

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services**

**Corporate Culture Sub-Committee: 20 March 2012**

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**Subject: HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons – 4 June 2012**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To ask the Sub-Committee to consider whether this Council should celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee by lighting a beacon to mark the occasion.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** An invitation was sent to the Leader of the Council from Bruno Peek, Pageant Master, HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons, inviting this Council to light a beacon on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012 in recognition of The Queen's 50 years as our Monarch.
- 2.2** A similar invitation has been extended to all local authorities in the UK.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** If the Sub-Committee agrees that this Council should light a beacon then it will need to consider which type of beacon should be lit and where it should be located.
- 3.2** There are three types of beacon that can be used for this occasion as detailed below.
- 3.2.1** Option one is the traditional bonfire beacon which is not recommended for a number of reasons. In terms of Health and Safety it is not easy to contain the fire and therefore the Fire Service are generally unhappy with the use of bonfires; bonfires inevitably cause damage to the grounds which will mean reinstatement costs; and finding a suitable location on Council property could be more difficult than the other options.
- 3.2.2** Option two is the beacon brazier with metal shield. It is suggested that this beacon brazier could be made by local craftsman, erected as a permanent reminder of the moment in history celebrated, or can be removed after the event, and stored away for future use. The metal shield could carry the coat of arms of the council, if appropriate. Details on the construction of options one and two are shown as an appendix to this report.
- 3.2.3** The church tower beacon fuelled by bottled gas. This beacon is safe to use, dramatic when lit, and again could be stored away after using it on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012, for future occasions. However, the company which provides this type of beacon has advised that they cannot guarantee delivery on orders received after 12 March 2012.

- 3.4** The location of the beacon will depend on the type of beacon chosen. The Pageant Master has suggested that they could be located on top of mountains, church towers, castle battlements, town and village greens, country parks, estates and farms and along beaches surrounding our shores. Members are asked to consider the type and location of beacon to be lit in West Dunbartonshire.
- 3.5** It should be noted that copies of the information on beacons has been circulated to other local organisations in West Dunbartonshire which might wish to light their own beacons in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee.

#### **4. People Implications**

- 4.1** There are no implications for employees of the Council.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1** Clearly there will be a cost associated with each of the three options which will need to be met from within the small scale events budget for 2012/13. The cost of the Church Tower Beacon is £370.80 excluding gas, but as previously stated delivery cannot be guaranteed in time for 4 June 2012. The estimated cost of the bonfire beacon will vary dependent on the size and location of the bonfire but this option is not recommended. Although the cost of option two is not known at present it is likely that the cost of commissioning a local craftsman to build a brazier beacon will be more expensive than the other two options.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

- 6.1** There could be a small risk of reputational damage to the Council if it decides not to do anything to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee Year.

#### **7. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 7.1** There is no impact on any equalities groups.

#### **8. Strategic Assessment**

- 8.1** This report does not impact directly on any of the Council's strategic priorities. However, if the Sub-Committee agrees to proceed with option 2 then it has been suggested that the Beacon Brazier could be retained as a tourist attraction which could contribute in a small way to the regeneration and marketing of West Dunbartonshire as a tourist destination.

## **9. Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 9.1** Given the close links of the area with the Queen through her visits and the building of the QE2 in Clydebank, it is appropriate that this Council should mark the occasion of The Queen's 50 years as our Monarch. The Pageant Master has asked for a response prior to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012. However, given the close proximity to the local elections in May, it is suggested that the Sub-Committee gives early consideration to this issue.
- 9.2** Taking into account the significant safety risks associated with 3.2.1 and the timescales associated with 3.2.3, it is recommended the sub-committee consider 3.2.2 as the most appropriate way to mark the occasion.

**Angela Wilson**  
**Executive Director of Corporate Services**  
**7 March 2012**

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- Appendix:** Details provided by Pageant Master, HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons, on the construction of two types of beacon.
- Background Papers:** Letter from Bruno Peek, OBE MVO OPR, Pageant Master, HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons,