

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure
DATE	18 January 2011
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Applications for funding from the international twinning budget 2010/2011
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/11/005

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to bring before the Committee applications for financial assistance from the 2010/2011 International Twinning Budget and to make recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

A. Approve a grant of £800 from the 2010/2011 international twinning budget towards the cost of the Lord Provost accepting an invitation to attend the 2011 Regensburg Bürgerfest from 24th to 26th June 2011.

B. Approve a grant of £7,820 from the 2010/2011 international twinning budget towards the cost of a group of young performers attending to rehearse with students from the Von Müller Gymnasium and participate in the 2011 Regensburg Bürgerfest from 21st to 27th June 2011.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Finance and Resources Committee approved the International Twinning Budget for 2010/2011 at its meeting of 11 March 2010. The approved budget, which is from the Common Good Fund, earmarked £72,000 in grants available for financial year 2010/2011. There are no State Aid implications.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Health and Safety: The health and safety implications of all visits are taken into account during planning, with any exceptional implications to be addressed at the time of application. Officers regularly review the travel advice provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and are in close contact with counterpart officers in the twin cities to ensure information provided to participants is accurate and up-to-date. Participants are offered comprehensive pre-visit briefings by the relevant officer and have the

opportunity to ask questions and request support. When participating in overseas visits, Council employees are covered by the Council's insurance policy while non-Council employees are advised to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. The relevant officer carries out a risk assessment process for officer and Elected Member travel on twin city initiatives.

Risk Management: Long-established community links will not be maintained without support from the international budget and people in Aberdeen would lose a wide range of opportunities to engage effectively with the international community. In addition, incoming visitors to the city on twin city projects support the local economy through their use of the hospitality and retail sectors in particular, and it is important to maintain and build on this added value.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Ref	Balance of Budget available 2010/2011	£9,124
5a	Lord Provost to accept an invitation from the Mayor of Regensburg to attend the 2011 Regensburg Bürgerfest 24-26 June 2011	£800
5b	Youth theatre exchange project Bürgerfest Regensburg and AIYF 2011	£7,820
	Total of funds applied for	£8,620
	Budget balance if all applications are funded	£504

5a Lord Provost to accept an invitation from the Mayor of Regensburg to attend the 2011 Regensburg Bürgerfest 24-26 June 2011

The Mayor of Regensburg Oberbürgermeister Herr Hans Schaidinger has invited the Lord and Lady Provost to attend the 2011 Regensburg Bürgerfest from 24th to 26th June 2011.

Every second year Regensburg celebrates its Bürgerfest (Citizens' festival) with a series of cultural events. The City of Regensburg is particularly keen on hosting civic delegations from their twin cities to celebrate the city's international connections. During the Lord Provost's visit to Regensburg on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the twinning link in September, the Mayor of Regensburg personally re-iterated his invitation to the Lord Provost.

The cost of flights is currently estimated at approximately £300 per person, with a maximum estimated subsistence required of £100 per person, since Regensburg will meet the costs of accommodation and most meals.

On the basis that the Lord Provost would meet the costs for the Lady Provost; be accompanied, if required, by one officer from the Economic and Business Development team; and that Regensburg would contribute to the cost of hosting the delegation as detailed above, the estimated cost to the international twinning budget would be £800.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee approve a grant of £800 from the 2010/2011 international twinning budget towards the cost of the Lord Provost accepting an invitation to attend the 2011 Regensburg Bürgerfest from 24th to 26th June 2011.

5b Youth theatre exchange project Regensburg Bürgerfest and AIYF 2011

Regensburg's Bürgerfest (Citizens' festival) celebrates the city's cultural dynamism with a series of art performances, including music and theatre. The City of Regensburg is keen on hosting groups from their twin cities to participate in the cultural events programme. Taking advantage of the invitation from Regensburg and the proximity in time between the Bürgerfest and the Aberdeen International Youth Festival 2011, the Arts Development team will work with their partners at Aberdeen Performing Arts (APA), Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF), and directors in the twin city of Regensburg to produce a piece of physical theatre on the theme of international teenage culture. This would then be performed in both festivals in Regensburg and in Aberdeen. This youth theatre project for a joint performance builds on the successful experience of the recent trilateral project with Regensburg and Stavanger which culminated in the 'Common Thread' performance during the AIYF 2010.

The Arts Development team is applying for a balance of £7,820 to take a group of 10 young performers and 2 tutors to Regensburg from 21-27 June 2011.

The Arts Development team and Citymoves will work with Aberdeen Performing Arts Creative Learning Team to enable young people from Northfield, Torry and the city centre to work outside their formal drama groups to create a piece of theatre to be performed at Regensburg Bürgerfest 2011 and subsequently at Aberdeen International Youth Festival. The young performers will travel to Regensburg on 21-27 June to rehearse for three days with their German counterparts and perform with them in the Bürgerfest (25-26 June).

The group and their tutors will spend three days at a school in Regensburg sharing work and delivering drama workshops to students from the Von Müller Gymnasium in Regensburg. Likewise, some of the young people from the Gymnasium will be involved in the final piece and will then travel to Aberdeen to perform in AIYF with the Aberdeen group.

The break up of the overall costs and the balance applied is as follows:

	Participation to Regensburg Bürgerfest	£
	Costs:	
1	Flights for and trains 12 people @£ 400pp	4,800
2	Accommodation at £30/person/day for 7 days	2,520
3	Local transport	200
4	Meals at £30/person/day for 7 days	2,520
5	Insurance	120
	Technical support, set and costume hire	1,000
6	Director fee	1,500
7	Management	16,220
8	Total Cost	28,880
	Revenues:	
9	Contributions from other organisations (APA, City Moves)	-4,840
10	In kind contribution (Staff salaries and wages)	-16220
	Total Revenues	21,060
	Balance applied for	£7,820

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee approve a grant of £7,820 from the 2010/2011 international twinning budget towards the cost of a group of young performers attending to rehearse with students from the Von Müller Gymnasium and participate in the 2011 Regensburg Bürgerfest from 21st to 27th June 2011.

6. IMPACT

The use of the International Twinning Budget to support international activity links closely to several of the **Community Plan Challenges**, for example, Learning; Arts, Heritage and Sport; Aberdeen's Image; Getting Involved; Being Informed and Leading the City. In the policy statement "**Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking**", the Council sets out how it aims to make Aberdeen an even better place to live and work. Promoting and supporting international exchanges, involving various communities of interest, contributes to this aim and to the actions of the **Single Outcome Agreement**.

Aberdeen's twin city partnership initiatives:

- foster international understanding and friendship and an appreciation of cultural diversity,
- provide Aberdeen's citizens with an awareness of, and insight into, international issues and perspectives and their impact on Aberdeen and Scotland,
- promote the image and raise the profile of the City overseas; and
- provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge, expertise, skills, ideas and best practice in any given field.

Opportunities for City groups and organisations to access twin city projects and possible funding are advertised through the Council's website, press releases, school circulars where appropriate and the ACVO e-bulletin.

Human Rights, Equalities and Diversity: Aberdeen City Council has in place a range of statutory and discretionary plans, schemes and policies to promote equality. Officers endeavour to target groups and communities which have not previously had experience of international visits or exchanges, or which have been under-represented in twin city activities. Applicants complete an equal opportunities monitoring form as part of the application process.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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