

Report – Hospitality Working Party of the Policy and Resources Committee

Applications for Hospitality

To be presented on Thursday, 14th January 2021

To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of London in Common Council assembled.

(a) Armed Forces Flag Day 2021

Armed Forces Flag Day forms part of a week of activities across the country to raise public awareness of the contribution made by the Armed Forces. Armed Forces Flag Day was established to provide an opportunity to show support to members of the Armed Forces and Service families.

To mark this occasion, it is proposed that the City Corporation hosts a flag-raising ceremony in Guildhall Yard during the afternoon of Thursday 24th June 2021, followed by light refreshments in the Old Library.

The event will provide an opportunity for the City to show its support for the Armed Forces, acknowledge the challenges encountered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and raise awareness of the contribution made by those who are currently serving or have previously served in the Forces.

Guests will include serving and retired military personnel, reservists, cadets, Masters and Clerks of Livery Companies, pupils from the City's schools and academies and representatives from the City's Privileged Regiments.

The event would support the following Corporate Plan outcomes: to promote effective progression through fulfilling education and employment (outcome 3c); to bring individuals and communities together to share experiences and promote wellbeing, mutual respect and tolerance (outcome 4a); and to advocate and facilitate greater levels of giving time, skills, knowledge, advice and money (outcome 5d).

It is **recommended** that hospitality be granted for a flag-raising ceremony to mark Armed Forces Flag Day, followed by light refreshments, and that arrangements are made under the auspices of the Hospitality Working Party; the costs to be met from City's Cash and within approved parameters.

(b) Commonwealth High Commissioners' Banquet 2021

The City Corporation has hosted an annual banquet for the Commonwealth High Commissioners since 2015.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was scheduled to take place in Rwanda in June of this year, and the High Commissioners' Banquet was planned for September, but owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, CHOGM and the Banquet had to be deferred. It is now anticipated that CHOGM will take place in June 2021, subject to any public health restrictions that might be in operation at the time.

It is proposed that the City Corporation hosts the High Commissioners' Banquet at Guildhall on Monday 13th September 2021, working with the Royal Commonwealth Society and Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council. Guests would include High Commissioners, nominations from the Royal Commonwealth Society and Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council, representatives from businesses with Commonwealth interests, national and international environmental and sustainability industries, green finance, leading national political figures and other relevant institutional representatives.

The event would support the following Corporate Plan outcomes: to promote and champion diversity, inclusion and the removal of institutional barriers and structural inequalities (outcome 3a); to strengthen local, regional, national and international relationships to secure new opportunities for business collaboration and innovation (outcome 7b); to preserve and promote the City as the world-leading global centre for financial and professional services, commerce and culture (outcome 7c); and to influence UK and global policy and regulation and international agreements to protect the environment (outcome 11d).

It is **recommended** that hospitality be granted for a banquet for the Commonwealth High Commissioners and that arrangements are made under the auspices of the Policy and Resources Committee; the costs to be met from City's Cash within agreed parameters.

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this of 21st Day of December 2020

SIGNED on behalf of the Working Party.

Deputy Brian Desmond Francis Mooney
Chief Commoner and Chairman, Hospitality Working Party