

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL28 June 2017Report by Deputy Chief ExecutiveEAST RENFREWSHIRE FLYING OF FLAGS**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To consider a protocol governing flags flown by the Council.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Council is asked to consider:
 - a) A protocol in relation to flying flags on occasions listed in this report at Council HQ or other Council location highlighted in this report
 - b) The suggestion to fly a Rainbow Flag in addition annually in August to mark Glasgow Pride
 - c) Delegation of authority to the Head of Democratic & Partnership Services in consultation with the Provost should a national or international event deem it appropriate to fly a flag at any other time.

INTRODUCTION

3. The Council currently flies flags on 4 occasions annually to mark or commemorate an event. Periodically the Council is asked to fly a flag at other times but there is no formally agreed protocol for the Council in this regard. The Scottish Government holds guidance in relation to flying flags on its buildings and this has, in the past been used to guide the Council on flying a flag in particular circumstances. The Scottish Government flies flags from its buildings on 26 occasions per year. For the avoidance of doubt it is not proposed that the Council follows Scottish Government Guidance.

REPORT

4. In the absence of a local protocol associated with the flying of flags the Council has traditionally flown flags on; Commonwealth Day -March, Armed Forces Day - June, Merchant Navy Day - September and Remembrance Day - November.
5. Whilst flag poles exist in parks across the authority these are in use only when an event such as the above may be taking place in a local Park, at all other times the flag pole at HQ is used.
6. A suggestion has been made by a member of the Council in relation to flying a Rainbow Flag to mark Glasgow Pride annually in August in support of our LGBTi population. Members may have further suggestions.

7. Should a national or international event occur when it may seem appropriate to fly a flag either at full or half- mast as a mark of respect at Council HQ it is proposed that this is delegated to the Head of Democratic & Partnership Services in consultation with the Provost.

RECOMMENDATION

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 - c) Delegation of authority to the Head of Democratic & Partnership Services in consultation with the Provost should a national or international event deem it appropriate to fly a flag at any other time.