



PORTFOLIO AREA: PROMOTING CARLISLE

Date of Meeting: 18 September 2001

Public

Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan: No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: APPLICATION FOR LORD MAYORALTY FOR CARLISLE
Report of: CITY SOLICITOR AND SECRETARY
Report reference: TC.200/01

Summary:

The reports updates Members on the position in respect of the Council's application.

Recommendations:

The City Solicitor and Secretary, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Promoting Carlisle and the Head of Communications, finalises the Council's bid and submits it to the Lord Chancellor's Department by 12 October 2001.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 The Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee at its last meeting resolved that the City Council should submit an application for the grant of a Lord Mayoralty to Carlisle, following receipt of the Lord Chancellor's letter on the matter dated 24 July last.
- 1.2 A skeleton form of submission has already been prepared by the City Solicitor and Secretary and is being worked upon by Officers.
- 1.3 There is comparatively little time to finalise the submission and therefore it is proposed that the City Solicitor and Secretary does this in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder for Promoting Carlisle and the Head of Communications.
- 1.4 In the papers produced by the Lord Chancellor's Department it is made clear that it is for the Authority to decide how best to present its case but Ministers do not want to encourage Cities to spend large amounts of money on their bids. They make the point that the quality of the contents of an application will weigh more heavily than their quantity or the standard of presentation. They also emphasise that officials are not able to deal with lobbying companies or professional lobbyists but that all applications will be fairly and equally assessed on their merits.

2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1 In view of the relatively short timeframe for submission of the Council's application there is comparatively little time for consultation with interested parties. However, the Head of Communications will consider whether and the extent to which this may be appropriate in the context of the Guidance Notes published by the Lord Chancellor's Department.

3. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

- 3.1 The immediate staff resource in submitting the application is that of relevant officers, together with input from the Portfolio Holder for Promoting Carlisle. It is not anticipated that there will be any longer term resources. The Mayor already has a heavy workload of engagements and it is not anticipated that, if Lord Mayoralty status is granted to Carlisle, a significant increase in Mayoral duties will take place.

4. FINANCIAL COMMENTS

None.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

None

6. CORPORATE COMMENTS

None

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Solicitor and Secretary, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Promoting Carlisle and the Head of Communications, finalises the Council's bid and submits it to the Lord Chancellor's Department by 12 October 2001.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To enable the Council's earlier decision that the City applies for Lord Mayoralty status to be implemented as expeditiously as possible given the tight timeframe for a submission.

**JOHN EGAN
CITY SOLICITOR AND SECRETARY**