team has submitted a funding bid to the National Lottery Community Fund for a grant of £40k towards the Platinum Jubilee cultural programme. If this grant application is successful it will enable the delivery of a complementary Jubilant Storytelling Festival, which Lemn Sissay OBE has agreed to take part in. Sissay is an inspirational writer and broadcaster, who was the official poet for the 2012 Olympics in London. He is also Chancellor of the University of Manchester.

Decoration of High Streets and Local Shopping Parades

3.17 A £30k grant programme will be set up for local business groups, resident associations and civic societies to apply for funding to decorate their High Street or local shopping parade. Grants of up to £3k will be made available.

3.18 The grant application window will open in January 2021 for up to six weeks with successful applicants notified in March 2022. The grant application process will be straightforward. If applications exceed the pot of money available priority will be given to applications that: include

match funding, use local contractors to create/install the decorations, and take the most creative and uplifting approach to the decoration.

- 3.19 Successful applicants will be permitted to install the decorations for a maximum period of three weeks between the dates of 23rd May and 12th June 2022.
- 3.20 There are 79 town centres/high streets/shopping parades across the borough, and it is likely only around 12 will receive funding. However, given the short time frame it is likely that only a small number of high streets will have the resources to deliver this and therefore officers do not expect to be overwhelmed with applications.

Service of Thanksgiving and reception

- 3.21 The Bromley Mayor's office will organise a Service of Thanksgiving at Bromley Parish Church to mark HM Queen's 70 years of service. Approximately 250 guests from the borough's community will be invited. The service will be followed by a garden party and/or afternoon tea.
- 3.22 This Service is expected to take place on Friday 3rd June, on the same day as the national Service of Thanksgiving, but at a different time.

Outdoor concert

- 3.23 On Saturday 4th June the BBC will be broadcasting a special concert 'Party at the Palace'. The borough will take part either by screening the concert on one or more big screens set up in the borough (in town centres or parks), or by hosting a live concert on the same day but at a different time.
- 3.24 The Council will work with the BIDs and/or Idverde to manage the big screen. If a live concert approach is taken instead the borough's local music groups, such as Bromley Youth Orchestra, will be invited to take part.

York Rise development road naming

- 3.25 To mark the Platinum Jubilee in perpetuity the new road being created as part of the York Rise development, which will be in construction phase during 2022, will be named Platinum Jubilee Close.
- 3.26 This name has been cleared in principle with the London Fire Brigade. The usual rules governing the use of Royal related names has been relaxed during 2022, and the Cabinet Office guidance states that in relation to the naming of buildings permission does not need to be sought when using the words 'Platinum Jubilee' or 'Jubilee' in the name. However officers will confirm that the same rules apply in relation to road names.

Access to sport week

- 3.27 During either April or July 2022 the Council will work with partners across the borough to run a free Access to Sport week during the school holidays, specifically for Children Looked After and young people in more deprived wards who may not be able to afford holiday sports clubs. This will be an enhanced HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) programme of activity, with officers across the Culture team and Education division collaborating to deliver a very special fun activity programme to mark the Platinum Jubilee year.

3.28 Officers hope to work with key sport organisations, such as Bromley Football Club, Langley Tennis Club, and the Blackheath and Bromley Harriers, with Dina Asher-Smith, Emma Raducanu, and other sporting stars from Bromley invited to take part.

4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

4.1 The Platinum Jubilee activity programme is focussed on opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. This is reflective of the national steer and themes for the Jubilee which set out young people as a priority.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The costs of the activities will be funded by drawdown from the Investment to Community Fund earmarked reserve.

5.2 The waiver of road closure fees for street parties will represent a loss of income to the Traffic & Road Safety budget within Environmental Services, although these fees would not have been anticipated when setting that budget, and will therefore not impact on the service achieving their budget target income.

5.3 The budget breakdown is as follows:

Lighting of the beacon	£7k
Cultural activity programme	£10k
Grants for the decoration of high streets	£30k
Thanksgiving service and reception	£8.5k
Outdoor concert/big screens	£10k
Access to sport week	£15k
Events manager	£25k
Total	£105.5k

5.4 A funding bid has also been submitted to the National Lottery Community Fund for a grant of £40k towards the Platinum Jubilee cultural programme. If this grant application is successful it will enable the delivery of a complementary Jubilant Storytelling Festival in addition to the cultural activity programme above.

6. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The procurement implications of this report can be authorised at an officer level.

6.2 In accordance with CPR 2.1.2, Officers must take all necessary professional advice.

6.3 The actions identified in this report are provided for within the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, and the proposed actions can be completed in compliance with their content.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy implications; Personnel implications; Legal implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	N/A