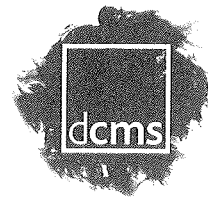


CMS 161396/DC

Chief Executive of Local Authorities



department for
culture, media
and sport



host government
department

20 December 2010

Dear Colleague

The Queen's 2012 Diamond Jubilee

As you will be aware, The Queen will celebrate 60 years on the throne in 2012. This will be a truly historic occasion and a wonderful opportunity to remember and celebrate her dedication to this country and to her people. I am sure many of your communities are already making plans. I therefore thought now was a good time to write to you to update you on our approach to the celebrations and to draw your attention to some recent announcements which might be of interest to you and your communities.

My department is responsible for co-ordinating the Government led aspects of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. We are also working very closely with colleagues in the Royal Household who are responsible for organising and overseeing the Diamond Jubilee programme. Earlier this year the previous Government announced plans to create a four day special Jubilee weekend from 2nd to 5th June 2012.

I am pleased to tell you that we have now also announced details of the competition for a grant of city status to mark Her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 as well as a competition for a Lord Mayoralty (or Lord Provostship in Scotland). Local authorities in any part of the United Kingdom which consider that their areas deserve consideration for the rare honour of city status on this very special occasion are welcome to enter the competition by the closing date of 27 May 2011. Existing city councils may wish to consider entering the parallel competition for Lord Mayoralty. Further details about these competitions including eligibility and guidelines on the contents and format of entries can be found on my department's website at

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/honours/7610.aspx.

Our website also contains useful information on other initiatives being planned, for example, the recent announcement from the Big Lottery Fund about its People's Millions programme. This will be dedicated to supporting local Diamond Jubilee projects in 2012. Community groups across the UK are being invited to bid for a share of the £3.6 million from the Big Lottery Fund good cause pot. Finalists will be showcased on ITV regional news when the public will vote and decide which projects receive the Diamond Jubilee Lottery funding.

I am sure these, and other Jubilee related initiatives will contribute to a real sense of excitement in the coming months. I understand that the Royal Household is working with the Lord Lieutenants network to generate ideas for the official programme (and local authorities may also wish to contact Lord Lieutenants). But this will only be a very small part of the celebrations. We hope communities throughout the UK will come together and celebrate the Diamond Jubilee in their own way. You will appreciate that both we and the Royal Household are anxious that the celebrations reflect the current economic climate. Our expectation is that everything will be funded from existing budgets or through private sector sponsorship. I am confident that this will not be a barrier to a very exciting and memorable series of events and celebrations.

This letter will be copied to the Local Government Association and the National Association of Local Councils however I would be grateful if you could also forward this information to community and parish councils in your areas as appropriate.

If you have any questions or issues you would like to discuss further, please contact Frances MacLeod (frances.macleod@culture.gsi.gov.uk) who heads the Diamond Jubilee Unit.



JEREMY HUNT
Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport