

ARGYLL SQUARE & CORRAN HALLS FLAGS

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on a proposed regime for the display of flags in Argyll Square and at the Corran Halls, and the erection/dismantling of bunting on streets within the council's road network in Oban.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members;

- (i) Note the proposed Development & Infrastructure Service operational protocol at 3.2 & 3.7 below, and;
- (ii) Agree that the Provost be requested to consider accepting the flag pole at Corran Halls within the Council's protocol for 'official' flag poles.

3. DETAIL

Argyll Square

- 3.1 There are currently fifteen flag poles located at the Argyll Square site. At present two of the flag poles are damaged and are due to be repaired over the winter months. Historically, as these are not "official" protocol flag poles, Streetscene services have had the operational responsibility for raising and lowering flags at this site between the months of April to October (inclusive). No specific criteria exists or operational instruction has been issued with regard to which flags should fly and when; and consequently the Council risks being asked to fly controversial flags.
- 3.2 Having taken advice from colleagues in Governance and Law the matter of flags at Argyll Square is an operational decision and the position of Development and Infrastructure will be:
- The following 4 flags will be flown at all times during the season; the Oban Flag, the Saltire, the Union Flag and the EU Flag.

- Flags which will be flown at the remaining flagpoles will be drawn from the Council's stock and will be flown on a rotational basis from April – May, June – July and August -September.
 - The Executive Director will determine the Council's stock of flags.
- 3.3 The flagpole erected at the Corran Halls, for the Oban bi-centenary year, is not designated within the Council's protocol document for flags. The flag pole was erected by Streetscene at the request of the Area Committee. The raising and lowering of flags at this location has to date been carried out by Streetscene staff.
- 3.4 To ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place with regard to the Corran Halls flag pole, it is proposed that this site should be included within the Council's protocol. The Council's protocol places the decision to fly flags with the Provost. If this were to become a protocol flagpole it will fly the Saltire and the Union Flag in accordance with protocol.
- 3.5 As the flag pole was erected for the town's bi-centenary celebrations, an alternative option would be to remove the flag pole.
- 3.6 Should the Area Committee take the decision to request that the Provost consider accepting the flag pole within the protocol, responsibility for raising flags in accordance with the protocol should lie with the staff employed at the Corran Halls.
- 3.7 The erection and dismantling of bunting on streets within the Council's road network will be determined by the Executive Director.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This report updates Members on a proposed regime for the displaying of flags in Argyll Square and at Corran Halls, and for the erection and dismantling of bunting on streets within the Council's road network.

5. IMPLICATIONS

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| 5.1 | Policy | Agreed future protocol for Argyll Square and determine status of the flag pole at Corran Hall's. |
| 5.2 | Financial | Minor revenue implications for flag replacement/renewal. |
| 5.3 | Personnel | As per paper |
| 5.4 | Equalities Impact Assessment | None. |
| 5.5 | Legal | As per paper |

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