

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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| <b>COMMITTEE</b>          | Education and Children's Services Committee             |
| <b>DATE</b>               | 29 April 2025   |
| <b>EXEMPT</b>             | No  |
| <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>       | No  |
| <b>REPORT TITLE</b>       | International Travel – Music Service Trip to Regensburg |
| <b>REPORT NUMBER</b>      | F&C/25/082  |
| <b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b> | Eleanor Sheppard  |
| <b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>      | Shona Milne   |
| <b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>      | Beth Edwards  |
| <b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b> | 2.1.1 and General Delegation 5                          |

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval for travel to Regensburg by officers to support pupils in June 2025.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Approves travel for two officers to attend Regensburg in June 2025, and the estimated spend set out at section 4.1 of the report, with the purpose of the visit to support pupils to perform in Regensburg Citizen's Festival.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Representatives of Aberdeen City Music Service have been invited to Regensburg to perform at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Aberdeen-Regensburg twinning partnership. This would be an experience for the pupils that would enrich their cultural experiences and allow them to share some of the strong musical work taking place in Aberdeen City schools.
- 3.2 The event takes place from June 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025. The Lord Mayor Gertrud Maltz-Schwarzfischer's office would arrange accommodation for two members of Music Service staff and six pupils in a hostel.
- 3.3 The pupils have been asked to perform at a Scottish-Barvarian Music event on the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> of June and to represent Aberdeen at this event. They would be playing alongside local young musicians and dancers from Regensburg. The musicians have also been invited to perform at Bürgerfest.
- 3.4 The Music Service is currently working on the Aberdeen Big Sing 2025. This event will see the service working to renew Aberdeen City Council's ongoing friendship and partnerships between our Education and language departments in Clement-Ferrand. These reciprocal partnerships enrich pupil learning and

allow them to use their language skills in 'real life' contexts. The proposed trip to Regensburg would help further develop this work with officers from Clement-Ferrand, who will be in attendance, but also more broadly with the other cities that are twinned with Aberdeen.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Committee approval is required in relation to the proposed travel to Regensburg in recommendation 2.1 which is estimated at £2,500. This cost will be met via the approved Music Service budget for 2025-26.

#### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to secure best value in terms of section 1 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003. The Council has travel policies for both members and officers. All travel should be booked in accordance with these policies to ensure cost-effective travel arrangements.

#### 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The report recommendations have a negative environmental impact, namely an increase in carbon emissions due to air travel. To minimise this the itinerary will be full and valuable. Consideration could also be given to minimising the carbon footprint when booking travel e.g. booking a train rather than flight for any in-country connections where possible and the itinerary allows or booking 'green' airfares only.

#### 7. RISK

| Category              | Risks  | Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level  | *Target Risk Level (L, M or H)<br><br>*taking into account controls/control actions | *Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set? |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Strategic Risk</b> | Failure to maintain and foster international relationships may negatively impact reputation and relationships. | Aligning international activity with local partners to maximise impact of Aberdeen's attendance, reputation and messaging. | I   | <b>Yes</b>                                  |
| <b>Compliance</b>     | Travel and accommodation bookings, and subsistence arrangements, not being in line                             | All travel and accommodation arrangements made via the Travel Team to ensure accordance with the Council's                 | L   | <b>Yes</b>                                  |

|                              |   |  |   |            |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|------------|
|                              | with Council policies.  | travel policies for members and officers.  |   |            |
| <b>Operational</b>           | Safety and security risks of travel to certain locations.   | Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) travel advice and country entry requirements adhered to.<br>A thorough risk assessment exercise is completed prior to any travel outside of the UK. This forms part of the pre-travel briefing.<br>The Council has sufficient travel insurance in place. | L | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Financial</b>             | Actual costs exceed those estimated in this report.   | A recent costing exercise has been undertaken to inform those costs estimated in this report.<br><br>No travel will be booked if it exceeds total approved budget.   | L | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Reputational</b>          | Reputational risks if the city does not actively maintain and participate in international events and networks, which could diminish the city's global profile. | Close working relationships with officers in Regensburg to ensure benefits maximised from all outgoing international activity.   |   | <b>Yes</b> |
| <b>Environment / Climate</b> | Carbon footprint of air travel.   | The number of officers to attend this trip as been streamlined to ensure it is at a minimum.   | L | <b>Yes</b> |

## 8. OUTCOMES

| <b><u>Council Delivery Plan 2024</u></b>   |  |
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|  | <b>Impact of Report</b>  |
| <b>Aberdeen City Council<br/>Policy Statement</b><br><br><u><b>Working in Partnership for<br/>Aberdeen</b></u> | <p>The proposed travel/event attendance, and rationale of establishing and maintaining international connections and networks supports the delivery of:<br/>The Arts Matter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim to make Aberdeen a premier destination for festivals, productions, conferences, bands and events</li> </ul> <p>This is because this travel/event attendance will showcase the musical skill demonstrated by the young people in Aberdeen and will support future partnership work taking place.</p> |
| <b><u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026</u></b>   |  |
| Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes   | <p>This report supports the LOIP Key Driver within Stretch Outcome 8 - Improving pathways to education, employment and training for identified groups (including disability, ASN, term time leavers and those from priority neighbourhoods) because it supports the Music Service giving additional musical opportunities for children and young people through more rehearsal and performance opportunities led by the Music Service and in conjunction with partners.</p>  |
| <b>Regional and City Strategies</b>  | <p>This travel/event attendance will support the Music Service Improvement Plan to further develop the Big Sing event with the inclusion of pupils from cities twinned with Aberdeen.</p>  |

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

| <b>Assessment</b>                        | <b>Outcome</b>  |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>      | Yes - Completed |
| <b>Data protection impact assessment</b> | Not required    |
| <b>Other</b>                             | Not required    |

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

## 11. APPENDICES

11.1 None

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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|----------------------|--|
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