

Report

Subject : Festival of Remembrance Concert
Report to : The Cabinet
Date : Wednesday 07 November 2007
Author : Robin Townsend, Head of Community Initiatives
Cabinet Member : The Leader, Councillor Paul Sample

1. Purpose of Report:

- 1.1. To bring forward a report to consider a proposal to provide the City Hall's Auditorium free of charge for the annual Festival of Remembrance Concert.

2. Background:

- 2.1. For a number of years the Salisbury Branch of the Royal British Legion in conjunction with the South West Trains Woodfalls Band has hired the City Hall, organised and promoted the annual Remembrance concert.
- 2.2. Members of the Cabinet are mindful of the fact that whilst the City Committee does provide a budget to maintain the war memorial in the Guildhall Square and has recently approved a **recurring** budget of £450 towards the costs of organising and staging the Remembrance Day parade and service, the District Council itself does nothing to support the Festival of Remembrance Concert.
- 2.3. Members are now keen to address this and ensure that the Council does play a more prominent role in supporting the Festival of Remembrance Concert and give it the civic prominence that it warrants.

3. The Proposal:

- 3.1. The proposal is that the Council provides the City Hall as a venue, free of charge as its contribution to the Festival of Remembrance concert.
- 3.2. It is considered that this would be the single most significant contribution that the Council could make. It would also be seen as the most appropriate considering the fact that the City Hall in its current guise as a multi function entertainment and conference venue was opened in 1963 as a lasting tribute to the citizens of Salisbury who served in the 2nd World War.
- 3.3. The cost of the refurbishment was funded from the Victory funds that had been raised by the united efforts of the local community and members of the Cabinet believe that it is only right that the City Hall as a war memorial should be provided free of charge for this one event to commemorate the war dead.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



3.4. It is hoped that the significance of this decision is not lost on any future Council that has managerial responsibility for the City Hall and that the prominence attached to the City Hall as a war memorial will be sufficient to ensure that the venue is provided free of charge in the future for the annual Festival of Remembrance Concert.

4. **Recommendations:**

Cabinet is recommended to endorse the proposal to provide the City Hall as a venue, free of charge to the Salisbury Branch of the Royal British Legion for the annual Festival of Remembrance Concert for both this year and future years.

5. **Implications:**

5.1. Financial: The financial implications associated with this proposal are in the region of £1500 and it is considered that this cost can be retained within the current revenue budget.

5.2. Legal: The Cabinet is not able to grant free use of the City Hall in perpetuity as the Council cannot fetter its discretion and has to be mindful of the fact that it would be up to the new Wiltshire Council should it come into force to determine whether this proposal would be honoured in future years post Vesting Day.

5.3. Personnel: None at this stage

5.4. Community Safety: None at this stage

5.5. Environmental: None at this stage

5.6. Human Rights: article 14 [right not to be discriminated against] is not a free standing right

5.7. Equality and Diversity: None at this stage

6. Risk: It is essential that this proposal does not set a precedent that would enable other hirers to put forward equally valid proposals. The proposal could also be seen as being potentially discriminatory. The decision must be seen as a 'one off' as the Council's single contribution to Festival of Remembrance Concert in recognition of the City Hall as a War memorial to commemorate the War dead.

7. Ward(s) Affected: Potentially all within the SDC area

8. Core Values: Fairness & Equality, Open Learning Council & Willing Partner, Communicating with the Public, Supporting the Disadvantaged, Excellent Service

9. Consultation: Discussions have been had with both the Salisbury Branch of the Royal British Legion and the South West Trains Woodfalls Band.