

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL****Special Meeting of Provost's Sub-Committee of Strategic Policy and  
Resources Committee – 5 November 2009****CAMPAIGN TO REGAIN CITY STATUS FOR PERTH****Report by Head of Democratic Services****ABSTRACT**

This report advises the Sub-Committee that as part of the campaign to regain city status for Perth, it is proposed that a dinner be held at Westminster on 7 December 2009 to be hosted jointly by the Provost and by Mr Pete Wishart, MP for North Tayside. The report seeks approval for that proposal, together with the associated funding for and Council representation at the dinner.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Sub-Committee –
- (a) Agree that as part of the campaign to regain city status for Perth, a dinner be held at Westminster on 7 December 2009 to be hosted jointly by the Provost and Mr Pete Wishart, MP for North Tayside;
  - (b) Agree that the Provost, Depute Provost, Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and Depute Chief Executive, accompanied by the Council Officer, attend the dinner; and
  - (c) Approve the costs of hosting the dinner and of Council attendance at the dinner as set out in Section 5 of this report.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 As members are aware, 2010 marks the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter to Perth in 1210 conferring Royal Burgh status and an extensive programme of events will shortly be launched. As members are also aware, the Council has agreed to use the anniversary to launch a campaign to regain city status for Perth.
- 2.2 In January 2009, the Provost hosted a preliminary meeting of a wide range of interested parties to map out the future direction of the campaign. At that meeting, reference was made to a dinner which had been hosted in London in 2008 by Mr Pete Wishart, MP for North Tayside in support of Perth College. It was noted that the dinner had been successful in a number of respects, including raising awareness of the College and its ambitions.
- 2.3 Since that initial meeting in January, the Provost, together with the Lord Lieutenant, Brigadier Mel Jamieson, has been in detailed discussions with a number of key people on the way forward for regaining city status for Perth,

and in particular with regard to raising awareness of the campaign at the highest levels.

### **3. PROPOSALS**

3.1 Following on from the success of the dinner for Perth College in 2008, and in order to assist with awareness raising of the campaign, Pete Wishart MP has offered to host jointly with the Provost, a dinner in the House of Commons dining room at Westminster on 7 December 2009. It is considered that such an event would provide an excellent opportunity to increase the informed knowledge about Perth's claim for city status.

3.2 Although the guest list is being finalised, those to be invited will include prominent people with a connection to Perth who have already declared their support for Perth's city status campaign, as well as a number of MPs and MSPs. It is proposed that in addition to the Provost as joint host, the Depute Provost, the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and the Depute Chief Executive, accompanied by the Council Officer, attend the dinner.

### **4. CONSULTATION**

4.1 The Provost, the Depute Provost, the Chief Executive and the Depute Chief Executive have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The House of Commons dining room can hold between 15 and 35 people and the costs of the event, which will be borne by the Council, will depend on the final numbers who attend. However, based on a cost of £32 per head and on a maximum of 35 people attending, the estimated cost of the dinner is £1120 plus drinks.

5.2 Travel arrangements for the attendees from the Council are still being finalised, but will include the cost of return flights to, transfers within and overnight accommodation in London.

5.3 The costs associated with the provision of and attendance at the dinner will be met from within current revenue budgets in the Chief Executive's Service.

### **6. COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES 2009-2012**

6.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2012 lays out five Objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. They are as follows:-

- (i) A Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment
- (ii) Healthy, Caring Communities
- (iii) A Prosperous, Sustainable and Inclusive Economy
- (iv) Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens
- (v) Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities

6.2 The proposal set out in this report relates to all of the objectives.

## **7. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT**

7.1 The Council's Corporate Equalities Assessment Framework requires an assessment of functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant equality categories. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new policies to ensure there is no adverse impact on any community group or employees.

7.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Assessment Framework and the determination was made that the items summarised in this report do not require further assessment as they do not have an impact on people's wellbeing.

## **8. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

8.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS). However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report. This is because the Committee are requested to note the contents of the report only and the Committee are not being requested to approve, adopt or agree to an action or to set the framework for future decisions.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

9.1 As part of the campaign to regain city status for Perth, it is proposed that a dinner be held at Westminster on 7 December 2009 to be hosted jointly by the Provost and by Mr Pete Wishart, MP for North Tayside. This report seeks approval for that proposal, together with the associated funding for and Council attendance at the dinner.

**GILLIAN A TAYLOR**  
Head of Democratic Services

**Note:** No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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