

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (Land and Environment)

Council : 19 December 2007

Subject: Formation of Culture Committee/Sub-Committee

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report is presented to the Council for consideration following a decision taken at the Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee on 7 November 2007 instructing officers to prepare a report for the November/December Council regarding the formation of a Culture Sub-Committee, to be chaired by Provost Agnew, who is the Council's Ambassador for Culture.

2. Background

- 2.1** Culture and cultural events have historically been managed within the remit of a variety of departments within the Council.
- 2.2** A report was considered at the Corporate Services Committee on 14 December 2005 which agreed to transfer the management responsibility for Cultural Services to Corporate Services, with a budget resource of £125K. This related to parts of Cultural Services that did not fit with the Education and life long learning agenda.
- 2.3** Within the Housing, Environmental and Economic Development, a number of "Cultural" events were organised. These include the Scottish Pipe Band Championships, Loch Lomond Highland Games, Firework displays, Dalmuir Illuminations and major music festivals.
- 2.4** A decision at the HEED Committee on 7 November 2007 instructed officers to report to Council recommendations regarding the formation of a Culture Sub-Committee to be chaired by Provost Agnew.
- 2.5** This report attempts to provide a positive way forward in dealing with culture throughout the authority.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** It is clear that there is no one department within the Council with sole responsibility for culture and cultural events. Likewise, there is no one Committee with particular responsibility for cultural issues.

3.2 If this matter was to be dealt with as a sub-committee, Members would require to determine which committee would take a lead in cultural issues, since the sub-committee would report to its parent. However, since cultural issues do cut across the remit of a number of departments and committees, and given the increasing importance of cultural events to the authority, it is felt more appropriate for the Council to form a Culture Committee with appropriate delegated powers. The name of the Committee, extent of delegated powers and any subsequent changes to Standing Orders would require to be the subject of a separate report to Council.

3.3 Areas that could be considered by this Committee include museums, art exhibitions, twinning events, Council events programme and major music festivals. A report to Council in January would give further details of the remit of the committee and the committee may be able to undertake some of the work currently devolved to one or more Working Groups.

3.4 One key element that will require to be addressed through the Culture Committee is improved sponsorship and advertising of “culture” to reduce the cost to the Council of organising and hosting major events. There requires to be a corporate approach to sponsorship and not an event by event bidding.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are some Personnel issues associated with administering and clerking a Culture Committee.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There could be positive financial impact in this area should improved sponsorship and advertising be achieved.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 There is no risk analysis at this stage. There may require to be a full risk analysis included in any follow-up report to Council that contains detailed recommendations.

7. Conclusions

7.1 There is a need to challenge, review and co-ordinate the current provision of cultural services and events delivered by West Dunbartonshire Council.

7.2 A Culture Committee would be able to review the range of cultural activities and service provision throughout West Dunbartonshire and play a co-ordinating role in securing that high profile cultural events are successfully promoted in West Dunbartonshire.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Council is asked to:

- a) agree to the formation of a Culture Committee;
- b) instruct officers to provide a report to the January Committee on the title, membership, remit, delegated powers and arrangements for meetings of the Cultural Committee. The report would also mention any consequential changes which will be required to Standing Orders.

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Date: 10 December 2007

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All