

## REPORT

To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE		Subject: REGISTRATION – CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 30 September 2005	Ref: JAF/IL	

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report refers to the introduction, in 2004, of citizenship ceremonies and advises of the citizenship ceremonies which have been performed in North Lanarkshire in the ensuing two year period.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Committee, at its meeting on 10 March 2004, noted the requirement under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 that the registration service provide citizenship ceremonies. At that meeting the Committee approved detailed arrangements for the provision of such ceremonies within North Lanarkshire.

### 3. Implementation

- 3.1 By September 2005, a total of 81 citizens have participated in ceremonies in North Lanarkshire. In terms of numbers of citizens eligible for ceremonies, North Lanarkshire is currently seventh among local authorities in Scotland – attached as an Appendix to this report is a table showing the position of all Scottish local authorities as at August 2005.
- 3.2 Prior to the introduction of such ceremonies it was not anticipated that within North Lanarkshire there would be a significant number of large-scale ceremonies: rather it was considered that the norm would be individual or small group ceremonies and it was against that background that the Committee approved citizenship ceremony arrangements. This has proved to be the case: for the 81 citizens, the Council has organised a total of 21 ceremonies. The largest of those ceremonies involved 6 citizens, and 6 ceremonies have involved only one citizen.
- 3.3 31% of customer questionnaires were returned in 2005. Responses indicate 83% considered the ceremony to be excellent and 17% considered the ceremony to be good. 100% indicated they were treated fairly and sensitively.

### 4. Considerations

- 4.1 The financial arrangements for such ceremonies involve receipt by the Council from the government of a fixed fee of £68.00 per citizen – and, for local authorities conducting large-scale ceremonies, this is clearly economically advantageous. The position is, however, different for local authorities conducting small-scale ceremonies and consideration is currently being given at inter authority level, to representations in this regard. No additional fee is charged by North Lanarkshire Council, with the exception of citizens requesting individual ceremonies: in such cases, an additional fee of £68.00 is charged.

4.2 The arrangements approved by Committee involved citizenship ceremonies taking place within marriage accommodation of Registration Offices. In light of subsequent experience, however, it is suggested that consideration be given to extending this service also to citizenship ceremonies within approved places outwith Registration Offices at the fee applicable to ceremonies for life events other than civil marriages.

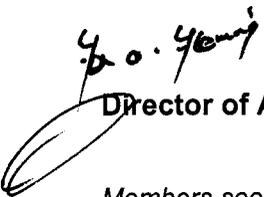
5. **Recommendation**

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee

- note the position

and

- agree to extend provision of citizenship ceremonies to approved places outwith Registration Offices.

  
**Director of Administration**

*Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on Extension 2228.*

**Nationality Intake ( Cases Created) by Central Points - Application Date >= 01.01.04**

Central Point	Sep-04	Oct-04	Nov-04	Dec-04	Jan-05	Feb-05	Mar-05	Apr-05	May-05	Jun-05	Jul-05	Aug-05	
Aberdeen City	17	7	14	6	11	26	18	24	15	14	12	6	<b>170</b>
Aberdeenshire	5	5	4	4	2	6	7	5	6	3	5	3	<b>55</b>
Angus	3	2	2	2	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	<b>22</b>
Argyll & Bute Council	2	3		1		2	6	5			1		<b>20</b>
City of Edinburgh	40	36	37	20	31	63	76	47	46	52	44	39	<b>531</b>
Clackmannanshire	1		1				1	2	1	2	1		<b>9</b>
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar				2		1	1				7	1	<b>12</b>
Dumfries & Galloway	1	2	6	1		7	6	5	4	4		1	<b>37</b>
Dundee City	6	7	7	3	7	10	7	7	10	6	11	7	<b>88</b>
East Ayrshire	1	2	3	2		2	1		3	1	1	2	<b>18</b>
East Dunbartonshire		5	4	3	4	7	4	9	4	2	8	5	<b>55</b>
East Lothian	2	1	2	1	3	4	3	2		3	1	4	<b>26</b>
East Renfrewshire	7	1	1	4	3	6	11	7	2	5	1	2	<b>50</b>
Falkirk		3	5			3	2	1	4	5	5	3	<b>31</b>
Fife	4	7	9	8	5	16	10	7	14	4	13	10	<b>107</b>
Glasgow City	31	30	28	22	35	67	62	76	46	74	49	43	<b>563</b>
Highland	4		3	4	9	9	7	3	6	2	7	4	<b>58</b>
Inverclyde	1					1	2	2	4		2		<b>12</b>
Midlothian		2	2	2		4	2	2	2	1	1	2	<b>20</b>
Moray	1	1	2	3		2	3	1	3	1	3	1	<b>21</b>
North Ayrshire		2	4		1	8	1	1	3	1	3	4	<b>28</b>
North Lanarkshire	3	6	10	3	4	8	5	7	6	3	9	5	<b>69</b>
Orkney Islands		1										1	<b>2</b>
Perth & Kinross		3		4		6	5	2	5	1		3	<b>29</b>
Renfrewshire	1	4	3	3	1	10	5	5	5	7	4	4	<b>52</b>
Scottish Borders	3	4	2	1	4	6	3	3	1	2	1	1	<b>31</b>
Shetland Islands							4	1	2			1	<b>8</b>
South Ayrshire	2	4	2		3	4	7	2	2	1		2	<b>29</b>
South Lanarkshire	6	8	5	4	9	17	6	6	6	7	8	4	<b>86</b>
Stirling		3	4	2	1	1	4	4	2	1	3	1	<b>26</b>
West Dunbartonshire	2	1	1			1	4	1					<b>9</b>
West Lothian	6	3	3	4		9	4	7	5	9	6	8	<b>64</b>
	<b>149</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>2,338</b>