

**REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****COMMUNITY EVENTS 2014****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to seek approval for three community events.

**Information and Advice**

2. Reception for the British Gurkhas Ex-Servicemen and their families settled in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire – 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Secretary of State for Communities allocated £50,000 to the Midlands Cluster of Ghurkhas to support various programmes for integrating Ghurkha's and their dependents with the wider community. Through a formula based on the number of heads of family in an area, Nottinghamshire County Council has been allocated £5,000 (there are 21 heads of family based in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire).

3. This funding is to undertake 'appropriate developmental work' which includes establishing a Nottinghamshire Nepalese Community and Ghurkha veterans group linked to the Nottingham Asian Arts Council and Nottingham Equal; identifying issues faced by the Nepalese community and gaps in current service provision; developing a local action plan including proposals to sustain the work beyond 2013; establishing a new local infrastructure for Ghurkha veterans, working in partnership with Ghurkha volunteers and charities and mainstream advice agencies; and providing access to community information and services to Ghurkha veterans across the County.
4. To date, the Ghurkhas have established a local British Ghurkhas Ex-Servicemen's Society Nottingham (BGESN) and a significant number of the community have/are attending English as second Language and basic computer courses organised by Central local service College Nottingham and funded through the allocation. A Directory of local support organisations, including religious establishments, has been produced and shared with the community. The community has, with minimal support from county officers organised festive and community events. The Ghurkhas are dedicated and hard-working people with the majority of ex-servicemen in paid employment.

5. The government funding can also be used to hold a one off event to: welcome the community; publicise the Action Plan; and launch the directory of appropriate local services. Following consultation, the Gurkha Community has requested such an event, which will also be used to demonstrate the contribution made by the Ghurkha community and provide networking opportunities.
6. The estimated costs of the proposed reception are £500. This would cover the costs of providing refreshments and a light buffet for 60-80 guests. The costs of this event can be met from the £5,000 allocation from central Government.
7. Foster Carers Long Service Awards March 2014

A request has been received for the Chairman to host the Foster Carer's Long Service Awards 2014. Invitations will be sent to all foster carers celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, and 45 years of fostering. This is a bi-annual event and will include a two course meal with drinks for 40 guests in the civic suite. The foster carers will be presented with a certificate and a bouquet.

8. Duke of Edinburgh Awards Presentation 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014

The Chairman has received a request to host a presentation ceremony for the Gedling Area Duke of Edinburgh Awards on January 29<sup>th</sup> 2014 at County Hall. There would be approximately 100 recipients plus parents/guardians at the Presentation Ceremony and refreshments have been requested in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits plus orange juice at a cost of £2.15 per head.

#### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

9. To seek approval for the above mentioned events.

#### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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.

#### **Financial Implications**

11. The cost of the Reception for the British Gurkhas Ex-Servicemen and their families will be approximately £500 which will be met from the £5,000 allocation from central Government.
10. The cost of the Foster Carers Long Service Awards, meal and drinks will be £850.00 to be met from the hospitality budget. The cost of the bouquets will be met from the Fostering Team budget.

11. The cost of the refreshments for the Gedling Area Duke of Edinburgh Awards will be approximately £500 to be met from the hospitality budget.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That approval be given for the above mentioned events and for the associated costs to be met from the specified budgets.

**Councillor Alan Rhodes**  
**Leader of the Council**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (SG 28/11/13)**

12. The Committee is the appropriate body to decide the issues set out in this report. Under its Terms of Reference, the Committee has responsibility for authorising hospitality to be offered by the County Council.

### **Financial Comments (SEM 02/12/13)**

13. The financial implications are set out in the report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

E-mail requests from the Foster Carer's service and the Gedling Area Duke of Edinburgh Awards coordinator.

Correspondence from the Secretary of State for Communities about the funding to the Midlands Cluster of Ghurkhas.

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.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.