

STIRLING COUNCIL

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the PROVOST'S PANEL held in the BRUCE ROOM, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING on THURSDAY 10 JULY 2014 at 2.00 pm

Present:

Bailie Neil BENNY (in the Chair)
Bailie Mark RUSKELL
Bailie Fergus WOOD

In Attendance:

Murat Dilek, Senior Analyst, Assets & Support
Bill Scott, Service Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Alexandria Ward, Business & Economy Officer, Economy, Planning & Regulation
Claire Dunbar, Committee Officer, Governance & Resources (Clerk)

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Provost Mike Robbins and Bailie Violet Weir.

In the absence of the Provost, it was agreed that Bailie Neil Benny take the Chair.

PV90 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PV91 OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD A STIRLING MINI EXPO IN ANKARA

A report submitted by the Head of Assets & Support advised that the Council had the opportunity to hold a mini expo in Ankara, Turkey, sponsored by the Ankara Development Agency. This opportunity had come as a result of the Council's sister city agreement with Keçiören, Turkey.

The Council had signed a sister city agreement with Keçiören in April 2013. The purpose of the agreement was to foster friendship and understanding between cultures and to encourage trade and tourism.

Murat Dilek, Senior Analyst, had been working with the Provost to develop Stirling's relationship with Keçiören. Murat had been invited, by the Foreign Affairs Manager of Keçiören and the Ankara Development Agency, to visit Ankara whilst on holiday in Bodrum at the end of July 2014 to discuss the format and costs of a potential trade mission at the end of 2014/beginning of 2015.

The report sought approval of the invitation to Murat Dilek to travel from Bodrum to Ankara to discuss details of the mini expo. Payment of the internal return flight and subsistence expenses for Murat Dilek while in Ankara, totaling an estimated £200, was also requested from the Civic budget. Hotel expenses would be paid by the Ankara Development Agency.

Members discussed the importance of encouraging the Chamber of Commerce to take part in the mini expo and suggested that this should be explored prior to any visit to Ankara. They also felt that the economic development element of the sister city agreement would more appropriately be considered by the Finance & Economy Committee.

Bailie Benny proposed that:-

“The Panel agrees:-

1. not to approve the invitation to Murat Dilek, Senior Analyst, to travel from Bodrum to Ankara to discuss details of the mini expo at the present time;
2. that officers should meet with the Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce, give its members a presentation on business opportunities in Turkey and discuss the possibility of the Chamber of Commerce leading on the mini expo;
3. that a report be submitted to the Finance & Economy Committee, considering the direction of the sister city agreement from an economic development point of view; and
4. that, at an appropriate time, a report be brought back to the Provost’s Panel requesting approval for representatives from the Council and the Chamber of Commerce to travel to Ankara to discuss the mini expo in more detail.”

This was agreed.

Decision

The Panel agreed:-

1. not to approve the invitation to Murat Dilek, Senior Analyst, to travel from Bodrum to Ankara to discuss details of the mini expo at the present time;
2. that officers should meet with the Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce, give its members a presentation on business opportunities in Turkey and discuss the possibility of the Chamber of Commerce leading on the mini expo;
3. that a report be submitted to the Finance & Economy Committee, considering the direction of the sister city agreement from an economic development point of view; and
4. that, at an appropriate time, a report be brought back to the Provost’s Panel requesting approval for representatives from the Council and the Chamber of Commerce to travel to Ankara to discuss the mini expo in more detail.

(Reference: Report by the Head of Assets & Support, undated, submitted)

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.28pm