

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL FLAGPOLES ON MAIN COUNCIL BUILDINGS

Abstract

This report advises on the scope of works necessary to provide two flagpoles, Council flags and Saltire flags at the main council buildings and the associated construction and running costs.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is asked to consider whether it would wish to:

1. approve the provision of additional flagpoles at the main Council buildings at an estimated cost of £5,000
2. note that the £5,000 cost can be accommodated within the uncommitted balance within the Property Renewal and Repair Fund

2 INTRODUCTION

Report No 850/07 to the Strategic Policy Committee provided details of a new Council flag based upon the Council's Coat of Arms for flying at key Council buildings throughout Angus.

The Director of Corporate Services has been requested to submit a further report detailing the scope of works necessary to provide two flagpoles at the identified council buildings to permit the flying of the new Council flag as agreed per Report No 850/07 and to permit the Saltire to be flown at the same time and the associated construction and running costs.

The flagpoles in place presently at the Council buildings can accommodate flags sized at the traditional size used by the Council of 9' x 6' apart from County Buildings, Forfar which can only accommodate flags up to a size of 7' x 5' due to space limitations which restrict the size of flagpole that can be constructed.

It is proposed that Saltire flags will be of the same size as the new Council flag to be flown at the respective buildings.

3 BACKGROUND

Angus Council has traditionally flown the Saltire at a range of buildings including the following key buildings:-

- Town & County Hall, Forfar
- County Buildings, Forfar
- Kirriemuir Library
- Montrose Town House
- Monifieth Library
- Carnoustie Access Office (Council Chambers)
- Brechin City Hall
- Arbroath Library
- St James House, Forfar

Angus House has been constructed with two flagpoles, but currently does not fly any flags. The Saltire is no longer flown at St James House due to its closure.

The Property division is responsible for the raising and lowering of the flags at these buildings, using contractors, and for the replacement of the Saltire presently on each building as they wear out. The annual budget for this is £2,000, and is contained within the Miscellaneous Other Services budget for war memorials and monuments. Actual expenditure against this budget has averaged £1,300 p.a. over the last 3 financial years and thus headroom exists within this budget to accommodate a higher level of costs.

4 UPDATE POSITION

The Head of Property has undertaken an exercise to determine the feasibility of installing additional flagpoles, where needed, at these key buildings.

Only Angus House and County Buildings currently have the ability to fly both flags at the same time.

Table 1 details the outcome of the investigation and a number of aspects which will need to be accommodated should the decision be made to install additional flagpoles to permit the Saltire to be flown in addition to the new Council flag.

The flagpoles are located on roofs, walls or at ground level. Those above ground level require the provision of safe access for contractors to safely undertake flag raising, lowering or replacement.

Buildings designated with a "P" will require planning permission as a consequence of their listed building status. This will involve consultation with Historic Scotland and the process and timescale will be beyond the control of Angus Council. However, officers will expedite the submission of planning applications if the Council elects to provide the additional flagpoles.

Two buildings will require roof work to be undertaken to enable a second flagpole to be installed.

Table 1

Property	P	Current	New	Flagpole	Additions	
Town & County Hall	P	Roof	Roof	£ 400	£ 700	additional roofworks and scaffold
County Buildings		Roof (2)	Nil	£ -		
Kirriemuir Library		Ground	Ground	£ 400		
Montrose Town House	P	Roof	Roof	£ 400	£ 500	additional roofworks
Monifieth Library		Roof	Roof	£ 400	200	scaffold
Carnoustie Access Office		Roof	Wall	£ 400		
Brechin City Hall		Roof	Roof	£ 400		
Arbroath Library	P	Ground	Ground	£ 400		
Angus House		Ground (2)	Nil	£ -		
				£ 2800	£ 1400	
Savings from reuse of St James Flagpole (net of removal costs)				£ -200		
Safe roof access improvements				£ 1000		
				£ 3600	£ 1400	
				Total	£ 5000	

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost to provide new second flagpoles for the designated key buildings has been estimated by the Head of Property at £5,000. This cost can be accommodated within the uncommitted balance available in the Property Renewal and Repair Fund.

Report 850/07 advised that the initial supply of new Council flags can be met from the Member's Services 2007/08 revenue budget within the Chief Executive's Department. The cost of providing Saltires is already allowed for in the base budget and therefore does not represent an additional cost.

The lifespan of the new Council flag is anticipated to be up to 18 months or so and therefore should not present a call on the 2008/09 revenue budget.

Also the costs of employing contractors to raise, lower and replace flags will be contained within provisions within the Miscellaneous Other Services revenue budget for war memorials and monuments.

Experience of replacement cycles, etc. with the proposed new arrangements for flags will inform future budget considerations but no additional budget provision is anticipated to be required before financial year 2009/10.

6 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Head of Law and Administration and the Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights Act implications specific to this report.

8 CONCLUSION

The provision of two flagpoles at each of the Council's main buildings will allow the Saltire to be flown in addition to the Council flag.

9 REFERENCES

Committee	Date	Report No	Subject
Strategic Policy	11/09/07	850/07	Council Flag

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

Colin McMahon
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Property - JRC/DMH