

Committee(s)	Dated:
Health and Wellbeing Board	29 January 2016
Subject: Provision of non-alcoholic beverages at City hosted events	Public
Report of: Remembrancer	For Information

Summary

This report outlines the current arrangements for the provision of non-alcoholic beverages at City Corporation events.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the current arrangements
- Note that the provision of alcoholic drinks at business-related events is being considered by Members as part of the current effectiveness of hospitality review

Main Report

Background

1. Reducing alcohol consumption is a strategic priority of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board is keen to demonstrate the City Corporation's commitment to help reduce health issues caused by excessive alcohol consumption, by facilitating the provision at City hosted events of healthier alternatives.

2. The issue has been raised as to whether non-alcoholic beverages are sufficiently available at City events.

Current Position

3. At City hosted receptions, caterers are requested to provide both water and an alternative soft drink. At Committee dinners until recently, the choice was sometimes restricted to water and orange juice. Caterers are now required to provide a greater choice.

4. There is an increasing range of non-alcoholic options. For example, at the recent reception for the Chinese State Banquet, the non-alcoholic alternatives were water, "apple and ginger fizz", and lychee and coconut water.

5. The ratio between alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks provided at Committee and other City-hosted receptions, is usually two to one, although Guildhall caterers have estimated that the proportion of non-alcoholic drinks consumed is typically only a quarter of the total.

6. In providing drinks for an event, the Guildhall events team and the caterer will look carefully at the nature of the guest list for the event. For example, the requirements for a military event are likely to be different to a Commonwealth related event.

7. Given the importance of encouraging any consumption of alcoholic drinks is kept at a moderate level, the events team intend to ask caterers to ensure that there is ample opportunity for those who wish to switch from alcoholic drinks to non-alcoholic beverages part way through a reception to do so.

8. To support the City's sustainability agenda, caterers are encouraged to serve tap water rather than bottled water to help reduce packaging, wastage and minimise the carbon footprint.

Effectiveness of hospitality review

9. The provision of wine at business-related events during the day was considered as part of the effectiveness of hospitality review. The Hospitality Working Party at its meeting on 11 December 2015 recommended that wine should be served at lunches by exception, and not at business-related lunch events. The review is being considered by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 21 January.

Recommendation

10. Members are invited to note the current arrangements, and that the service of wine at business related events held during the day is currently being considered by Members as part of the wider effectiveness of hospitality review.

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