

Appointment of External Consultant to undertake Audit of Event Safety and Security.**Purpose of Report**

To seek Council approval to appoint an external consultant to undertake an independent review of the Council's event management plans and procedures from a safety and security perspective.

Background

The Council organises several public events which require appropriate safety planning, risk assessment and security arrangements. Recent legislative changes, particularly Martyn's Law, have increased expectations on organisations hosting public events to consider protective security and preparedness measures.

Whilst the Council already commissions external audits and specialist advice in areas such as finance, health and safety and insurance, event security and counter-terrorism planning is a specialist area requiring professional expertise.

Council staff do not hold the specialist qualifications or competence required to independently assess event security arrangements against current legislation and best practice. Whilst Shropshire Festivals have provided advice on this matter it is considered that more specialist advice is needed.

Proposal

An external consultant would undertake a review of the Council's current event management and security arrangements and provide recommendations for any improvements required.

The Council has already received a quotation from a suitably qualified consultant and may wish to appoint them directly in order to progress this work promptly.

Benefits

The review would:

- Provide independent professional assurance regarding current arrangements.
- Help ensure compliance with emerging legal requirements and best practice.
- Identify any gaps or weaknesses in current procedures.
- Support the safety of staff, councillors, volunteers, contractors and members of the public.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council:

1. Approves the appointment of an external consultant to undertake a review of the Council's event safety and security arrangements.
2. Approves acceptance of the quotation already received.
3. Delegates authority to the Town Clerk to progress the appointment and associated work.

Quote

In regards to the proposal based on our discussion.

I will come to Wem, conduct a site visit and gain an understanding of the two core sites for the events you have currently identified;

- Christmas festival- Town Centre
- Fireworks display- Butlers Sports Centre.

I will review your current Events Management Plans (EMPs) on site and highlight any key concerns.

Following this I will provide a more detailed report based on the findings and any areas for proposed development.

During this visit we can discuss options for wider ongoing support and assurance in regards to Martyn's Law and Events Management, alongside a potential support package for an independent review and consultancy advice for any further new or existing events.

The cost for this initial work will be £540.

To assist and provide my background for the Council.

I am a retired Chief Supt of 30 years service. I specialised for 25 years in regards to Public Order/Public Safety.

I have been a Tactical advisor, Bronze Commander and Silver Commander overseeing or involved in major events including Commonwealth Games, Papal Visit, Olympic Torch Relay, Music Festivals, Religious Festivals, Major Sporting events, protests and disorders.

In addition I have completed a Policing Events Qualification, Chaired post incident SCG and TCG for critical incidents. I'm a JESIP Commander and I am a Member of the Security Institute.