

STIRLING COUNCIL

MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of the PROVOST'S PANEL held in the DRUMMOND ROOM, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING on THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2014 at 1.00 pm

Present:

Bailie Violet WEIR (in the Chair)
Bailie Neil BENNY
Provost Mike ROBBINS
Bailie Fergus WOOD

In Attendance:

Bill Scott, Service Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Claire Dunbar, Committee Officer, Governance & Resources (Clerk)

Apologies:

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Bailie Mark Ruskell.

PV92 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Provost, having declared a non-financial interest in the following item, took no part in the decision making.

It was agreed that Bailie Violet Weir would take the Chair.

PV93 5TH UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE

A report submitted by the Head of Assets & Support advised the Panel of an invitation for the Provost to take part in a conference being held in Taipei City, Taiwan in September 2014.

In August 2012 the Provost, on behalf of Stirling Council, had signed up to the EU Cities Adapt project to produce an Adaptation Strategy for climate change. Stirling was linked with Ghent in Belgium, Lahti in Finland, Vilnius in Lithuania and a suburb in each of Copenhagen, Dublin and Malmo in Sweden. A cross-Service Task Group had been established for the duration of the project and this provided information on the impact of current climate changes.

On 12 August 2013, Christine Chow Mei-ching the First Lady of Taiwan, had visited Stirling and met with the Provost to explore matters of cultural and trade co-operation. The visit was organised through the Taipei Representative Office in the UK.

Selena Chih-han Chang, Assistant Director of Taipei Representative Office in the UK, had now written to invite the Provost on behalf of Laig-Bin Hau, Mayor of

Taipei, to attend and contribute to the 5th United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific conference between 3rd and 6th September 2014.

The central theme of the Conference was An Adaptive City, Embedding Design in City Governance. The conference offered the opportunity for local government representatives from around the world to meet to share ideas for sustainable living. Discussion at the conference would focus on development and application of the Smart City, adaptive City Design in motion, the development of green transportation and constructing a recycling and zero waste society.

All travel, accommodation and conference costs were to be met by the Mayor of Taipei.

Bailie Wood asked which other European delegates would be in attendance. The Service Manager, Chief Executive's Office agreed to ascertain this information and advise Bailie Wood outwith the meeting.

Bailie Benny suggested that the Foreign Office be asked for confirmation that the Provost should make the journey. This was agreed.

It was also agreed that as well as providing feedback to the Panel, the Provost should give a presentation to the Sustainable Development & Climate Change Working Group on his return.

It was suggested that during his visit the Provost could explore future possibilities for the sharing of best practice with Taiwan.

Decision

The Panel agreed:-

1. that the Provost attends the Conference, subject to seeking confirmation from the Foreign Office on the appropriateness of the trip; and
2. that the Provost reports back to the Provost's Panel and the Sustainable Development & Climate Change Working Group on Embedding Design in City Governance and any other outcomes from the Conference.

(Reference: Report by the Head of Assets & Support, dated 7 August 2014, submitted)

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 1.18pm