

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE - 2 JULY 2003**

#### **SCOTLAND - BELGIUM CULTURAL CONNECTION**

##### **Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to advise the Committee of a request from the Scotland - Belgium Cultural Connection to host a Civic Reception on 13 August 2003 to consider assistance with the costs associated with group visitor entry to the Dean Castle and also meet the costs of the hall let for the final evening dinner dance to be held in Kilmaurs Community Centre on 16 August 2003.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The Scotland - Belgium Cultural Connection started in 1985 and takes place every three years with alternate visits to each Country. The visits are self financed with accommodation and some meals supplied by friends and family.
- 2.2** The Group will comprise approximately 50 visitors from Belgium who will arrive on 13 August and depart on 17 August. The Group plan to visit the Dean Castle, Glencoe, Fort William Area, New Loch Lomond Shores Development, New Lanark, Traquair House, Peebles and the Hydro, the Isle of Bute including Mount Stewart House and cycling by the Kyles of Bute.
- 2.3** The Group would like the Council to host a civic welcoming reception to be held at the Visitors Centre, Dean Castle Country Park where both host and visitor families will meet. They have requested a simple reception with soft drinks/tea and coffee and have suggested that the Provost gives a speech followed by a reply by a Belgian Local Authority Representative. The Group will provide a piper and other appropriate music.
- 2.4** This event will be attended by approximately 80 people comprising 50 visitors from Belgium, their host families and the Provost and partner.
- 2.5** The Group has also requested that the Council assist with group visitor entry to the Dean Castle and also hall let charges for the final evening dinner dance.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1** The Group were awarded Civic Hospitality in the form of a finger buffet with non alcoholic refreshments for approximately 126 people at a total cost of no more than £450 by the Members Services Sub-Committee in June 1997.
- 3.2** The cost of providing this civic reception at the Dean Castle in 13 August would be approximately £600 which includes a cocktail reception tea/coffee, fruit juice and mineral water, floral display, venue costs and overtime costs for caretaker.

**3.3** Other costs which the group have asked the Committee to consider are for group visitor entry to the Dean Castle. The Castle has confirmed that entry for the group would be free so long as they are accompanied by residents of East Ayrshire and were visiting with normal working hours. Otherwise the charge would be £4.50 per person.

**3.4** The Group has also asked the Committee to meet the cost of the hall let for the final evening dinner/dance to be held in Kilmaurs Community Centre on Saturday 16 August 2003 which is £160.

#### **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1** Council protocol for determining Council Representation at such Civic Events was approved by Council on 27 June 2002 and recommends that, where the Members Services and Civic Ceremonial Sub-Committee does not determine Council representation then the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with the Chair of the Members Services and Civic Ceremonial Sub-Committee and the Provost will determine Council Representation.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS - Nil**

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.1** The Committee is asked to:-

- (i) consider the request from the Scotland - Belgium Cultural Connection to host a Civic Reception;
- (ii) consider financial assistance with the costs associated with group visitor entry to the Dean Castle and also meeting the cost of the hall let for the final evening dinner dance at a cost of £160; and
- (iii) to remit the necessary arrangements to the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Chair.

Fiona Lees  
Depute Chief Executive/  
Director of Corporate Resources  
CB/KC  
30 June 2003

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Application for Civic Hospitality from the Scotland - Belgian Cultural Connection

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer, on telephone number (01563) 576129. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager on telephone number (01563) 576135.

**Implementation Officer: Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer**