

## His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama of Tibet Visit to Scotland, June 2004

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### The City of Edinburgh Council

16 October 2003

#### Purpose of Report

1. This report outlines the visit to Scotland by His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama of Tibet in June 2004.

#### Main Report

2. The Dalai Lama is widely regarded as one of the greatest spiritual leaders of our time. He describes himself as a "simple monk – no more nor less". His non-violent approach to the Tibet-China situation has not only won him support and respect from across the world but also the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.
3. In 1999 an invitation was extended to His Holiness the Dalai Lama to visit Scotland by the Lord Provost, supported by all the main religious leaders in Scotland and the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament. The official announcement of his agreement to make a visit was made at the end of June 2003.
4. This, his third visit to Scotland, will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2004 and will focus on a number of public and private engagements in both Edinburgh and Dunfermline. It will follow a four-day Buddhist Teachings programme in Glasgow.
5. Edinburgh based co-ordinators, the Edinburgh Interfaith Association (EIFA) and the Edinburgh International Centre for World Spiritualities (EICWS), in consultation with officials of The City of Edinburgh Council and Fife Council, have organised a number of events in Edinburgh and Dunfermline for His Holiness. One of his first engagements is a visit to the Scottish Parliament where he will give Time for Reflection and then meet MSPs. Edinburgh will also hold a major peace event which includes a public talk by His Holiness at the Usher Hall on his "Vision of a New Civilisation". Schoolchildren from Edinburgh will be given the opportunity to ask questions of His Holiness. Additionally, a major Tibetan exhibition ("A Long Look Homeward") will be presented at the City Art Centre from mid-May to mid-June 2004.
6. Clearly there are financial implications for a visit of this nature. The organisers are seeking contributions from the City of Edinburgh Council and Fife Council to cover around half the total cost. Based on what is known so far, funding will be required in the order of £16,500 from the Council towards such things as travel, security, venues and print and promotion.

7 As with many events and occasions of this kind, there is currently no budgetary provision to meet these costs. This matter will require to be addressed during the process of reviewing the revenue budget for 2004/2005.

**Recommendations**

8. It is recommended that the Council:

- notes the content of the report, particularly the budgetary implications; and
- requests a further report when more details of the visit become available



**J. Inch**  
Director of Corporate Services  
09/10/03

**Director of Corporate Services**

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<b>Appendices</b>	None
<b>Contact/Tel:</b>	Norman Ireland, Special Projects Manager. 529 4433
<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Background papers</b>	None