

DIAMOND JUBILEE WORKING GROUP

ABERDEEN, 28 February, 2013 - Minute of meeting of the DIAMOND JUBILEE WORKING GROUP. Present: The Depute Provost, Councillor Reynolds (Convener); and Councillors Allan, Cormie, Donnelly, Greig and Jaffrey.

APOLOGIES

1. Apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillor Young and Lesley Thomson.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. The Working Group had before it the minute of the previous meeting of 18 December, 2012.

The Working Group resolved:-

to approve the minute as a correct record.

QUEENS'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

3. With reference to article 3 of the minute of the previous meeting, the Working Group had before it a report by the Office of the Chief Executive, which provided an update on the Finance and Resource's Committee's consideration of proposals to mark the Diamond Jubilee and the Queen's reign, and also provided an initial outline of a proposed Diamond Jubilee travel scholarship.

The report explained that at the Finance and Resource's Committee held on 21 February 2013, it was agreed that this Working Group continue to look into ways in which the Council could create a commemoration in the City of the Diamond Jubilee and the Queen's reign excluding delivering a statue, but focussing on a travel scholarship.

The report advised that as a result of the decision made at the Finance and Resource Committee, various criteria was listed for consideration for the establishment of a travel scholarship.

The criteria was set out as follows:-

- (1) the age parameters for travellers
- (2) the residential qualification required of travellers
- (3) the purpose(s) of travel that would be supported
- (4) the output/outcome to be provided from the travel

In addition, the final proposal would detail administrative arrangements, to include:-

- (1) the number of grants available in any one year

- (2) the level of grant available both in cash terms and in percentage of total travel cost
- (3) the application and assessment process
- (4) communications and promotion
- (5) monitoring, review and reporting
- (6) the duration of the travel scholarship programme.

Ciaran Monaghan spoke in furtherance of the report, and advised that the report attempted to start discussions on the range of criteria that could be put in place for candidates and invited members to give thought to the various criteria's.

Members then discussed the range of criteria, in particular the age parameters for travellers, the level of grant available both in cash terms and in percentage of total travel cost and the duration of the travel scholarship.

After discussions, Ciaran advised that he would draft another report based on the discussions, and would compose various options for the Working Group to further discuss and agree on, before it would go to Finance and Resources for final approval.

The Working Group resolved:-

- (i) to request that a new name be established to replace travel scholarship;
- (ii) to request that officers liaise with the Youth Council, to gain their views on the scholarship and the anticipated criteria, in particular the age range of candidates;
- (iii) to agree in principle that the scholarship run for a maximum of 3 years;
- (iv) to request that officers investigate which schemes are in place already in relation to scholarships within the Council;
- (v) to request that officers bring a further report back to the Working Group for discussion, with detailed options in relation to the criteria; and
- (vi) to otherwise note the information provided.

LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR THOMSON

4. The Working Group had before it a letter from Councillor Ross Thomson, which suggested that in order to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, that a new band stand be erected in Hazlehead Park.

Councillor Thomson felt that a new band stand would provide the ideal place for live music and dance in the park as well as many other cultural offerings.

Members then discussed the letter received, and they concluded that the band stand would be too expensive to set up and maintain.

Following discussions around other ways to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee, members agreed that it would be very beneficial to find out how much money they would receive from the Finance and Resources Committee to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee and her 60 year reign, before deciding on how to spend the funds.

The Working Group resolved:-

- (i) to request that the Finance and Resources Committee allocate funds to the Working Group in order for decisions to be made on how to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and 60 year reign; and
- (ii) to agree not to progress with the band stand concept suggested by Councillor Thomson.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5. The Working Group agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group would be held on Thursday 2 May 2013, at 10am in Committee Room 4.

- **The Depute Provost, Councillor Reynolds, Convener**