

meeting **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

date **13 September 2011**

agenda item number **8 (c)**

Report of the Team Manager, Equality

Chinese New Year 2012 Civic Celebration Buffet Reception at County Hall on 24 January 2012 (5.00 pm – 8.30 pm)

1. Purpose of the Report

To consider arrangements and funding of a Chinese New Year 2012 Celebration at County Hall in partnership with the Nottinghamshire Chinese Welfare Association on the evening of 24 January 2012.

2. Background

- 2.1 Nottinghamshire Chinese Welfare Association gives a wide range of support to Chinese people throughout the county that includes helping businesses with financial and planning advice, care for the elderly, support for families and organising cultural events and activities.
- 2.2 Their membership of over 500 individuals, businesses and families is predominantly county based, notably in Beeston and Bingham, though they also serve City members and deal with enquiries from all over the region.
- 2.3 They contribute to Council business by regularly attending countywide advisory groups such as OPAG and the Disability Advisory Group and attend partnership business boards when appropriate.
- 2.4 The County Council do not currently grant aid the Association. The budget to support its work comes from other local authorities, external application funding such as lottery, the community themselves and fees for the services that they provide, eg, translation and interpreting services.
- 2.5 The Association's Executive committee visited the Chairman of the County Council in July 2011 to discuss the possibility of the Council hosting their Chinese New Year celebrations in 2012. The request received support from the Chairman.
- 2.6 The event proposed will include a series of activities and demonstrations, some of which can take place in the grounds of County Hall, the vibrant and colourful lion dancing traditionally associated with Chinese New Year or Sword Dancing for example. Other activities will include origami, Tai Chi, Chinese painting, calligraphy and Chinese music and songs from local school children and community choirs.

- 2.7 The Association's Executive will liaise directly with the Civic Office regarding suitability, insurance and other liabilities, but will organise and pay for the demonstrations and activities themselves.
- 2.8 The Association has asked the County Council to kindly fund the Civic Celebration Buffet Reception (hosted by the Chairman of the County Council) for up to 200 guests in the Assembly Hall, County Hall following the events. County Council catering is happy to provide the menu and will liaise with the community to ensure that authentic Chinese food is served.
- 2.9 The guest list would also include the Vice-Chairman of the County Council, Leader, Deputy Leader, Chief Executive and two County Councillors from each area ie. Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield, Newark & Sherwood, Rushcliffe. In the past, Chinese New Year celebrations have been funded and hosted by the City, with events being held in the Market Square and in the Council House and the Chairman has always been invited each year to attend. It is proposed that the Lord Mayor of Nottingham is also invited to the County's event.

3. Statutory and policy implications

- 3.1 This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Attention is however drawn to the following:-

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That consideration is given to the Chairman of the County Council hosting this celebration of Chinese New Year 2012 reception, to take place on the evening of Tuesday 24th January 2012 for 150 – 200 guests.
- 4.2 The estimated costs are £2,000 (£10 per head) for refreshments and £75 for the printing of the formal invitations. It is proposed that the estimated budget of £2,075 will be met by the County Hospitality Budget.

Maggie Else
Team Manager (Equality)

Legal Services' Comments (SLB 02/08/2011)

The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in the report.

The Delegation to Administration Committee contained in Part III of the Council's Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, includes delegation to authorise hospitality to be offered by the County Council.

Comments of the Service Director Finance (MB 03/08/12)

The financial implications are set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

Background Papers available for inspection

E-mail from the Nottinghamshire Chinese Welfare Association Chairman.

Electoral division(s) affected

All