

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Provost's Sub-Committee of Strategic Policy & Resources Committee****27 August 2014****BOOKMARK (BLAIRGOWRIE, RATTRAY & THE GLENS) BOOK FESTIVAL
10 TO 12 OCTOBER 2014****Report by Gillian Taylor, Head of Democratic Services****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report relates to a request for civic hospitality from BOOKMARK (Blairgowrie, Rattray & the Glens) Book Festival to be held between 10 to 12 October 2014.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The first BOOKMARK (Blairgowrie, Rattray & the Glens) Book Festival was held in October 2013. The Scots Makar, multi award-winning Scottish poet and playwright Liz Lochhead, headlined the festival, which was judged a great success by the local community, participating authors and festival goers.
- 1.2 BOOKMARK, in partnership with Perth and Kinross Place Partnership and Creative Scotland, has appointed a part-time Writer in Residence, Joan Lennon, on a 6 month contract from April to October 2014. During this period, the Writer in Residence will work with schools and community groups to encourage and develop creative writing skills. The work produced by the participants will be performed at the BOOKMARK (Blairgowrie, Rattray & the Glens) Book festival in October 2014, and will also be exhibited in Perth Museum and Art Gallery.
- 1.3 Perth and Kinross Council has agreed to provide funding support of £3,000 to the BOOKMARK (Blairgowrie, Rattray & the Glens) Book Festival through the Financial Assistance Panel and an additional £1,000 is to be made available from The Environment Service for publicity specifically targeted at attracting people from outside the area.
- 1.4 The BOOKMARK Festival has secured sponsor funding for a writing workshop for young teens and for a local author to participate in miniBOOKMARK, the children and young people's programme of events.
- 1.5 Sponsor funding has also been secured for fringeBOOKMARK events to take place throughout East Perthshire, with events in Straloch, Kirkmichael and Bridge of Cally.
- 1.6 In 2013, Civic Services provided civic hospitality to the inaugural BOOKMARK (Blairgowrie, Rattray & the Glens) Book Festival in the form of a wine and canapé civic reception at the opening event, for 120 guests, at the Royal Hotel in Blairgowrie. The cost amounted to £774.

- 1.7 Requests for civic hospitality have been received from the BOOKMARK (Blairgowrie, Rattray & the Glens) Book Festival in the form of a wine and canapé civic reception at the opening event for 100 guests at the Royal Hotel in Blairgowrie; and a contribution towards the cost of hospitality in the form of lunch and evening meals provided for the fifteen visiting guest authors staying in Blairgowrie and participating in the BOOKMARK Festival over the weekend of 10 to 12 October 2014, estimated to be in the region of £675.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Council supports the requests for support from BOOKMARK (Blairgowrie, Rattray & the Glens) Book Festival.
- 2.2 The civic hospitality would be in the form of a wine and canapé civic reception at the opening event on 10 October 2014 for 100 guests, at the Royal Hotel in Blairgowrie.
- 2.3 The financial contribution would be up to a maximum of £675 towards hospitality in the form of lunch and evening meals provided to the fifteen visiting guest authors staying in Blairgowrie and participating in the BOOKMARK Festival over the weekend of 10 to 12 October 2014.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The inaugural BOOKMARK (Blairgowrie, Rattray & the Glens) Book Festival was a very successful cultural and community event.
- 3.2 Supporting the Festival in its initial years would contribute significantly in enabling it to be developed and established as an annual cultural and community event attracting prestigious authors.
- 3.3 It is envisaged that the event will attract people from outwith the area, thus increasing footfall to the area and contributing to the local economy.
- 3.4 It is recommended that the Provost's Sub-Committee:
- a) Agrees to host a wine and canapé civic reception at the opening event on 10 October 2014 for 100 guests, at the Royal Hotel in Blairgowrie.
 - b) Agrees to make a financial contribution, up to a maximum of £675, towards the costs of providing lunch and evening meals for the fifteen visiting guest authors staying in Blairgowrie and participating in the BOOKMARK (Blairgowrie, Rattray & the Glens) Book Festival over the weekend of 10 to 12 October 2014.

Author

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Approved

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Bernadette Malone	Chief Executive	4 August 2014

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	No
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	No
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	No
Strategic Environmental Assessment	No
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	No
Legal and Governance	No
Risk	No
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	No
Communication	
Communications Plan	No

1. Strategic Implications

1.1 Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

The draft Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2013-2023 sets out five strategic objectives. The proposals in this report support the achievement of these objectives.

1.2 Corporate Plan

Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2013-2018 sets out five strategic objectives. The proposals in this report support the achievement of these objectives.

2. Resource Implications - Financial

2.1 The costs associated with:

- a) A wine and canapé civic reception at the opening BOOKMARK (Blairgowrie, Rattray & the Glens) Book Festival event on 10 October 2014 for 100 guests is anticipated to be **£700**.
- b) A financial contribution towards meals provided to the fifteen visiting guest authors participating in the BOOKMARK (Blairgowrie, Rattray & the Glens) Book Festival over the weekend of 10 to 12 October 2014, would be up to a maximum of **£675**.

Total estimated financial costs £1,375

2.2 The estimated costs associated with providing hospitality in support of the BOOKMARK Festival can be met from the 2014/15 civic hospitality budget

2.3 The Head of Finance has been consulted on the financial implications for the proposals and has indicated his agreement.

3. Consultation

3.1 The Provost and the Chief Executive have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

