

Policy Committee Decision Report

Title of Report: Tramlines Festival 2024 – Post Event Report

Date of Decision: 9th September 2024

Report To: Charity Trustee Sub-Committee

Report Of: Ajman Ali – Executive Director - Neighbourhoods

Report Author: Lisa Firth – Director – Parks, Leisure and Libraries

Executive Summary: To update this Committee on the 2024 Tramlines event, including a summary of the ground protection plan and work to restore Hillsborough Park to pre-festival condition.

Policy Committee remit: This report is to be considered by the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee as its remit includes 'Matters of which charitable trustees should be aware in accordance with Charity Commission Guidance'.

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? No

Recommendations: The Charity Trustee Sub-Committee is recommended to;

1. Note the contents of the report.

Financial Implications:	No Approved by: Adrian Hart
Legal Implications:	No Approved by: Robert Parkin
Equality and Inclusion Implications:	No Approved by: Ed Sexton
Climate Change Implications:	No Approved by: Lisa Firth
Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	None

1. Background to the issue

- 1.1 Hillsborough Park is a charity, the sole Trustee of which is Sheffield City Council.
- 1.2 The Charity Trustee Sub-Committee is a standing sub-committee of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee. It is established to take all decisions of the Council as charitable trustee, including but not limited to:
- Disposals of and other dealings with charitable land.
 - Matters about which the Charity Commission must be contacted.
 - Matters of which charitable trustees should be aware in accordance with Charity Commission Guidance.
 - Use of charitable assets by the Council for purposes that do not directly meet the charitable aims.
 - Any other matter that has a significant impact on the use of a charitable asset for the charitable purposes for reasons of duration, area of the asset impacted, or other restriction.
 - Matters relating to land that is not itself charitable and other incidental matters which depend on or are directly related to a decision that must be made by the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee.
- 1.3 Maintenance of Hillsborough Park is the responsibility of the Council's Parks and Countryside service. Management and administrative decisions which are not decisions of the Council as Trustee, may be made, in accordance with the Council constitution delegations, by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods the Director of Parks, Leisure and Libraries, or the Head of Parks and Countryside.
- 1.4 The charitable objectives of the Hillsborough Park charity are the provision and maintenance of a public park and recreation ground in Sheffield for the use of members of the public resorting thereto with the object of improving their conditions of life and for use by the people of Sheffield for the purpose of being used as public walks and pleasure grounds.
- 1.5 Since 2018, Tramlines Events Limited (TEL) have obtained an ongoing premises licence to hold the Tramlines Festival in Hillsborough Park. The term "licence" in this context refers to the legal permission to carry out licensable activity on the land, conferred under the Licensing Act of 2003. The licence is ongoing until it is revoked by the Council following any breach by TEL in respect of the premises licence terms. There is a standard licence application fee of £70 and for large scale events, a multiplier fee is added dependent on the scale of the event. Tramlines multiplier is £8000 and so Tramlines pay a total of £8070 to licensing each year. This fee must be retained by the Council's licensing service.
- 1.6 The premises licence does not give an automatic right for TEL to use the land. The permission to use the land at Hillsborough Park for the purposes of the Event is covered under a separate licence agreement between SCC and TEL. This agreement covers standard terms and conditions such as how the park can be used, exclusivity, force majeure, reinstatement of the site, fees and event safety and security. The agreement also includes default and termination provisions in the event of a breach by either party.

1.7 The lessons learned from Tramlines 2023 contributed to the development of the reworked agreement and a review of the longer-term future of the event. The agreement now includes provisions around site protection and mitigations and a clear programme of consultation between SCC and TEL regarding the ground protection for the event.

2. Proposal

2.1 Meetings between SCC and TEL regarding the ground protection plans for the 2024 festival started on 16th May 2024 when consideration was given to particularly problem areas of the park and what could be reasonably and practically done to protect these areas in the event of poor weather both leading up to the festival and over the event weekend.

2.2 As the meetings progressed, plans were in place to monitor the grassed areas in the park which overall were holding up well to the persistent rain experienced throughout May and June. Fertilisation had taken effect, and provisional plans were put in place to minimise heavy vehicle / heavy activity on the grass for Owls in the Park (29th June 2024). A new French Drain was installed along the Middlewood Road pathway, and it was evident this was improving ground conditions. However, at this stage there remained two locations in the main field that were failing to drain sufficiently. A contractor attended the site and rectified this issue.

2.3 By early July, the weather had started to improve and ground conditions remained good. The teams monitored the long-term weather forecasts. As the weather improved and the forecast was favourable, the initial plan was to provide ground protection that would support light to moderate rain during the build with minimal ground damage, and/or light to moderate rain during the festival. However, following further discussions, and referring to commitments made following 2023, it was agreed to use the plan for heavy rain during the build with noteworthy ground damage, and/or heavy sporadic, or moderate persistent rain during the event. TEL were happy to cover the additional costs of providing this level of protection.

2.4 During the week leading up to the event, satellite weather forecasts were used to monitor the outlook in the days and hours prior to the festival opening on Friday 26th July. The event weekend remained sunny and dry, and this year's festival had a real family party atmosphere with little in the way of public disorder or anti-social behaviour reported across the weekend.

2.5 Following the festival, Hillsborough Park was back fully open by Friday 2nd August. As expected for an event of this size, there are a few signs of wear and tear, but the subsequent sunshine and period rain has helped the site to recover. The reinstatement work will be completed in early September. This was agreed between SCC and TEL as the required work is relatively small scale and it was felt more beneficial to undertake this work after the school summer holidays.

2.6 Following a recent site visit with TEL, SCC have requested additional landscaping to a number of areas to enhance the grassed areas including aeration, fertilising, soiling and seeding, levelling and removing hollows with gravel banding and additional land drains added to the main field. Minor site damage will be rectified, including some kerb and tarmac damage, knee rail fencing damage and damage to bench. All costs incurred will be met by TEL.

2.7 Tramlines has not yet evaluated the 2024 festival in terms of socio-economic benefits. This information will be shared with the committee when it is available.

3. How does this decision contribute to the objects of the charity?

3.1 The report is provided to the Charity Trustees Sub Committee acting as sole trustee of the Hillsborough Park charity as it relates to a matter that has a significant impact on the use of a charitable asset for the charitable purposes for reasons of duration, area of the asset impacted, or other restriction. It provides comfort to trustees that the charitable asset is being suitably protected whilst hosting Tramlines festival.

4. What community or partner engagement has been undertaken and how has it informed the proposal?

4.1 There has been no community or partner engagement carried out to inform this report.

4.2 Annual resident and visitor feedback is gathered as part of Tramlines post festival evaluation and will be used to inform planning for the 2025 event.

5. What alternative options did we consider?

5.1 Alternative Option 1: Do Nothing

This option was rejected as Committee would not have received a report setting out the impact of the festival on the Hillsborough Park Charity. The Trustees would not be aware of the measures taken by SCC and TEL to protect the Hillsborough Park Charity, from the impacts of the Tramlines Festival.

6. How has equality, diversity and inclusion been actively considered?

6.1 There are no equality, diversity and inclusion impacts arising from this report and an Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed.

The details in this report does not have any significant impacts (either positive or negative) for any group of people who share a protected characteristic.

7. Financial and Commercial Implications

7.1 There are no financial or commercial implications arising from this report. The report does not propose:

- Any new expenditure
- Reprofiling or reallocation of existing expenditure within a budget
- New or adjusted income generation (e.g. from charging)
- Grant funding from an external body
- New or amended contractual relationships

8. Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. The report does not have any other legal considerations that the Committee should be aware of.

9. Climate and Environmental Implications

9.1 There are no climate implications arising from this report and a Climate Impact Assessment has not been completed.

10. Other implications

10.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

11. Reasons for decision

11.1 Charity Trustee Sub Committee is asked to note the work carried out by SCC and TEL to protect and restore Hillsborough Park to pre-festival condition.

11.2 The recommendations in this report set out that SCC and TEL will continue to work together, informed by customer engagement and feedback from this committee, to ensure the success of the Tramlines Festival and that the festival will remain of benefit to the Hillsborough Park charity.