

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATION ON SUB-COMMITTEE

1. Reason for Report

To seek a decision from Members on the request from the Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of Commerce for a representative of their organisation to be included on the Sub-Committee.

2. Report Summary

This report advises that it is a matter for the Sub-Committee to determine whether or not to co-opt a representative of the Chamber of Commerce (or any other organisation) onto the Sub-Committee.

3. Recommendation

Members are asked to agree that it is not necessary to have a co-optee onto the Sub-Committee in order for their views to be known to them.

4. Corporate Plan Links and Contribution

The regeneration of Dumfries Town Centre is a high priority strategic project in the Corporate Plan intended to have a major effect on the long-term economy of the whole of Dumfries and Galloway.

5. Resources/Value for Money Assessment

5.1 There would be minor additional costs associated with agenda management of Committee papers but these could be accommodated within existing budgets.

5.2 The Chamber is represented on the Steering Group of officers and plays a full role in the group and adds value to the process as a key stakeholder.

5.3 The Committee must determine whether further value would be added by membership of the Sub-Committee.

6. Risk Assessment

The only risk is that granting the request could set a precedent for other requests.

7. Authorities and Legal Implications

7.1 There is provision in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 for non-elected Members to be co-opted onto Committees or Sub-Committees of Councils. Such co-optees may participate in and influence debate in Committees/Sub-Committees but cannot be given voting rights.

7.2 The Council has co-opted two teacher representatives onto the Education and Community Services Committee without voting rights.

8. Consultations

The Group Manager Corporate Support and Governance has been consulted and is in agreement with the report.

9. Background

9.1 The background to this request is set out in the letter dated 5 October from the Chamber (**Appendix 1**).

9.2 This is the first opportunity to present their request to the Sub-Committee.

10. Key Issues

The key issue is whether the Sub-Committee wish to co-opt a member of the Chamber which is presented represented on the Steering Group.

Peter N Bulmer - Report Author Corporate Director of Planning and Environment Services Tel: 01387 260100 Date of Report: 13 February 2007 File Ref: pnbrb09ms	Peter N Bulmer Corporate Director of Planning and Environment Services Kirkbank House English Street Dumfries DG1 2HS
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APPENDICES - 1



Peter Bulmer Esq
Corporate Director for Planning & Environmental Services
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5 October 2006

Dear Peter

Dumfries Town Centre Regeneration

Thank you for taking the time to meet members of the Chamber and for providing an update on progress with the Town Centre Regeneration. As we stated at the meeting the Chamber fully supports work to reinvigorate the Town centre and we appreciate being involved with the Consultative Group.

You explained that the Council have now set up a dedicated Sub Committee to take this work forward and while this is a clear commitment by the Council to ensure that this work is given a higher priority, we are concerned that the partnership working may not be so effective in going forward. We understand that the advice from the Consultative Group will be taken account of in the deliberations of the Sub Committee, however we are not clear how this will work in practice. We noted that a number of decisions have been made recently on issues which did not seem to have the benefit of advice from the group.

At the meeting we discussed the possibility of the Chamber being invited to join the Sub Committee and we understand that there is a precedent for this. It is the view of Chamber that expanding the membership of the Sub Committee would represent a significant strengthening of the partnership that is needed to drive forward much needed change in the Town Centre.

I have therefore been asked by Chamber to request that the Council considers expanding the Sub Committee to include a representative of Chamber. It may well also be appropriate to include some of the other Partners in such an arrangement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon L. Mann'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gordon L. Mann
President