

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Streets & Walkways Sub Committee	24 February 2026
<b>Subject:</b> Special Events on the Highway	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	Diverse Engaged Communities & Vibrant Thriving Destination
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Executive Director of the Environment	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> John Grimes, Assistant Director Highways, Environment Department	

### **Summary**

This report outlines the major special events planned for 2026 and provides Members with an opportunity to consider their appropriateness in terms of nature, scale, impact and benefits.

There continues to be a stable core programme of 13 regular sporting, ceremonial and celebratory events that are expected to take place on the City's streets, that are professionally managed and deliver charitable, reputational and promotional advantages for the City, while typically operating with minimal disruption or operational difficulty.

In addition to the core programme, a variety of one-off events are expected in support of the City's cultural, visitor and transport priorities, including Destination City and the Sports Strategy, as well as the aims & objectives of key City partner organisations and community groups.

The report also provides an overview of the 'Benefits in Kind' granted to charitable and other organisations during 2025.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Members are recommended to:

- Agree to support the regular core events programme listed in paragraph 4 and detailed in Appendix 1.
- Support in principle the Nocturne event as (currently) the only major new event for 2026.

Members are also recommended to:

- Note the Benefits in Kind listed in Appendix 4

## Main Report

### Background

1. This report provides an update to Members on the programme of on-street special events currently planned for 2026. Although the level of commerciality varies between events, most are intended to support charitable fundraising, promote City strategies or Mayoral initiatives. While these events provide some form of social, community and financial benefits, the City has maintained a long-standing principle that their impact on residents, businesses and traffic should not be disproportionate.
2. Planning for each major event is undertaken well in advance to minimise disruption and to co-ordinate them into the wider programme of works taking place on the City's streets. This process is led by officers in the Environment Department, supported by colleagues across Town Clerks, the Remembrancer's Office and the City of London Police.
3. The Executive Director, Environment Department holds delegated authority to issue the necessary traffic orders to close roads for special events. Although individual member approval is not required for each event, established guidelines are followed to ensure the suitability of events (including the process for appropriate political oversight), enabling the provision of advice for organisers, and setting out the procedure for consents and approvals.

### Events Calendar 2025

4. The City's on-street event programme has developed a steady rhythm, with a core programme of 13 substantial, well-run, and popular events. Full details behind each of these events can be found in Appendix 1, but they can be separated into three distinct categories:

#### Sporting

- London Winter Run – Sunday 15 February
- London Landmarks Half Marathon – Sunday 12 April
- London Marathon – Sunday 26 April
- Saucony London 10k (previously Asics 10k/London 10k) – Sunday 12 July
- Great City Race – Tuesday 22 July (evening)
- London Triathlon – Sunday 26 July
- Bloomberg Square Mile Run – Thursday 17 September (evening)
- Vitality 10k Race – Sunday 27 September
- Royal Parks Half Marathon – Sunday 11 October

#### Ceremonial

- Cart Marking – Saturday 18 July
- Sheep Drive – Sunday 27 September
- Lord Mayor's Show – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November

## Celebratory

- New Year's Eve – 31 December

5. This core group of events are organised by experienced and professional event companies with established routes, robust communications, and effective working relationships with the City of London, Transport for London and Westminster City Council.
6. The success of events such as the London Marathon, the Great City Race and the London Landmarks Half-Marathon mean that the City remains an attractive location for mass participation charitable 'fun run' type events. These events generally remain popular with the public and participants, they are safely managed, and they provide the City with a range of secondary benefits, such as profile, publicity and footfall, visibility on the international stage, connections to the charitable sector and (in some cases) help promote the City's own events and programmes.
7. Event organisers are aware that they do not have a permanent agreement to hold their events on City streets, but as can be seen in Appendix 3 (which sets out the established events assessment matrix), these events are typically considered 'Green' in terms of delivering a positive balance between the benefits they bring against the impact they cause.
8. As Members & officers have noted before, with 13 such events now on the City's calendar, there is always the potential for diminishing returns from adding similar events and there can be 'event fatigue' from residential groups given the same streets are often used for more than one event. In addition, there are limited officer resources to help deliver these events and sufficient room must be maintained in the calendar to ensure business as usual activities such as utility street works, resurfacing and crane operations can still be accommodated that can't otherwise take place during the week.

## **One-Off Events in 2025**

9. Beyond the core programme, the number and extent of additional one-off events can vary year-to-year. Due to their one-off nature, these events typically require a much greater degree of effort to facilitate and enable, without the benefit of previous experience or necessarily a well-structured learning curve.
10. In recent years, the events the City has supported have included:
  - International sporting events such as the Tour de France (2014)
  - The International Association of Athletics Federations marathon (2017)
  - City-led events such as the Smithfield 150 celebrations (2018), Lunchtime streets initiatives and various cultural activities & promotions
  - Events coordinated with key partners such as the Afghanistan Commemoration at St Paul's Cathedral (2015), the Commonwealth Heads of Government Visit (2018) and Car Free Day (2019)

- State events such as those related to the Proclamation of His Majesty the King (2022)

## **New Events in 2026**

11. In addition to the established core programme, officers have received requests for two further events to be considered for inclusion in the 2026 programme.

### Nocturne

12. The Nocturne event last took place in 2019 and comprises a cycling race through the heart of the City designed to appeal to a broad audience, promoting cycling as a means to health & wellbeing whilst supporting the City's Sports and Destination City strategies. The Nocturne has proved highly successful in the past in the City, with previous versions first based around Smithfield Market and then later in the Cheapside area when its popularity grew.

13. The new version of this event is proposed to now last two days (12 and 13 June) rather than one and aims to attract the existing City worker audience on the Friday followed by a wider draw into the City on the Saturday.

14. Although Saturday events are planned with regularity, proposing a Friday daytime / evening event presents some significant challenges in terms of transport, access and communications. An early ambition to use Bank Junction has not proved possible due to the significant impact on bus services but a provisional alternative Friday route based around Guildhall would appear achievable, with a larger event footprint planned on Saturday. Detailed discussions remain ongoing alongside a requirement for a major communications plan to attract both participants and spectators as well as to inform affected premises.

## **Cultural Strategy & Destination City**

15. In August 2024, Emma Markiewicz, Director of the London Archives, was appointed as the Senior Responsible Officer for Culture. This role leads the delivery of the City Corporation's Cultural Strategy, encompassing our own institutions as well as partner and cultural attractions in and around the Square Mile.

16. Internal and external resources were engaged to develop a place-based Cultural Strategy for the City, supported by extensive consultation and co-creation with stakeholder groups.

17. The Strategy will contribute to the City Plan 2024, support the Corporate Plan objectives, and align closely with the Destination City programme. Its implementation aims to reposition the City Corporation as a leading cultural destination.

18. Any activity on the highway or within the public realm in 2026, undertaken as part of the new Destination City Programme or the Culture Team's work, will be planned and delivered in close collaboration with the relevant internal

departments. This will ensure that all road closure requirements and special event applications are completed within the necessary timeframes and in accordance with correct procedures.

19. Background information of the emerging strategy 'Developing the Cultural Strategy – progress update September to October 2025' ([public](#)).

## **Sports Strategy**

20. Members will be aware that the Square Mile's sport strategy was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee in June 2023. It was agreed that the vision for the City of London should be to become a global city of sport by investing in sports facilities, activating our public spaces, celebrating the impact of sport, attracting high quality sport events and promoting community sport. A Sport Sounding Board has been created to oversee the progress in delivering on these objectives, which is made up of Members with a remit or interest in sport.
21. We have reached the end of the first phase of the strategy and progress is being made on delivering the sport priorities for the organisation. This Sub Committee has specific interest in the aspirations to activate our public spaces and attract high quality sport events to the Square Mile. On activating spaces, installation of a new outdoor gym near London Bridge will commence soon. Options for Blackfriars Undercroft are also being considered, with the possibility to include a skate park and outdoor gym as part of the designs. On events, we are moving ahead with plans to host the London Nocturne this summer, and discussions are taking place with other event organisers on opportunities for 2027 and beyond.
22. Phase 2 of the sport strategy is due to commence in April 2026, and funding has been agreed to cover sport work during 2026/27. Whilst it is accepted that sport is a strategic priority for the organisation, Members have asked the Head of Sport to look at income generation opportunities from sport events and facilities to understand the required core funding that will be needed to deliver sport priorities beyond the next financial year.

## **Financial Implications: Benefits in Kind**

23. The City Corporation routinely supports certain charitable activities by waiving specific administrative fees and charges as benefits in kind. The Director has delegated authority to approve such waivers on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the Member-approved guidance outlining when this may be appropriate.
24. Given the need to ensure appropriate cost recovery and manage budget pressures, requests for fee waivers are subject to robust scrutiny. Officers also apply the principle of parity to ensure that comparable events are treated consistently.
25. For some time, the Environment Department has summarised this information for the Finance Committee. To strengthen transparency, the Committee now recommends that all ongoing benefits in kind without a defined end date be reviewed by the relevant department or Committee, with a recommendation made on their continued provision.

26. Members of the Streets & Walkways Sub Committee, as the spending Committee for special event management, are therefore asked to note the current benefits in kind provided under this protocol, as set out in Appendix 4.

## **Security Implications**

27. Further detail on the use of the City's Anti-Terrorism Traffic Regulation Order (ATTRO) for special events will be provided in a separate report to Streets & Walkways Committee. For information, the ATTRO was used in support of the London Marathon and New Year's Eve celebrations last year.

## **Corporate & Strategic Risk Implications**

28. The events outlined in this report aligns with a number of corporate strategies including:

- Provide inclusive access to facilities for physical activity and recreation.
- Cultivate excellence in sport and creative & performing arts.
- Preserve and promote the City as the world-leading global centre for culture.
- Protect, curate and promote world-class heritage assets, cultural experiences and events.

29. Enabling events to take place on the City's streets, where it is safe to do so, will help attract visitors and animate the Square Mile in a controlled and managed way, supporting the City's long-term recovery plans.

## **Legal, Resource, Climate & Equalities Implications**

30. None

## **Conclusion**

31. This report provides an overview of the major events planned in 2026. The majority of events continue to be delivered safely and effectively, with officers working closely with organisers to minimise disruption wherever possible.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Core Event Programme for 2026
- Appendix 2 – Core Event Timeline for 2026
- Appendix 3 – Summary Event Assessment for 2026
- Appendix 4 – Benefits in Kind for 2025

## **Report author**

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## APPENDIX 1 – Core Event Programme 2026

EVENT	DAY & DATE	TIMES	ORGANISER	APPROVAL AUTHORITY	BENEFIT OF EVENT	NO.	EVENT HISTORY	CITY OF LONDON ROUTE
London Winter Run	Sunday 15 February	7.30am – 4pm	Human Race Ltd	City of London	Community event raising money for charity	18,500	10 <sup>th</sup> year	City Streets, and Westminster (WCC)
London Landmarks Half Marathon	Sunday 12 April	6.30am – 4pm	Tommy's (with The Great Run Company)	City of London & City of Westminster	Community & Charitable Event	20,000	8 <sup>th</sup> Year	Iconic sites within the City
London Marathon	Sunday 26 April	7am- 8.30pm	London Marathon Limited	Transport for London	Significant charity fund raising, plus surplus used to support specific sporting projects.	58,000	More than 20 Years	Embankment & Upper / Lower Thames St
Saucony London 10k (previously Asics 10k/London 10k)	Sunday 12 July	7am – 2pm	Motivsports	City of London, Westminster & Transport for London	Community events raising money for charity	15,000	Annual event	Embankment, Upper/Lower Thames St
Cart Marking	Saturday 18 July	7am – 2pm	Worshipful Company of Carmen	City of London	Historical City event to mark trade vehicles	200	Annual event	London Wall, Gresham St, Guildhall area
Standard Chartered Great City Race	Tuesday evening 21 July	6.30pm- 10.30pm	London Marathon Ltd	City of London	Popular with City institutions & sponsored by a city company. Funds also help promote sporting initiatives to the City's resident and workforce population	6,000	More than 10 years	City Road, London Wall, Bank area & Cheapside.
London Triathlon	Sunday 26 July	5am – 1pm	Limelight Sports	TfL, Westminster City Council	Sporting Event	15,000	Annual event	Lower route (Victoria Embankment)
Bloomberg Square Mile	Thursday evening 17 September	7pm – 9pm	Square Mile Sport	City of London	Fun Run raising money for charity	1,500,	More than 10 years	Gresham Street

Vitality 10K Race	Sunday 27 September	10am-12.30pm	London Marathon	Westminster / City of London	Funds from this race promote sporting initiatives to the City's resident and workforce population	15,000	More than 10 years	WCC, Holborn, Holborn Viaduct, Cheapside to Bank area and back to WCC
Sheep Drive	Sunday 27 September	5.30am – 7pm	Worshipful Company of Woolman	City of London / Southwark	Historical City Event with sheep being herded over Southwark bridge by Freemen of the City as well as a Livery Fair in Queen Street	1,000	More than 10 years	Southwark Bridge, Queen Street Place, Queen Street
Royal Parks Half Marathon	Sunday 11 October	7.30am-8.30pm	Limelight Sport	Royal Parks and Transport for London	Charitable event for Royal Parks Foundation.	15,000	More than 10 years	Victoria Embankment west of Blackfriars.
Lord Mayor's Show	Saturday 14 November	7am-7pm	City of London	City of London / Westminster and Transport for London	Procession to facilitate the Lord Mayor's obligations to the Sovereign.	6,000	Ceremonial event	City area west of Bishopsgate.
New Year's Eve Fireworks	Thursday 31 December	From b/w 2-10pm until after midnight	GLA	Transport for London, Westminster & City of London	Focus of the UK's End of Year celebrations	120,000	Annual celebratory event	Blackfriars area & Westminster near London Eye

## APPENDIX 2 – Core Event Timeline for 2026

## 2026 Timeline: Core events

Date	Event	Disruption
15/02/2026	Winter Run	-2
12/04/2026	London Landmarks Half M.	-3
26/04/2026	London Marathon	-3
12/06/2026	Nocturne (Fri)	-1
13/06/2026	Nocturne (Sat)	-3
12/07/2026	Saucony London 10k	-2
18/07/2026	Cart Marking	-1
21/07/2026	Great City Race	-5
26/07/2026	London Triathlon	-2
17/09/2026	Bloomberg Sq Mile	-1
27/09/2026	Vitality 10k Race	-2
27/09/2026	Sheep Drive	-1
11/10/2026	Royal Parks Marathon	-2
14/11/2026	Lord Mayor's Show	-4
31/12/2026	New Years Eve	-6

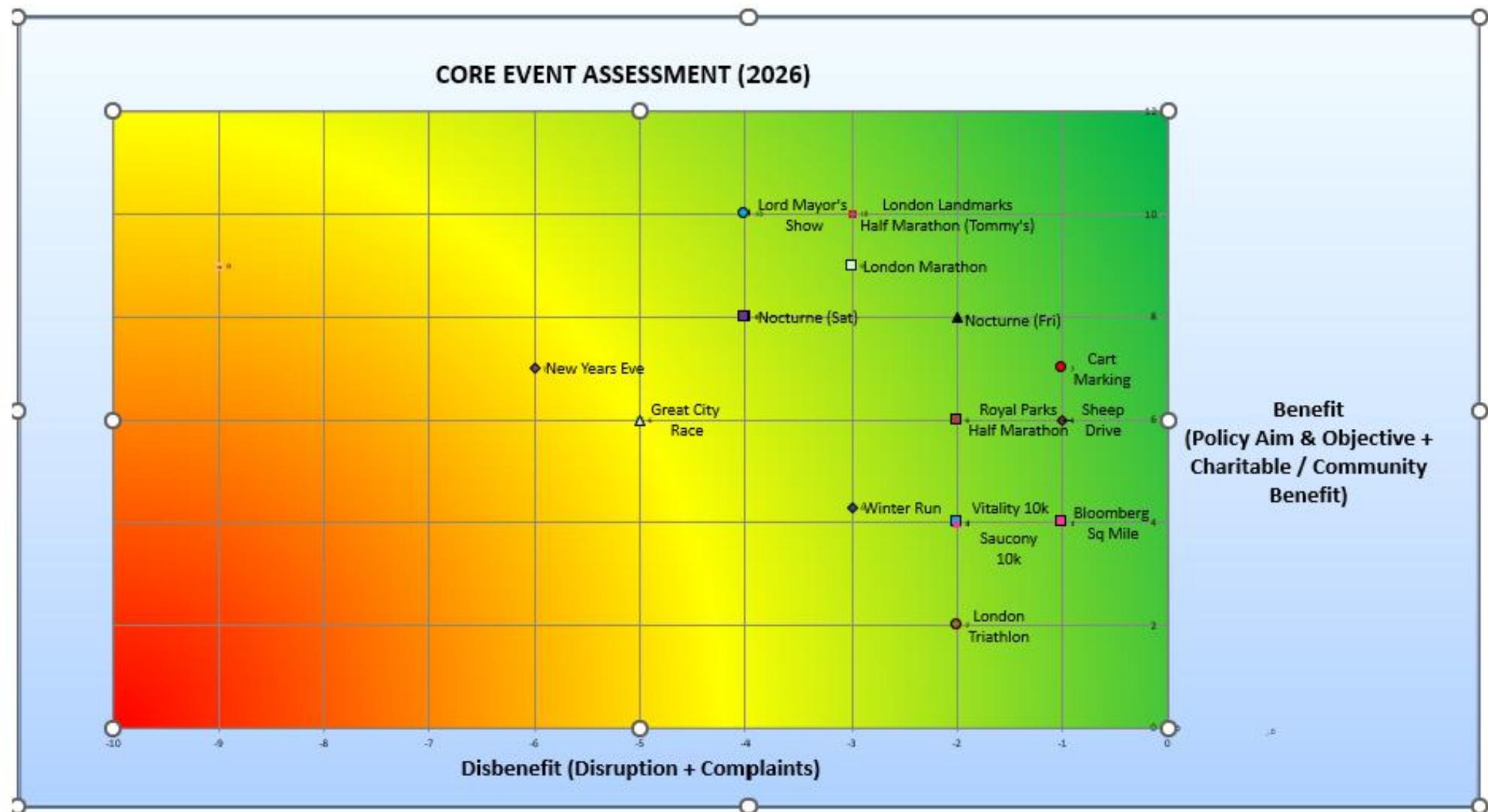
Red	Embankment / Thames St only (w/e)
Yellow	City (Weekend / Bank Holiday)
Green	City (Mon-Fri, evening)
Blue	City (Mon-Fri, daytime)

### APPENDIX 3 – Summary Event Assessment for 2026

An Event Assessment Matrix is applied to each event to determine its benefits and dis-benefits, and it remains a highly useful tool to determine the merits (or otherwise) of any proposed event. Members approved the framework for the assessment matrix, which is summarised below:

Disbenefit		Benefit	
Disruption & Impact	Past / Likely Complaints	Policy Aims & Objectives	Charitable / Community Support
Daytime major road closures / Major impact (-5)	Serious, numerous & political (-5)	City heritage / cultural 'difference' / Corporate Plan (inc visitor & cultural strategies) (5)	Not for Profit' / Large charitable contribution / Overwhelming stakeholder support (5)
Evening major road closures (-4)	Numerous & political (-4)	London / National / International significance (4)	Charitable contribution (4)
Extensive weekend road closures / Medium impact (-3)	Numerous non-political (-3)	CoL Partner / City stakeholder (3)	Significant City community non-charitable benefit (3)
Limited weekend road closures (-2)	Some political (-2)	CoL Community Strategy (2)	Small charitable contribution (2)
Traffic holds / bubble / minor road closures (-1)	Small number (-1)	Member-only support (1)	Small community benefit (1)
No road closures No impact (0)	None (0)	No policy objective / No Member support (0)	Fully commercial (0)

Using these criteria, the relative assessment for the planned known events in 2026 is represented on are currently as follows:



## APPENDIX 4 – Benefits in Kind for 2025

Date	Event Name	Application Fee	Temporary Traffic Order	Hoarding Licence	Parking Suspension	Dispensation	Total
<b>February</b>							
23/02/2025	London Winter Run				3,464		3,464
<b>March</b>							
25/03/2025	BTP - Exercise Iron Titan		2,400				2,400
<b>April</b>							
06/04/2025	London Landmarks Half Marathon				1,850		1,850
<b>May</b>							
08/05/2025	VE Day					36	36
28/05/2025	CoLP Cycle Safety	500	1,900		1,001		3,401
<b>June</b>							
<b>July</b>							
07/07/2025	State Visit - France				4,035		4,035
19/07/2025	Cart Marking				3,094		3,094
22/07/2025	Standard Chartered Great City Race				1,680		1,680
30/07/2025	CoLP Cycle Safety	500	1,900				2,400
<b>September</b>							
08/09/2025	Merchant Navy Memorial Day	150			1,720		1,870
28/09/2025	Vitality 10k				1,680		1,680
18/09/2025	Bloomberg Square Mile				3,016		3,016
28/09/2025	Sheep Drive				390		390
<b>November</b>							
05/11/2025	BBC Children in Need Walk	150					150
08/11/2025	Lord Mayor's Show	500	1,900	565	94,670		97,635
09/11/2025	Remembrance Sunday	500	1,900				2,400
09/11/2025	Trinity Square Remembrance Sunday	500	1,900				2,400
27/11/2025	Rifles Military Dinner				4,035		4,035
29/11/2025	CoLP Exercise Hurricane		2,400				2,400
<b>December</b>							
01/12/2025	Lord Mayor's Banquet				4,035		4,035
04/12/2025	State Visit - Germany				4,035		4,035
29/12/2025	NYE - MPS HVM Build		4,000				4,000
<b>TOTALS</b>		2,800	18,300	565	128,705	36	150,406