

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	4 October 2012
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Queen's Diamond Jubilee – Motion by Councillor Martin Greig
REPORT NUMBER:	OCE/12/019

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

At its meeting of 21 June 2012 the Committee resolved to instruct that officers consult with all elected members to ask for suggestions as to how to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee and the Queen's reign and to report back in terms of the motion at the meeting of the Committee of 4 October 2012. The report fulfils the Committee's instruction.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee notes the suggestions provided by elected members as requested and indicates which, if any, it wishes to see developed as proposals for a permanent commemoration in the City of the Diamond Jubilee and of the Queen's reign.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The terms of Councillor Martin Greig's motion include a request to identify any possible financial sources and fundraising opportunities in relation to a permanent commemoration. Once the Committee has identified which suggestion, if any, it wishes developed further an outline costing can be produced. This will then provide the basis for the development of an appropriate funding strategy combining some, or all, of fundraising from trusts, individuals, business sponsorship and public subscription. It is envisaged that any Council contribution would be secured from the Common Good.

Members of the Committee will be aware that a sum of £100,000 has been allocated from the Common Good during 2012/2103 towards both the costs of Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Duthie Park and the Council's contribution in supporting events to mark the Jubilee across the City organised by community-based organisations.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Any other implications will be addressed once any preferred proposal has been identified for further development.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

At its meeting of 13 June 2012 the Council had before it a Motion by Councillor Martin Greig in the following terms:

That this Council produces a report with recommendations for identifying any possible financial sources and fundraising opportunities in order to create a permanent commemoration in the City of the Diamond Jubilee and of the Queen's reign.

The Motion was considered by the Finance and Resources Committee at its meeting of 21 June 2012 and the Committee resolved to instruct that officers consult with all elected members to ask for suggestions as to how to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee and the Queen's reign, and to report back in terms of the motion at the meeting of the Committee on 4 October 2012.

All elected members were contacted on 22 June 2012 requesting that any suggestions be provided to the Office of Chief Executive by 20 July 2012. Further contact was made with all elected members on 30 August 2012 with a note of the suggestions received at that point and a further request to provide suggestions if desired.

The suggestions received from elected members are as follows:

- A tranquil garden space within a Jubilee square created on the site of St Nicholas House
- A statue of the Queen in a prominent city centre site
- A statue of the Queen enhanced by an appropriate award made to 60 individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to their communities
- Naming the third Don crossing to mark the Jubilee
- Naming the next new school built by the Council in commemoration of the Jubilee
- A Diamond Jubilee garden in the city centre
- A commissioned portrait of the Queen
- A scheme for young people to travel to Commonwealth countries for socially gainful purposes

The Committee is requested to identify which, if any, of the suggestions made by elected members it wishes to see developed as proposals for a permanent commemoration in the City of the Diamond Jubilee and the Queen's reign. For the Committee's information, informal approaches have been made to the Palace with regard to the suggestions for a statue or a portrait and it has been confirmed that Her

Majesty sits for artists on a very limited number of occasions and such sittings are confirmed in her diary very far in advance. It is therefore unlikely that Her Majesty would have time in the near future to sit for any newly-commissioned statue or portrait.

Members of the Committee will also note that Her Majesty the Queen marked the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee with a visit to the City on Monday 24 September 2012.

In developing any of the suggestions into proposals, outline costings will be established and a fundraising strategy appropriate to the proposals will be set out combining some, or all, of fundraising from trusts, individuals, business sponsorship and public subscription. It is envisaged that any Council contribution would be secured from the Common Good.

6. IMPACT

The subject matter of the report is likely to be of interest to the public.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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