

Report To: Policy and Resources Committee

Date: 22 May 2018

**Report By: Head of Organisational Development,
Human Resources, Communications and
Policy**

Report No: HR/10/18/GB

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Subject: THE GREAT GET TOGETHER – 22-24 JUNE 2018

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report highlights a request from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) for councils to support 'The Great Get Together – 22-24 June 2018' (letter included at appendix 1).

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 'The Great Get Together – 22-24 June 2018' initiative was inspired by the circumstances surrounding the murder of Jo Cox MP and aims to encourage community cohesion through the organisation of community-led events.
- 2.2 The report proposes a time-limited fund of £10,000 set aside from Revenue Contingency to provide support to community groups and individuals hosting events as part of the initiative up to a maximum of £350 per event.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council offers to support community groups and individuals organising events as part of 'The Great Get Together – 22-24 June 2018' initiative within a maximum total budget of £10,000 from the Revenue Contingency with £700 set aside from the budget for promotion of the fund up to a maximum contribution of £350.

STEVEN MCNAB

**HEAD OF ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HUMAN RESOURCES, COMMUNICATIONS
AND POLICY**

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The COSLA community wellbeing board considered ‘The Great Get Together – 22-24 June 2018’ initiative and agreed to support it as they felt the matters of community cohesion, particularly with regards to sectarianism and the integration of ‘new Scots, could be positively addressed through such an approach.
- 4.2 The initiative was inspired by the circumstances surrounding the murder of Jo Cox MP.
- 4.3 It aims to support a shift in how politics and inter community relations are conducted to reject divisive politics, bring local communities together and celebrate everything that unites them.
- 4.4 ‘The Great Get Together – 22-24 June 2018’ centres on local community events and the organising of small, private street parties and local community events which are simple in nature and relatively straightforward to organise.

5.0 PROPOSED COUNCIL SUPPORT

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Council offers support to local community groups and individuals based on a contribution to costs associated with hosting a local community led or supported event as part of ‘The Great Get Together – 22-24 June 2018’ initiative.
- 5.2 The funding would be limited up to a maximum overall budget spend of £9,300 (see 5.4 for additional spending) and groups/individuals would require to submit bids, hold and promote the event as part of ‘the great get together – 22-24 June 2018’ using appropriate branding and including the event on the national website for inclusion on the great get together map at greatgettogether.org
- 5.3 The funding could not be used for purposes such as the purchase of alcohol but could be used to pay for or offset costs such as arranging temporary traffic regulation orders (TTRO) or for small expenses such as signage up to a maximum contribution of £350.
- 5.4 The Council would require to promote the availability of the fund in Inverclyde which would require an estimated £700 from the budget to be set aside from direct support to raise awareness among the community.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial Implications - One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
Revenue Contingency	Reserves	2018/19	10		Any unspent sum to be carried forward for use in future years.

Financial Implications - Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if applicable)	Other Comments

6.2 Legal: None

6.3 Human resources: None

6.4 Equalities: The principle behind the initiative is concerned with promoting community cohesion and bringing people and communities together.

6.5 Repopulation: Supporting and promoting events in Inverclyde is a key element of the repopulation campaign aimed at promoting Inverclyde as a place to live, work and visit.

6.6 Human resources: None

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The initiative has been discussed at the COSLA community wellbeing board chaired by Councillor Elena Whitman, COSLA spokesperson for community wellbeing on 9 March.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.



3 May 2018

Dear Council Leaders,

THE GREAT GET TOGETHER – 22-24 June 2018

I am contacting you to let you know that, 'The Great Get Together' initiative was considered by the COSLA Community Wellbeing Board chaired by Cllr Elena Whitham, COSLA Spokesperson for Community Wellbeing on 9 March.

Members of the Board noted the initiative and agreed to support it. They felt that the matters of community cohesion, particularly with regards to sectarianism and the integration of 'new Scots', could be positively addressed through such an approach.

'The Great Get Together' initiative was inspired by the circumstances surrounding the murder of Jo Cox MP. It is a campaign to support a shift in how politics and inter community relations are conducted to reject divisive politics, bring local communities together and celebrate everything that unites them.

The initiative centres on the organisation of small, private street parties and local community events, which are to be simple in nature and relatively straightforward to organise, in order to enable as many local people as possible to contribute to them.

The main organisers of events last year were businesses, charities, community or arts organisations, faith groups, MPs, sports clubs and schools. The majority of the events were in council areas in the London area and the North East of England, albeit we are aware some were held in the central belt of Scotland.

A website to publicise the 2018 campaign and to co-ordinate activity can be found at <https://www.greatgettogether.org/>. From the figures available for last year's activity the weekend engaged an estimated 9.3 million people through 96,000 events. As a result, this was one of the biggest community celebrations to ever happen across the UK.

Brief statistics from the 'The Great Get Together' website are:

- 59% said that before the weekend, they didn't know many of their neighbours or knew none at all
- 83% said that they had met someone new at a Get Together
- 50% said that spending time with their local community and neighbours was the best part of the weekend
- Hundreds of people mentioned that their children are now playing with other children on the street, when they didn't before
- 78% said they felt more hopeful about Britain after the weekend
- There is a strong appetite for it to happen again
- 46% that organised get togethers said they had never organised an event before

'The Great Get Together' campaign has more than one hundred organisations supporting it, along with a considerable number of celebrities including Andy Murray, Andrew Marr, Ed Sheeran, Nadiya Hussain, Helen Mirren and Stephen Fry.

Therefore, I am writing to you in the hope that this will encourage Council Leaders to consider responding positively with local events to support the initiative.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Alison Evison
COSLA President