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REPORT TO: MEMBERS' LIBRARY SERVICE

MEETING DATE: March 2022

BY: Executive Director for Place

SUBJECT: ELSAG Policy - Amendments

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To support the safe operation of public events across East Lothian, the Council (Cabinet: Agenda Item 3 – 13 March 2018) approved the East Lothian Safety Advisory Group (ELSAG) Policy. To support the county as it revitalises public and community events in the context of the COVID Recovery and Renewal Plan approved by Council on 16 November 2021, the opportunity has been taken to review and refresh the current ELSAG Policy. The Policy amendments are not material to the original Policy approved in March 2018 and therefore, the revised Policy as at March 2022 can be approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation within powers delegated to the Executive Director for Place and Head of Communities.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report and the revised ELSAG Policy March 2022, attached as Appendix 1 and to be made available on the Council's website for public reference.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 East Lothian Council recognises that public events positively promote tourism, community development, social cohesion, civic and cultural identity and can enhance community life as well as benefit the local economy.
- 3.2 East Lothian Council recognises this value in hosting events and encourages their undertaking whilst operating safely and in consideration of those affected by the event. To aid this, East Lothian Council maintains a Safety Advisory Group (SAG) process for public events.

- 3.3 The East Lothian SAG process is a multi-agency approach towards ensuring that organisers of events plan for and then implement these in a manner that is safe for everybody involved with, and impacted by, the event.
- 3.4 The ELSAG Policy has been updated (to reflect the current organisational structure and Directorate responsibilities within East Lothian Council. The strategic oversight of the ELSAG Policy sat with a multi-agency officer group, the Strategic Event Safety Committee (SESC), and to avoid confusion with formal Council Committee and governance arrangements, this group has been renamed the Strategic Event Safety Oversight Group (SESOG). Opportunity has also been taken to refresh the ELSAG Process – depicted as a flowchart (Figure 1) within the Policy document (See Appendix 1: East Lothian Safety Advisory Group Policy March 2022).
- 3.5 The ELSAG Policy approved in March 2018, and updated in March 2022, sets in place strategic and operational oversight for events, as follows:
- The East Lothian Safety Advisory Group (ELSAG) Strategy comprises of two main elements:
 - Strategic Event Safety Oversight Group (SESOG) (previously referred to as the Strategic Event Safety Committee)
 - Safety Advisory Group (ELSAG)
 - The Strategic Event Safety Oversight Group (SESOG) is established to determine, oversee and review the East Lothian Safety Advisory Group Strategy and process. It ensures that the Safety Advisory Group process is followed by member agencies and event organisers. SESOG is chaired by the Executive Director of Place, or delegated senior officer.
 - Meetings of the SESOG take place on a regular basis, a minimum of 2 times per calendar year, normally February and September and any SESOG member may request an additional meeting or meetings of the group, whether in response to a particular event or otherwise.
 - Chair of the ELSAG is carried out by ELC, Emergency Planning, Risk & Resilience Manager, for large and major sized events, and by the ELC, Events Officer for Small and Medium sized events.
 - The Events Officer maintains and makes available an Events Directory on behalf of the SESOG and maintains public information about planned events within the Council's website.
 - The ELSAG process is managed and administered within the Communities Service grouping, within Protective Services.

4 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Financial – These implications are considered to be low, being made up of costs around resourcing the meetings including administrative support.
- 5.2 Personnel – SESOG meetings are scheduled for twice yearly, so the impact upon human resourcing is minimal.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Cabinet 13 March 2018 - Item 3 East Lothian Safety Advisory Group Policy

Appendix 1: East Lothian Safety Advisory Group (ELSAG) Policy - March 2022

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DATE	24 March 2022



EAST LOTHIAN SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP (ELSAG) POLICY

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 East Lothian Council recognises that public events positively promote tourism, community development, social cohesion, civic and cultural identity and can enhance community life as well as benefit the local economy.
- 1.2 East Lothian Council recognises this value in hosting events and encourages their undertaking whilst operating safely and in consideration of those affected by the event. To aid this, East Lothian Council maintains a Safety Advisory Group (SAG) process for public events, see **Appendix - 1 – Safety Advisory Group Process**.
- 1.3 The East Lothian SAG process is a multi-agency approach towards ensuring that organisers of events plan for and then implement these in a manner that is safe for everybody involved with, and impacted by, the event.
- 1.4 All SESOG and ELSAG meetings will be minuted, but attendance will be restricted to the agreed list of attendees and/or by invitation of the Chair and thus not open to the public. (see para 4.9 and 5.4)

2. East Lothian Safety Advisory Group Strategy

- 2.1 The East Lothian Safety Advisory Group (ELSAG) Strategy comprises two main elements:
 - Strategic Event Safety Oversight Group (SESOG)
 - Safety Advisory Group (ELSAG)
- 2.2 The SESOG will be chaired by Executive Director of Place, East Lothian Council or delegated to another senior officer as required.
- 2.3 Chair of the ELSAG will be carried out by ELC, Emergency Planning, Risk & Resilience Manager, for large and major sized events, and by the ELC, Events Officer for Small and Medium sized events, see **Appendix – 2: Event Category & Size**. SESOG will retain the right to appoint a chair when circumstances dictate, irrespective of numbers attending.
- 2.4 The Events Officer will maintain and make available an Events Directory (spreadsheet to include event RAG Assessment) on behalf of the SESOG.
- 2.5 Figure 1 below provides a brief summary of the ELSAG process.
- 2.6 The ELSAG process will be managed and administered by Protective Services.

3. East Lothian Safety Advisory Group Terms of Reference

- 3.1 The East Lothian Safety Advisory Group (ELSAG) will operate in accordance with the following Terms of Reference:
 1. To provide a multiagency forum within which ELSAG members will develop a co-ordinated approach to achieving high levels of public safety.
 2. To promote good practice in safety and welfare planning.

3. To consider the advice published in all available statutory guidance documents and impart to event organisers.
 4. To receive and assess proposals for public events within East Lothian as detailed in Notification of Event form, with the emphasis on minimising the risk to public safety. Where deemed proportionate arrange an ELSAG Meeting.
 5. To ensure that event organisers are aware of the roles of individual ELSAG members.
 6. To ensure that those events subject to the ELSAG process, have in existence, adequate planning and documentation, to include agreed contingency and emergency plans for dealing with major incidents before the event takes place.
 7. To ensure that those events subject to the ELSAG process, have in place agreed contingency and emergency plans for dealing with major incidents.
 8. To receive reports relevant to de-briefs, visits and / or inspections of the venue or event, with the aim of improving safety.
 9. Events Officer will ensure that SESOG are aware of events via access to the Events Directory and are apprised of any subsequent new events that have not been subject of the RAG Assessment process.
 10. To ensure that list of approved events is maintained for public awareness.
- 3.2 The Core Members of the ELSAG must declare any material conflict of interest in relation to any item put before the Group, prior to any discussion on that matter. If the interest could be considered prejudicial, then the person should consider if they should withdraw and be replaced by an appropriate party agreed by the group.
- 3.3 Any Agency or ELC service, within the ELSAG process may recover costs incurred in supporting an event by charging Event Organisers for services in line with their own policies and procedures. Such matters are independent from the scope of the ELSAG.

4. Strategic Event Safety Oversight Group (SESOG)

Aim

- 4.1 The Strategic Event Safety Oversight Group (SESOG) is established to determine, oversee and review the East Lothian Safety Advisory Group Strategy and process. It will ensure that the Safety Advisory Group process is followed by member agencies and event organisers.

Primary Focus

- 4.2 The primary focus of the SESOG is the safety of all people working at, participating in, or attending an event and to the safety of members of the general public who may be impacted by that event.
- 4.3 SESOG will review all risk assessments of events on the Event Directory, undertaken by the Events Coordinator and agree on the risk grading and subsequent necessity for ELSAG scrutiny.
- 4.4 SESOG will compile, and make this publicly available on the Council's website, a list of events based on their assessment, which require to progress through the ELSAG process.

Guiding Principle

4.5 The guiding principle for determining which events are covered by the ELSAG process are those events that may impact on public safety or the wellbeing of the community, considered on a risk-based approach through the following criteria:

- The status of the principal attending
- The status of the event organisers
- The profile of the event
- Event category and size – Appendix 1
- Type of Activity
- Event site
- Whether alcohol is available or any other license is required
- Transport implication
- Impact upon local community
- Event safety concerns raised by a ELSAG representative

4.6 The SESOG will keep and make available, as appropriate, records of its activities in order that it effectively carries out its function ensuring the transparency of decision making. All records are subject to Freedom of Information requests and could be released publically subject to the exemptions provided.

Status and conflicts of interest

4.7 The SESOG will have no direct involvement in the SAG process.

4.8 The ultimate responsibility for the event safety lies with the event organiser and event management team.

4.9 Members of the SESOG must declare any material conflict of interest in relation to any item put before the group prior to any discussion on that matter. If the interest could be considered prejudicial, then that person should consider if they should withdraw and be replaced by an appropriate person agreed with the group.

4.10 All members of the SESOG will retain a high degree of professionalism and probity at all times and will not at any time act in any way which may compromise the position of the Group or members of the Group.

SESOG Composition

4.11 The SESOG shall consist of persons with sufficient seniority / experience / competency/ knowledge of their service / agency and authority over resource deployment, to be able to advise members on behalf of their service / agency. Membership will include, but will not be limited to:

- A Chair (East Lothian Council, Executive Director of Place or delegated to another senior officer as required).
- East Lothian Council Protective Services: Environmental Health Service and Events)
- East Lothian Council Infrastructure: Roads Service
- East Lothian Council Protective Services: Emergency Planning Service
- East Lothian Council Licensing Service
- Police Scotland (Senior Officer)
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (Senior Officer)
- Scottish Ambulance Service (Senior Officer)
- Transport Scotland

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- 4.12 Invited representatives may be drawn from anybody which the SESOG considers appropriate.
- 4.13 The SESOG may create focused sub-groups for specific events of a large or major nature. These Sub-Groups, which includes the ELSAG, will be convened to deal with specific operational issues or events as required. These Sub-Groups will only involve those representatives relevant to the issues in question. The Chair or any other core member may request the setting up of a Sub-Group, and the Chair shall invite such representatives as are considered appropriate to meetings of such a Sub-Group.
- 4.14 The SESOG will appoint an event command structure as appropriate.

SESOG Administration

- 4.15 The Chair will ensure that:
- Meetings of the SESOG take place on a regular basis, a minimum of 2 times per calendar year, February and September. Any member may request an additional meeting or meetings of the group, whether in response to a particular event or otherwise.
 - Due account is taken of the views of all members of SESOG.
 - Minutes are taken at each meeting and those minutes are kept.
 - East Lothian Council will provide the administrative support to the SESOG.
 - All relevant agencies should be represented at a meeting of the SESOG and representatives must be fully briefed to ensure a consistent approach and at a rank or level to enable decisions to be made and implemented where necessary.
 - Each meeting of the SESOG will be prearranged to an agenda published in advance of the meeting with minutes recorded. The minutes of the meetings will be circulated to all SESOG members, and to such other parties as may be determined by the Chair.

5. East Lothian Safety Advisory Group (ELSAG)

ELSAG Aim

- 5.1 Event Organisers who have been invited to a meeting with the Safety Advisory Group, will be expected to attend. ELSAG meetings are arranged as required.
- 5.2 So far as is reasonably practicable, through the provision of specialist advice, the aim of the ELSAG is to ensure that event organisers uphold the highest standards of public safety at public events. Where ELSAG members have concerns regarding any event they should immediately bring these to the attention of the SESOG through the ELSAG Chair.

ELSAG Objectives

- 5.3 The ELSAG will:
- Provide specialist advice to Event Organisers to help them discharge their public safety functions.
 - Encourage the safety and wellbeing of the public and staff at public events.
 - Ensure as far as possible that any inconvenience to residents, businesses and the general public arising from events is minimised.

ELSAG Composition

5.4 The ELSAG shall consist of persons with sufficient experience / competency / knowledge of their service / agency to be able to advise members on behalf of their service / agency. Membership will include, but will not be limited to:

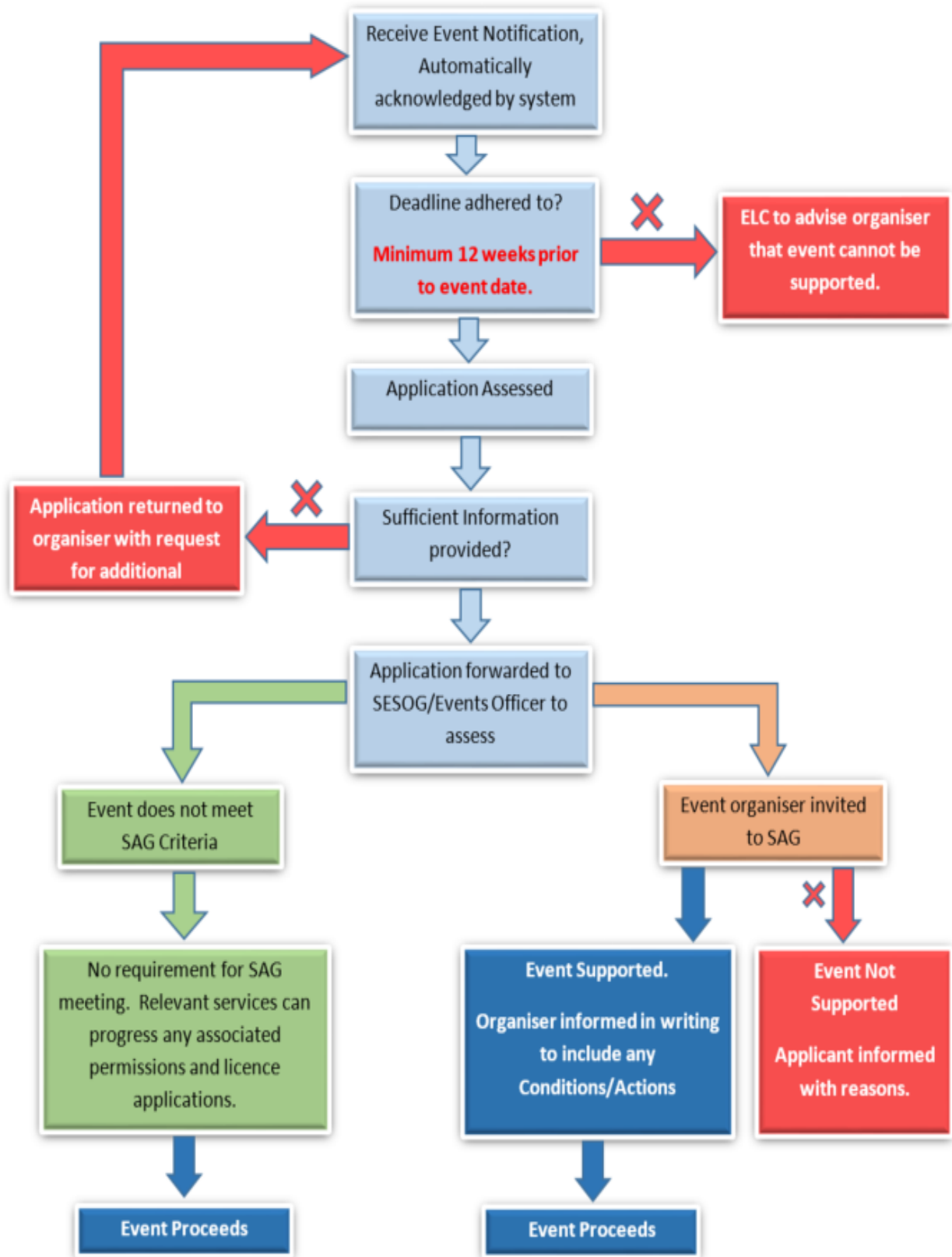
- A Chair (East Lothian Council, Emergency Planning, Risk & Resilience Manager, for Large and Major sized events, and by the ELC, Events Officer for Small and Medium sized events) or delegated to another senior officer as required.
- East Lothian Council Environmental Health Service (including Events)
- East Lothian Council Emergency Planning Service
- East Lothian Council Roads Service
- East Lothian Council Transport Planning
- East Lothian Council Economic Development
- East Lothian Council Landscape & Countryside
- East Lothian Council Licensing Service (where event notification includes a Licence application)
- East Lothian Council Connected Services
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- Transport Scotland

ELSAG Administration

5.5 The Chair will ensure that:

- Meetings of the ELSAG and any supplementary meetings will take place as required.
- Each meeting of the ELSAG will be prearranged to an agenda published in advance of the meeting.
- Due account is taken of the views of all members of the ELSAG.
- Minutes of each meetings will be taken and circulated by email to the event organiser, all ELSAG representatives, and to such other parties as may be determined by the Chair, following the meeting. This minute will include the decision made by the ELSAG members at the meeting.
- East Lothian Council will provide the administrative support to the ELSAG
- All relevant agencies will be invited to attend at every meeting of the ELSAG and it will incumbent on them to decide if their presence is required.
- All ELSAG members will have access to all relevant documents and information pertaining to the event to facilitate informed decision making.

Appendix – 1: – Safety Advisory Group Process



Appendix – 2: Event Category & Size

East Lothian Council will assess applications for all types of events. Applications are considered from all sections of the community. In order to allow us to give the best level of support and to help direct our resources better, East Lothian Council will use the following set of categories:

Category	Description
Active Recreation	These events encourage those who regularly participate in active lifestyles to engage in activities such as active play, recreational walking, running or cycling. These are free events, community focused, non-competitive and led by volunteers.
Charity (National)	This category covers those operated by national charities for the purpose of fundraising for the benefit of the charity.
Charity (Regional)	This category covers those operated by regional charities for the purpose of raising the profile and fundraising for the benefit of the charity.
Commercial	These events provide a commercial benefit to a profit making business or operation including product launches, corporate events, music festivals, concerts, and fun fairs as the principle component of the event, one-off boot fairs and trade
Community	Any event organised by community or voluntary groups that directly benefit the residents and visitors to the area or the group members and do not provide significant advertising or other commercial benefit to a profit-making business or organisation. They are aimed at a social group, specific locality and have a common cultural or heritage link. There is no principle entry fee, activities are free or at reasonable costs. This includes village fetes, parades (e.g. Remembrance Day), community sports, fireworks, holiday celebrations and parades.
Not for Profit / Enthusiast	This category covers not for profit events, including specialist interest subjects such as motor vehicles and re-enactments. It could also cover specialist sports events. Likely to have small scale commercial activity for which money received is fully re- invested into the activity or not for profit group.

We recognise that some events may not exactly fit into these categories and Council Officers reserve the right to choose the category for the event. Events will be assessed on the information the Event Organiser provides in the Events Notification Form and organisers informed in the early stages of planning.

When considering events there is also a scale by their size:

Event Size	Numbers in Attendance (Participants & Spectators)
Small	Less than 500
Medium	500-999
Large	1000-4999
Major	5000+