

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure
DATE	15 March 2011
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Applications for funding from the international twinning budget 2010/2011
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/11/084

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 £504 from the 2010/2011 international twinning budget towards the cost of a representative of Aberdeen Maritime Museum attending the Joint Meeting of European Oil and Gas Archives and European Oil Museums in Stavanger from 25 to 27 May.

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	£504
5a	Representative of Aberdeen Maritime Museum to attend Joint Meeting of European Oil and Gas Archives and European Oil Museums in Stavanger from 25 to 27 May	£504
	Total of funds applied for	£504
	Budget balance if all applications are funded	£0

5a Representative of Aberdeen Maritime Museum to attend Joint Meeting of European Oil and Gas Archives and European Oil Museums in Stavanger from 25 to 27 May

Aberdeen Maritime Museum has expressed interest in attending the Joint Meeting of European Oil and Gas Archives and European Oil Museums in Stavanger from 25 to 27 May, organised by the State Archive of Stavanger and the Norwegian Petroleum Museum.

During these three days in May, the two networks, the European Oil and Gas Archives and the European Oil Museums will hold a joint conference in Stavanger, Norway. The conference is a follow-up of the oil and gas records conference held in Stavanger in 2009 and the European oil museums networks meetings held in different European countries since 2003.

The two networks have common objectives, to promote the retention and use of relevant archives, and the sharing of skills and experience.

There are two main topics for this year's meeting. One will be appraisal, retention and disposal of oil and gas related records, which is one of the main challenges in the documentation of the oil and gas sector. The other topic is documentation methods for the oil & gas industry and most importantly the official opening of the interactive European petroleum map.

The conference will be a useful meeting place for people working within records management or archives departments in oil and gas related companies and organizations as well as people working in European archival institutions and European oil museums

The conference is also jointly hosted by the Norwegian Petroleum Museum, which is a leading museum in Europe on the history of Oil & Gas. As Aberdeen Maritime Museum is in the process of redeveloping the Energy Exploration galleries, with £500,000 of industry sponsorship, this would give the curator an ideal opportunity to visit the Norwegian counterpart and gather ideas and advice.

A copy of the conference programme is attached at Appendix One for further information.

The estimated cost of attending the event is £688 (flight at £220 plus 4 nights accommodation at £117/night). Most meals are included and there is no fee for attending the conference itself.

On the basis that there is £504 left in the 2010/2011 international twinning budget, and no other applications to be considered in this cycle, it is proposed that the balance of £504 be used for this application, with the remainder of the funding needed (£184 plus any other sundry costs such as any meals not covered by the organisers) to be raised by the applicant. Aberdeen Maritime Museum has confirmed they are able to meet the balance of the costs.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee approve a grant of £504 from the 2010/2011 international twinning budget towards the cost of a representative of Aberdeen Maritime Museum attending the Joint Meeting of European Oil and Gas Archives and European Oil Museums in Stavanger from 25 to 27 May.

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 Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations 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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