Commonwealth Day / David Livingstone Event update

Introduction

1. The Branch agreed at the 3rd meeting which took place on 30 November 2012, that given Commonwealth Day was fast approaching and arrangements needed to be in place, that the Commonwealth Day/David Livingstone event should be arranged for the week beginning Monday 25 March 2013. This would provide the Branch with the opportunity to celebrate and reflect on other events which had taken place to mark the David Livingstone bi-centenary prior to this. The event would include a Members’ debate followed by a reception.

2. The purpose of this paper is to update Members about the arrangements to date in relation to the David Livingstone reception which is due to take place within the Scottish Parliament during the week commencing 25 March 2013.

3. Members are asked to consider and note the following points, before further arrangements are taken forward:

- The Garden Lobby and Members Restaurant are not available on Wednesday 27 March. Committee Room 1, which can accommodate a reception for up to 100 people, has been booked for the CPA Scotland Branch reception.

- The Garden Lobby is available on Thursday 28 March. However Members’ business takes place at 12.30pm on Thursdays and this raises logistical concerns for the proposed event, namely that there will be a gap in timing between both the Members’ debate at 12.30 and the reception in the evening which will make it unlikely that reception guests will attend the Members Debate. A copy of the provisional guest list for the reception is attached at Annex A.

- It is likely that the guest list for the President of Malawi’s reception (which has still to be confirmed) will include around 90% of the guests invited to the David Livingstone reception and this may also reduce attendance levels at the David Livingstone reception.
• It is likely that the 2 Malawian MPs will not attend the David Livingstone reception. The Malawian MPs are due to visit the week commencing 18 March 2013. The Malawian interns will still be in Scotland during this week.

• We have been advised that the Special Envoy, Annie Lennox OBE, will be visiting the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 27 March and could attend the reception on the 27 March.

Decision

Members are asked to agree:

• That the David Livingstone event should take place on Wednesday 27 March;

• If the event takes place on Wednesday 27 March that the reception take place in Committee Room 1; and

• If the event takes place on Wednesday 27 March, that the Special Envoy be invited to the reception.

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