
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

28 September 2021

Cabinet

Title: Queen's Platinum Jubilee in North Ayrshire

Purpose: To report on the proposed approach to marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in North Ayrshire.

Recommendation: That Cabinet:

- a) Notes the Queen's Platinum Jubilee arrangements;
- b) Approves the approach for community engagement to enable local events to be delivered in communities across North Ayrshire;
- c) Approves the £25,000 participatory budget from existing Connected Communities' funding for the community led events;
- d) Approves the proposal to deliver a North Ayrshire wide literacy and arts-based event linked to Scotland's Year of Stories, using existing budgets;
- e) Authorise officers to explore a potential entry into the UK wide competition for Irvine to seek City status;
- f) Approves the change to public holidays by moving Monday 30 May 2022 to Thursday 2 June 2022 for those employees that have this as a fixed public holiday and for those that do not, a floating day will be fixed from their entitlement for 2022 only;
- g) Approves the change for schools on Arran by moving the end of term day from 29 June 2022 to 30 June 2022,
- h) Approves the additional public holiday for all employees on Friday 3 June 2022
- i) Authorises the Head of Service (Education) to write to the Scottish Government to obtain approval for one less teaching day;
- j) Approves the closure of main Council buildings on both Thursday 2 June and Friday 3 June 2022; and
- k) Receives a further update on progress relating to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in North Ayrshire at a future meeting.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 In 2022, Her Majesty the Queen will be the first British monarch to have reached the milestone of 70 years on the throne. To mark this achievement, it is anticipated that

Platinum Jubilee celebrations will be organised to reflect on Her Majesty's reign and commitment to public service, and her impact on the UK and the world since 1952. To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, celebrations are to be held across the UK and the Commonwealth throughout the year but with a focus on Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June 2022.

- 1.2 A review of the national planning and opportunities for local communities by officers has led to the identification of 6 key elements to the Jubilee Celebrations in North Ayrshire:
 - National Events
 - Queen's Green Canopy
 - Platinum Jubilee Fund for Community Events
 - Scotland's Year of Stories – a literacy and arts-based programme to celebrate service and volunteering in communities
 - Explore the idea of entering the competition to gain City Status for Irvine
 - Bank holiday arrangements
- 1.3 As the programme of commemorative events is not fully realised, there is likely to be a need to respond to emerging opportunities for the Council or local communities to engage in national initiatives when announced. It is anticipated that, as national events are promoted, there will be opportunities for local groups, Members etc to attend or to be involved at a local level and represent North Ayrshire.
- 1.4 The UK and Scottish Governments have confirmed that the existing late May public holiday (Monday 30 May 2022) will be moved to Thursday 2 June, as well as adding an additional public holiday on Friday 3 June to allow for celebrations, therefore, creating a 4-day weekend.

2. Background

Platinum Jubilee - National Events

- 2.1 National celebrations will be coordinated, and opportunities will arise for North Ayrshire, its Elected Members and its communities to participate in national events. North Ayrshire has been highly successful in its involvement in past celebrations for national events such as the 2014 Commonwealth Games, Queen's Baton Relay, World War Centenary Commemorations, Olympic Torch Relay, Queen's 90th Birthday, Scotland's Year of Homecoming and Scotland's Year of Coast and Waters. It is proposed to build on the learning from engagement in these past events in the planning for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. At this stage, there are invitations to participate in the pre-planned National Events including Beacon Lighting and The Big Lunch which have been announced and more are anticipated to follow.
- 2.2 North Ayrshire Council is keen to plan ahead in order to realise the full potential of the opportunity presented by the Platinum Jubilee. Early engagement by Connected Communities with communities and partners will ensure that local communities maximise the opportunity to enhance civic pride and build capacity through participation and community leadership.

Queen's Green Canopy

- 2.3 National events include the Queen's Green Canopy, which is a national tree-planting scheme. The Woodlands Trust is encouraging citizens to plant a commemorative tree to mark the Jubilee. Each tree planted will be logged and mapped and the cumulative effect will be the creation of a Queen's Green Canopy. Streetscene and Information and Culture will integrate this with the Council's Tree Planting Strategy and support communities to participate.

Platinum Jubilee – City Status

- 2.4 Information has been published inviting Local Authorities to apply for 2 separate honours as part of the Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition. This includes competitions for City Status and Lord Mayor, or Provost, status.

Platinum Jubilee Fund for Community Events

- 2.5 Following the success of the delivery of the "2014 Legacy Plan", the local community celebrations will follow a similar model of inviting applications for funding to enable participation and engagement across our local communities. Using £25,000 of existing Connected Communities' funding, a "Platinum Jubilee Fund" will be established to enable the delivery of events and activities in local areas. This Fund will be distributed in small awards using participatory approaches with local community representatives thus enabling local communities to develop their own plans to mark the occasion in a way which is appropriate locally and that will encourage creativity and ownership.
- 2.6 The beneficiaries of the Platinum Jubilee Fund for Community Events will be people of all ages, interests and abilities from across all communities. Other opportunities to mark the Platinum Jubilee in our communities will be sought through the Council's ongoing service delivery, such as decorative planting, arts events etc. Officers will seek opportunities to use existing pieces of work to help support the commemorations.

Scotland's Year of Stories

- 2.7 2022 is designated as Scotland's National Year of Stories. There are several opportunities to use the Platinum Jubilee theme and celebrations to enhance the local delivery of this initiative. There will be a literacy and arts-based, commemorative project delivered in each locality which will digitally capture the stories of local residents and community groups who have served their own communities and who have committed to and given of their time and talents to enhance the communities in which they live. The recordings will be kept as a digital archive for local history. The stories will also provide content for social media, increasing the audience and impact.

Competition entry for City Status for Irvine

- 2.8 The Platinum Jubilee provides an opportunity to work with local communities to enter a competition to apply for City Status. Irvine aligns with the criteria for the competition and a co-produced application in partnership with the local community, based on the previous applications for regeneration awards, will offer a strong element showing the depth of heritage as well as the forward thinking, kind and supportive approaches within the local community today.

Platinum Jubilee – Public Holidays

- 2.9 For 2022, the UK Government have confirmed that the existing late May public holiday (Monday 30 May) will be moved to Thursday 2 June, as well as adding an additional public holiday on Friday 3 June to allow for celebrations. On both days the main Council buildings will be closed.

It should be noted that not all North Ayrshire Council employees have the late May public holiday as a set public holiday. The majority of Local Government Employees have the late May public holiday included in their annual leave entitlement as a 'floating public holiday' which they can take at any point throughout the year on a date of their choosing.

- 2.10 The current, agreed North Ayrshire School Term Time dates for mainland schools provides the 30 May 2022 as a school holiday, therefore all mainland school and term time employees will have the date available to move to Thursday 2 June 2022. However, there are different arrangements in place for Arran schools who do not have 30 May 2022 as a school holiday. For 2022, the proposal is to move the school end of term from 29 June to 30 June to enable a school closure on 2 June with no loss in teaching days.
- 2.11 There are additional financial costs of providing an extra public holiday, as overtime rates will apply to those employees who are required to work on the public holiday. Employees will receive enhanced rates where they are required to work on Thursday 2 June, or Friday 3 June.

The direct costs of providing an additional public holiday on Friday 3 June 2022 are estimated at approximately £64,000. This is based on a comparable public holiday. Thursday 2 June 2022 will become a fixed public holiday. Given the variables of individuals and services circumstances surrounding the change from a "floating public holiday" to a "fixed public holiday" this change may incur additional costs.

- 2.12 The indirect financial cost is that the Council will continue to pay salaries to employees who are not at work. This will have an impact on the overall efficiency of the Council and may result in an increase in wait times as teams will have workload to catch up on from an additional day off.

3. Proposals

3.1 That Cabinet:

- a) Notes the Queen's Platinum Jubilee arrangements;
- b) Approves the approach for community engagement to enable local events to be delivered in communities across North Ayrshire;
- c) Approves the £25,000 participatory budget from existing Connected Communities' funding for the community led events;
- d) Approves the proposal for a North Ayrshire wide literacy and arts-based event linked to Scotland's Year of Stories, using existing budgets;
- e) Authorise officers to explore a potential entry into the UK wide competition for Irvine to seek City status;
- f) Approves the change to public holidays by moving Monday 30 May 2022 to Thursday 2 June 2022 for those employees that have this as a fixed public holiday and for those that do not, a floating day will be fixed from their entitlement for 2022 only;
- g) Approves the change for schools on Arran by moving the end of term day from 29 June 2022 to 30 June 2022;

- h) Approves the additional public holiday for all employees on Friday 3 June 2022;
- i) Authorises the Head of Service (Education) to write to the Scottish Government to obtain approval for one less teaching day;
- j) Approves the closure of main Council buildings on both Thursday 2 June and Friday 3 June 2022; and
- k) Receives a further update on progress relating to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in North Ayrshire at a future meeting.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 A budget of £25,000 from existing Connected Communities funding has been identified to support the community led events using participatory approaches. The proposed literacy and arts-based activity will also be met from existing budgets. It is anticipated that the additional public holiday would cost approximately £64,000 and the changes from a "floating" to a "fixed" public holiday may incur additional costs. Please note these indicative costs are based on the enhanced overtime rates paid out on the May public holiday in 2019 and specifically around the changes to the existing holiday, may vary due to individual circumstances, hence the approximate figure.

Human Resources

- 4.2 Events and activities will be facilitated by existing staff teams. Communications to employees will be issued to ensure that there is awareness of the change to both the Public Holiday calendar and Term time calendar for 2022 only.

Legal

- 4.3 Permission should be sought from the Scottish Government by the Head of Education for an additional school closure day.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 The Platinum Jubilee Fund for Community Events will support local activities, reducing travel costs for local people who wish to take part in the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and ensure that there is a widespread opportunity across all localities.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 4.5 Participation with the Queen's Green Canopy programme will have a positive effect on the environment.

Key Priorities

- 4.6 The proposal contained within the report supports the North Ayrshire Council Plan priorities:

- Active and strong communities;
- Children and young people experience the best start in life; and
- People enjoy good life-long health and wellbeing.

Community Wealth Building

- 4.7 The participatory approach to local celebrations supports community wealth building and employment opportunities as part of the arts events will be targeted at local artists.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The Trade Unions have been consulted and have indicated that they would support the changes to public holidays.

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For further information please contact **Lesley Forsyth, Senior Manager**, on **01294 310090**.

Background Papers

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