

Report To: Policy and Resources Committee **Date:** 13 August 2013

Report By: Corporate Director Education
Communities and OD **Report No:** HR/11/13/GB

Contact Officer: George Barbour **Contact No:** 01475 712385

Subject: Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth - 10 March 2014

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to agree to the Council's participation in the 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' event to mark Commonwealth Day on 10 March 2014 and to hold this as an annual activity in the council calendar.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and the Commonwealth Secretariat recently wrote to Councils encouraging them to take part in the first 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' on 10 March 2014. Appendix 1 has a copy of the letter.
- 2.2 The Commonwealth Secretariat is aiming to sign up every local authority in the United Kingdom to agree to fly a flag on the day from 10am until midnight.
- 2.3 By signing up before the beginning of the next round of committee cycles, the Council can arrange to include the event on its event listings and ensure Inverclyde is represented as one of the participating areas on the Commonwealth Secretariat website.
- 2.4 Authority was granted by Councillors McIlwee (for Councillor McCabe), Clocherty, McEleny and the Chief Executive.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to agree the Council's participation in the Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth event on 10 March 2014 and in future years.

Corporate Director Education , Communities and OD

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Local authorities across the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man will fly the flag for the Commonwealth from 10am to midnight on 10 March to celebrate Commonwealth Day. It is of particular interest locally with the Commonwealth Games are being hosted in Glasgow in 2014.
- 4.2 The initiative was first fully embraced in Norfolk by all eight councils in the area and has now been broadened out across the country. Flags will be taken to the top of the four highest peaks in the UK and raised in every corner of the country.
- 4.3 The initiative was first fully embraced in Norfolk by all eight councils in the area and has now been broadened out across the country. The event in 2014 is being limited to 413 Local Authorities including all 32 in Scotland as well as many city and county councils throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Flags will be taken to the top of the four highest peaks in the UK and raised in every corner of the country.
- 4.4 The organisers are asking for a degree of confidentiality as the 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' team wish to make the 'first' public announcement concerning the project later this year.
- 4.5 There are currently nine locations in Scotland signed up to take part in the 'fly a flag for the commonwealth'. These are: Edinburgh; Glasgow; Aberdeen; Dundee; Stirling; Perth; Inverness; Shetland Isles and Unst (most northerly inhabited Island in the United Kingdom).

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: There are no financial implications. Commonwealth flags will be provided free of charge by the Commonwealth Secretariat on completion of an online registration form.
- 5.2 Human Resources: There are no HR implications
- 5.3 Legal: There are no legal implications.
- 5.4 Equalities: There are no equality issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 N/A.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Letter to the Council from Councillor David O'Neill of COSLA with 'Guide to taking part' attachment.

Appendix 1:



14 May 2013

Sent to: Leader of Council
CC: Chief Executive

— Dear Council Leader,

RE: ‘FLY A FLAG FOR THE COMMONWEALTH – 10TH MARCH 2014’.

Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth will take place on 10 March 2014 and will become an annual occasion on Commonwealth Day, (the second Monday in March each year), growing in size and stature over the next few years.

I am writing to encourage your council to take part in this unique event. As you will see from the introduction on page 3 of the Guide and the list of acknowledgements on pages 6 to 9, many Local Authorities have already confirmed their involvement, including the 7 cities in Scotland, so I hope your Council will consider taking part as well. You will also see that the flag is going to be flown in some really unusual locations by others next year, providing the event with extra gravitas in its first year.

The 90” X 54” Commonwealth Flag will be provided **FREE** of charge to participating Councils. If you are interested you should complete the online Registration Form by going to www.flyaflagforthecommonwealth.co.uk by no later than 31st January 2014, to confirm your involvement and ensure you receive your Commonwealth Flag on the 10th February next year. You can also download the Guide and the official Logo from this site.

The organisers suggest that the Flag could be raised by the Leader or Civic Head, or you may wish to organise a competition in partnership with your local media, with the winner having the honour of raising the Flag at 10am on Monday 10th March 2014. A similar competition could be undertaken for the reading of the Commonwealth Affirmation in advance of raising the Flag that day.

The event in 2014 is being limited to 413 Local Authorities including all 32 in Scotland as well as many City and County Councils throughout the United Kingdom, Channel

Islands and the Isle of Man. The thousands of Town, Parish and Community Councils will be encouraged to take part in 2015, with others being invited to participate in 2016 and beyond. If the project is to be discussed with members of the Council, the organisers are asking for a degree of confidentiality as The Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth team wish to make the 'first' public announcement concerning the project later this year.

If you require any further information, please contact Bruno Peek at pageantmaster@mac.com or by calling on 07737 262 913.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr David O'Neill

1 Attachment: Guide To Taking Part.