



Agenda Item: 6 (b)

REPORT OF TEAM MANAGER (MEMBERS AND CIVIC SERVICES)

GARDEN PARTY 2012

Purpose of the Report

1. To reflect on the success of the 2011 Garden Party and to consider possible arrangements for holding a garden party in 2012

Information and Advice

2. The Council has held a Garden Party since 2006. The format and style of the events have evolved over that time.
3. Several changes were made to the Garden Party in 2011 and the highlights can be summarised as follows:
 - a. Nominations were invited from departments (10 per department) and the number from members reduced (1 per member). In the event 52 nominations were received from departments and 35 from members
 - b. The focus was very clearly on the contribution that the nominee had made – this was reflected in the printed programme and the rolling display in the Rufford Suite. Many of the guests clearly appreciated being invited to County Hall and the recognition that this gave.
 - c. The publicity was more successful with the focus on individual case studies on the run up to the event and photos of guests after the event.
 - d. The timing of the event was changed from early evening to early afternoon. This changed expectations on the refreshments which enabled costs to be reduced.
 - e. It was necessary to move the event indoors in anticipation of bad weather and to plan tours of County Hall. The tours of CH were well received.
4. Issues raised by the event include the following
 - a. For the second year running it was necessary to hold the event indoors. Because of the logistics this decision has to be taken at least 24 hours in advance.
 - b. County Hall has significant disadvantages as a venue for the numbers and nature of people invited – for instance most guests wanted a seat so there was pressure of space

in the Assembly Hall and little scope for guests to mingle. Even if the event had been held outdoors most of the guests would probably have preferred to remain seated for most of the time.

- c. It was anticipated that the entertainment would be background. Holding the event indoors made it more formal and puts a greater emphasis on the entertainment (rather than the entertainment being in the background). The event could probably benefit from more focus on the volunteers and their contribution.
 - d. Although most of the nominations were made by departments, only the corporate director, or their representative, attended for each department. Some 21 members attended. Consequently, there were notably fewer hosts than guests.
 - e. The timing of the Garden Party is dictated by it being a “garden party”, ie held in the summer, and the involvement of the music service which means it has to be before the end of the school term. In 2011 it was held on 9th July. This means that two of the biggest events organised by the Civic Office (Civic Service and Garden Party) take place around the same time. This summer will be particularly busy with events around the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee (the bank holiday weekend is the 2nd-5th June) and the Olympics (the Olympic torch is in Nottinghamshire on 28/29 June).
 - f. The Garden Party is not the only event the Council arranges for volunteers – for instance CFCS is holding a civic reception for 300 volunteers who have helped run services associated with the department, and the Sports Review of the Year focuses on voluntary contribution to sport.
5. The cost of the 2011 Garden Party was some £3,160. This included afternoon tea for 200 guests at £7.20 per head, additional costs for the entertainment and sundries.
 6. In the light of these considerations it is proposed to plan the Garden Party in 2012 on the following basis:
 - a. To hold an event on a Saturday afternoon in late September or early October to celebrate the contribution of voluntary activity to the life of Nottinghamshire
 - b. For the event to be in County Hall and include light refreshments, appropriate speeches, and the opportunity to tour County Hall, with an estimated cost of £3,200.
 - c. Nominations to be invited from departments and members

Other Options Considered

7. Not holding the event in 2012 was considered but this would have missed the opportunity to celebrate a range of contributions to the life of the County. For the reasons set out above it was considered that holding a Garden Party on the previous model would have problems.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. To recognise the range and contribution of those engaged in voluntary activity in Nottinghamshire

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That consideration be given to holding a Garden Party in 2012 as set out in the report.

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Team Manager (Members and Civic Services)

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 07/03/2012)

10. 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.

Financial Comments (P.B 06-03-2012)

11. The cost of the Garden Party estimated at £3,200 will be funded from the County Hospitality Budget within the Leader Portfolio.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Nil

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All