

# CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES

## PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: HUMAN RESOURCES AND CORPRATE SUPPORT SERVICES

CABINET

6TH MAY, 2004

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### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

To receive an update on proposed arrangements.

### Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

### Recommendation

**THAT the proposed approach outlined in the report be approved.**

### Reasons

New regulations issued under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 by the Home Office now require the Council to provide Citizenship Ceremonies.

### Considerations

1. At its meeting on 18th March, 2004 Cabinet considered a comprehensive report in relation to a new statutory obligation on the Council to arrange civil ceremonies for those eligible for British Citizenship. At the meeting, Cabinet asked officers to consider arrangements for the launch event in Herefordshire to include the office of the Chairman of the Council, representatives from the Crown and local councillors as well as involvement from young people to welcome new citizens to the county. Cabinet were also keen to tailor the event to Herefordshire and involve local crafts and design in formulating a gift to commemorate the occasion from the county.

#### **Involvement of Young People**

2. Citizenship is now a mandatory aspect of the curriculum and there may be scope to involve school pupils in participating in these ceremonies as part of their studies. Proposals will be explored with primary and secondary head teachers over the summer term to decide how best to involve young people in the ceremonies.
3. It is not expected that the first ceremonies will be until September.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Marie Rosenthal, County Secretary and Solicitor on (01432) 260200

## **Gift**

4. The Home Office Guidance suggests that the Council should supply a gift and provide refreshments at each ceremony, the cost of which is to be included in the statutory fee of £68.
5. Initial proposals based on experience elsewhere suggested a passport cover. Cabinet were keen to commission a locally designed gift to commemorate the event. It may not be possible to contain the commission within the set fee limit. However, we are not expecting significant numbers and income from other sources within the Registration Service can fund a modest additional sum.
6. A number of design ideas have been suggested, including:
  - A Mounted print of Herefordshire scene.
  - A piece of ceramic, possibly small bowl, platter, mug, small jug with a design which relates to Herefordshire.
  - A small mounted textile piece incorporating poem by John Masefield.
  - A cast-iron paperweight which relates to the county, e.g. hop design, apple, face/form from Kilpeck church.

Cabinet are asked to support the commissioning of a locally designed gift.

## **Alternative Options**

There are no alternative options.

## **Risk Management**

Not applicable but the Council does have a statutory duty to provide Citizenship Ceremonies.

## **Consultees**

Not applicable.

## **Background Papers**

None identified.