

MINUTE
of
CIVIC HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting held at 2.45pm in the Committee Room, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 29 May 2014.

Present:

Provost Alastair Carmichael (Chair)	Councillor Barbara Grant
Deputy Provost Betty Cunningham (Vice Chair)	Councillor Mary Montague
Councillor Charlie Gilbert	

Provost Carmichael in the Chair

Attending:

Jim Sneddon, Head of Democratic and Partnership Services; Linda Hutchison, Senior Committee Services Officers; Margaret Pettigrew, Members Services Officer; and Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1083. Councillor Grant declared a non-financial interest in respect of Agenda Item 3, (appendix 1 refers), on the grounds that she was a member of Eastwood Rotary Club. It was noted that in view of the nature of the interest it was not necessary for Councillor Grant to leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

CIVIC HOSPITALITY COSTS AND USE OF COUNCIL ACCOMMODATION

1084. The committee considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive regarding the costs of various recurring civic events, the current estimated level of funding available for new events, and extent to which, under delegated powers, authority had been granted to outside bodies to use Council accommodation for meetings and functions which fall outwith the letting arrangements managed by other departments.

The report referred to the establishment and terms of reference of the committee, the budget available in 2014/15 for civic hospitality, events and other expenditure met from the budget on a recurring basis for which indicative costs were provided, and the balance of funding remaining to enable new requests to be considered. It was further reported that, since the committee had been established in June 2013, no requests had been received from or granted to outside bodies to use Council accommodation for meetings and functions that fell outwith the letting arrangements managed by other departments

1038

During discussion on the purchase of flowers for local residents known to be celebrating a special wedding anniversary or birthday, clarification was provided on related costs, the supplier, and the good quality of those provided. Provost Carmichael added that he had received very positive comments about the quality of bouquets provided from the current supplier.

The committee noted the report.

REQUEST FOR CIVIC HOSPITALITY

1085. The committee considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive seeking consideration of a request for the Council to host a Drumhead Service to commemorate the start of World War 1. Full details of the request accompanied the report.

During detailed discussion including on the level of unallocated funds that remained within the budget, members of the committee expressed views on the proposal and alternative sources of funding that could be explored. In response, the Head of Democratic and Partnership Services outlined the background to the proposal. He also referred to a number of associated projects being taken forward which were not being funded by the council, issues relating to the community grants scheme, and those to be invited to attend the service from across East Renfrewshire. The Head of Democratic and Partnership Services also commented on issues discussed at related meetings, why it had been considered appropriate on this occasion to submit a request for civic hospitality and potential difficulties associated with pursuing an application for a community grant, adding that he was not aware of other sources of funding for the event being pursued.

The committee, following detailed discussion, agreed that in the first instance alternative sources of funding be explored failing the availability of which the request could be reconsidered in due course.

CHAIR