

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Culture, Heritage & Libraries	July 2012
Subject: City of London Tartan	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Decision
<p>Summary</p> <p>This report presents the case for a City of London Tartan which may be used for gifts for 2012-2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that the Committee approves the Tartan and of its registration as the City of London Tartan 	

Main Report

Tartan – a brief history

1. The first documented tartan, the Falkirk tartan, dates from the 3rd century AD. Tartan as we know it today was not known before the late 16th century, though it was not systematically worn until the 17th and 18th century. In 1703, Martin Martin noted that people from different areas or islands in Scotland wore different tartans.
2. The link to specific families is a more modern one. In 1746, as a measure to pacify the Highlands, the Dress Act banned tartans except for those used by Highland regiments of the British army. The Act was repealed in 1782 and there was renewed interest in tartan patterns, with over 200 genuine setts being identified in the next few decades.
3. In 1822 for the pageantry of George IV new tartans were developed as National Dress, and not only for Highlanders. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert followed the romantic Highland revival, and used many tartans to furnish Balmoral which they bought in 1848. The naming and registration of tartans began in 1815.

New tartans

4. In addition to clan tartans, there are many tartans created especially for individuals, families, districts, institutions, and corporations. There are even specific commemorative tartans for various events and certain ethnic groups. There are many regional tartans, officially recognised by government bodies: in Canada most provinces and territories have an official tartan, many States in the USA have a tartan, and several local councils have their own tartan. Depending upon how a "different tartan" is defined, it has been estimated that there are about 3,500 to 7,000 different tartans, with around 150 new designs being created every year.

The City of London tartan

5. The possible occasion of a Scottish Lord Mayor in 2013 presents an opportunity for the City of London to have its own tartan. The (potential) incumbent is keen to use such a tartan as one of the Lord Mayoral gifts during the year. These have to be chosen well ahead of the year, hence the timing of this memorandum. The chosen tartan will be based on the colours of the City of London crest – silver/grey, red and white, with the red cross on a white background echoing the St George Cross of the City shield.

Current position

6. Lochcarron of Scotland has assisted in developing a suitable design. After many iterations the design below has been identified as the most suitable. The design is quite conservative and simple and colours are muted so that it will be easy to wear for most people.

Proposal

7. The design will be registered as the City of London tartan and will remain on file so that it can be used in the future by the City. It will be used in 2012-13 in one or more of the Mayoral gifts. The costs will be borne by Mansion House.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that the Committee approves the Tartan and of its registration as the City of London Tartan.