

**REPORT TO: POLICY COMMITTEE ON 30 April 2008**

**SUBJECT: INVERNESS AND ABERDEEN JUNCTION RAILWAY – 150 YEARS**

**BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1 To update Members on the request received by the Council from Highland Railway Heritage to participate in celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of completion of the railway line, and its opening in August 1858.

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section A(31) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to making arrangements for ceremonial matters and hospitality.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Committee confirms its willingness to participate in the event to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Inverness and Aberdeen railway and agrees to host a buffet lunch for invited guests on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at Elgin Old Station buildings.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Reference is made to the report to this Committee on 19 December 2007 (para 48 of the Minute refers) at which time the Council supported the principal of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary event to celebrate the opening of the railway line, and agreed to receive further details and costs associated with the proposal.

3.2 A local Committee has been established to organise the event on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2008, and Councillor Russell sits on that Committee. The Council has been requested to provide floral decoration and catering arrangements for a buffet lunch. Around 50 – 60 invited guests should be attending and invitations will be extended to representatives from the Council. The event will be held in the Old Station building at Elgin (Maisondieu Road.)

**4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

**(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan**

No implications

**(b) Policy and Legal**

No implications

**(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

The estimated cost of providing the floral decorations and catering arrangements is £1,100 to be met from the Corporate Hospitality budget.

**(d) Consultations**

Lorraine Paisey, Principal Accountant has been consulted and any comments will be presented to the Committee.

**5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1 This is one of a number of sequential events taking place along the route of the Aberdeen – Inverness rail line to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

**5.2 The Council has already expressed a willingness to participate in the event.**

Author of Report: Sandy Ritchie, Head of Direct Services

Background Papers:

Ref: AR/AM