1.0 Vision, Background and the Council's Role

1.1 As an active home for events, our vision for events in the Kirklees district is as follows:

Kirklees is a vibrant and dynamic place where a wide range of events and festivals act as powerful agents in telling our story; they provide opportunities for celebration, civic pride and for communities to come together in shared experiences. Events in Kirklees celebrate the unique creativity and identity of our towns and villages. Building on our rich heritage, they reflect our diverse communities.

The Council recognises the role events play in creating quality places in our towns and villages where the year round wide-ranging activity provides an attractive programme across the district. From a commercial event or a community gala to one of our many cultural festivals, they can attract investment and visitors from the district, region or internationally and can take place in our town centres, on highways, in parks and in our heritage sites. Those events may involve input or support from the Council and may involve our partners and stakeholders. Together we will enable communities to do more for themselves.

1.2 Kirklees Council and district plays host to a large number of events and activity every year, from established fixtures including Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Cleckheaton Folk Festival, Marsden Jazz Festival, Huddersfield Carnival and the Huddersfield Food and Drink Festival, to one-off occasions such as the Olympic Torch Relay and Le Grand Depart as part of the Tour De Yorkshire.

1.3 Cultural events and festivals can, at their best, be powerful agents in telling the Kirklees story and in providing opportunities for celebration, pride in a place or locality. They are also opportunities for social cohesion and participation and reflect the diverse communities of the district.

A varied programme of events across the year contributes to:

- Economic development
- Social/cultural regeneration
- Cultural vibrancy
- A strong tourism base
- Cultural and community provision
- Local priorities which seek to encourage vibrant sustainable communities that are active, lively and inclusive.

1.4 The council's role in achieving this vision is to perform a number of diverse roles and functions in relation to supporting and enabling events to take place in the district. These include statutory functions such as licensing sites, premises and road closures; to ensuring health and safety requirements are being met through chairing the Safety Advisory Group (SAG); to signposting to relevant broader legislation, funding opportunities and other information via the resource pages on www.creativekirklees.com or www.kirkleesbusinesshub.gov.uk. The council is also a third party in the organisation and delivery of some events such as the Freedom Parades.

1.5 For their part, event organisers must comply with a variety of statutory duties and local requirements, each overseen by different regulatory bodies.

1.6 This policy builds on the Kirklees Corporate Plan, the Kirklees Economic Strategy, the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Culture Kirklees document (the latter outlining the vision and outcomes of the Council's cultural offer).

1.7 The Kirklees Events Policy seeks to promote a consistent, proactive and integrated approach to the services and regulatory functions for events by:

- Specifying the requirements that event organisers must meet in order to run a safe, legal event

- Identifying key council controlled spaces, highlighting the types of events that will be suitable for different high profile and in demand spaces and setting clear conditions and criteria by which applications to use council land will be assessed

- Defining Terms of Reference for the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) and outlining the process by which an event may be challenged should it not meet minimum standards. SAG Terms of Reference are published on the council's events support page