

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

COMMITTEE Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure

DATE 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013

DIRECTOR Gordon McIntosh

TITLE OF REPORT Twinning & International Partnerships

REPORT NUMBER: EPI/12/268

---

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to bring before Committee applications for financial assistance from the International Twinning Budget 2012-2013 and to make recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee recommend the approval of the following grants from the International Twinning Budget 2012-2013:

- i) £2,246 contribution towards the visit of a group of 15 English pupils and 2 teachers from Von Muller Gymnasium, Regensburg to Aberdeen as part of their social enterprise project to donate money to an Aberdeen charitable organisation who have the same kind of motivations and targets as the Regensburg group, based on the idea of mutual help and understanding, Aberdeen, 8<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2013.
- ii) £4,300 contribution towards the visit of pupils and teachers from Jean Jaures Ecole, Clermont-Ferrand to Manor Park Primary, Aberdeen, 24<sup>th</sup> June to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013.
- iii) £7,000 contribution towards the visit of Aberdeen Girl Guiding to the National Scout Jamboree Event in Stavanger, 6<sup>th</sup> July to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013.
- iv) £3,170 contribution towards the visit of a group of school pupils of Gymnasium 71, Gomel to Kincorth Academy, Aberdeen 4<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013.
- v) £2,500 contribution towards the educational and cultural visit of a group of 21<sup>st</sup> Aberdeen Scouts (Cults) to Gomel, Belarus, 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Full council approved the International Twinning Budget for 2012-2013 of £137,350. The approved budget from the Common Good Fund, provides £102,000 of monies towards the support of twinning projects and/or visits.

	<b>Balance of Budget Available Remaining or at January 2013?</b>	<b>£47,500</b>
i)	Contribution towards the visit of a group of 15 English pupils and 2 teachers from Von Muller Gymnasium, Regensburg to Aberdeen as part of their social enterprise project to donate money to an Aberdeen charitable organisation who have the same kind of motivations and targets as the Regensburg group, based on the idea of mutual help and understanding, Aberdeen, 8 <sup>th</sup> February to 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2013.	£2,246
ii)	Contribution towards the visit of pupils and teachers from Jean Jaurés Ecole, Clermont-Ferrand to Manor Park Primary, Aberdeen, 24 <sup>th</sup> June to 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2013.	£4,300
iii)	Contribution towards the visit of Aberdeen Girl Guiding to the National Scout Jamboree Event in Stavanger, 6 <sup>th</sup> July to 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2013.	£7,000
iv)	Contribution towards the visit of a group of school pupils of Gymnasium 71, Gomel to Kincorth Academy, Aberdeen, 4 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2013.	£3,170
v)	Contribution towards the educational and cultural visit of a group of 21 <sup>st</sup> Aberdeen Scouts (Cults) to Gomel, Belarus, 9 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2013.	£2,500
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£19,216</b>
	<b>Amount remaining in budget if recommendations approved:</b>	<b>£28,284</b>

### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The health and safety implications of all visits are taken into account during planning, with any exceptional implications addressed at the time of application.

The International Partnerships Officer regularly reviews the travel advice provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and is in close contact

with counterpart officers in the twin cities to ensure information provided to participants is accurate and up-to-date.

Where individuals/groups from Aberdeen are travelling overseas, comprehensive pre-visit briefings are offered by the International Partnerships Officer and all 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 instructed by the International Partnerships Officer to obtain comprehensive travel insurance.

Long established twinning links will not be maintained without regular reciprocal visits and ongoing projects being initiated by communities, groups and individuals and there is the potential for the city's international image to be damaged if we don't continue to support established relationships.

Without support from the twinning budget, exchanges and visits of this nature could not take place and people in Aberdeen would lose a wide range of opportunities to engage with the international community. In addition, incoming visitors to the city on twin city projects support the local economy through their participation at events and hospitality and retail expenditure while visiting the city.

The International Partnerships Officer will provide a strong link between Aberdeen and our twin cities who also provide organisational support, advice and guidance when required.

They will also make recommendations on funding available to the group and offer support to foster a relationship with the city so that it is long lasting and beneficial to the people of Aberdeen without requiring on-going financial support from the public purse.

All groups participating in twin city activities are encouraged to develop sustainable relationships with their partner groups. Links between most of the twin cities of Aberdeen are active, and links which have not recently been engaged have been contacted to re-establish communications. It is important that all visits and projects through twinning are long-standing and fruitful to ensure their benefit to the local people of Aberdeen, to establish and promote positively the overseas image of Aberdeen and for best practice to be shared between cities.

## 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- i) **Contribution towards the visit of a group of 15 English pupils and 2 teachers from Von Muller Gymnasium, Regensburg to Aberdeen as part of their social enterprise project to donate money to an**

**Aberdeen charitable organisation who have the same kind of motivations and targets as the Regensburg group, based on the idea of mutual help and understanding, Aberdeen, 8<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2013.**

An English teacher from the Regensburg Secondary School 'Von Muller Gymnasium' contacted Aberdeen City Council regarding a current English class who are undertaking various social enterprise projects to raise money to donate to an Aberdeen charitable organisation. The pupils of Von Muller Gymnasium chose Aberdeen to donate the money raised from their activities as they would like to demonstrate to Aberdeen and the local people what twinning means to them. Regensburg and Aberdeen have been twinned since 1955 and by this project it would take the twinning partnership to another level. The project is also to allow the Regensburg students an insight into the "difficult" sides of their twin town of Aberdeen and raise their awareness of what kind of problems young people of their age have to cope with in Scotland. At the same time this might make the Regensburg group more interested in, and aware of, the social problems of young people of their age in Regensburg. These fund-raising events have taken the form of selling products in Regensburg and online, reading classes to younger pupils during 'International Reading Day' as well as a sponsored work in the Regensburg community. In total, fifteen pupils and two teachers from Von Muller Gymnasium will visit Aberdeen.

The pupils have decided that with the monies raised through the various projects they initiated, it will be donated to an Aberdeen charity of their choosing. The group has not yet decided which organisation will benefit from their charitable donation, but it will be a charity local to Aberdeen and supporting Aberdeen citizens. The group will base who will receive their donation on the following;

- To help a group who are the between the age of twelve to nineteen to allow the exchange to have a sustainable effect, meaning other groups from the Von Muller Gymnasium, with partners in Aberdeen, be allowed to continue in the future.
- To help an Aberdonian group with the same targets and motivations as the Regensburg group, basing the twinning project on the idea of mutual help and understanding.
- To try and help a group which do not receive funding from any official organisations.

Whilst they are in Aberdeen, the Regensburg school group will also undertake voluntary work with the charitable organisation with who they donate their fund-raising proceedings, which will be chosen based on the objectives given as above. The group has also said they will meet with the staff, and undertake voluntary work for the charity 'Guide Dogs for the Blind'. A list of voluntary organisations has been provided to the pupils in order for them to make an informed decision as to which group they will undertake voluntary work and make a donation. An estimated

total of 1000 Euros is expected to have been raised by the time the group comes to Aberdeen.

Additionally, it is the intention of the group to attend school or college classes in Aberdeen, particularly where German is offered. The Regensburg pupils will provide assistance with teaching and allow Aberdeen pupils the opportunity to converse with native German speakers.

Through their volunteer work both in Regensburg and in Aberdeen they will raise awareness of their social enterprise project and aim to establish a group in Aberdeen to start a similar initiative in the city. This would enable project sustainability by deepening the links between the young people of both Regensburg and Aberdeen. The project would further help support global citizenship in the school curriculum as well as developing business and entrepreneurial skills. This project will develop and strengthen the relationship by demonstrating a model of best practice supporting youth development and global citizenship.

A Scottish evening is planned for the Regensburg group during their visit to Aberdeen so they have the opportunity to experience Scottish culture and tradition as well as taste the quality food product the region is known for, leaving them with vibrant memories and positive messages to share with their colleagues and families when they return home.

The application requests a total of £2,246 to contribute towards the cost of accommodation while they are in Aberdeen and some subsistence costs. A full break-down of costs is given below:

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Flights	£5,100
Accommodation	£1,746
Subsistence	£1,700
Total	£8,546
<b>Income</b>	
Contribution by Participants	£1,200
Other Sources of Income	£5,100
Total	£6,300
Expenditure-Income	8,546-6,300
<b>Total Applying For:</b>	<b>£2,246</b>

- ii) **Contribution towards the visit of pupils and teachers from Jean Jaurés Ecole, Clermont-Ferrand to Manor Park Primary, Aberdeen, 24<sup>th</sup> June to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013.**

The newly opened Manor Park Primary School, which is an amalgamation of Smithfield Primary and Middlefield Primary in 2010, has a long-standing link with the Jean Jaurés Ecole in Clermont-Ferrand which has not been active in recent years due to changes in staffing however both sides are eager to re-engage the twinning partnership. The last time a twinning project took place between the two schools occurred in 2010 before the amalgamation when a group from Aberdeen visited the school in Clermont-Ferrand.

The staff and Head Teacher of Manor Park are now eager to re-establish the links with Jean Jaurés by inviting a group of twelve pupils aged between ten to twelve years old from the French school as well as two of their school teachers. Since early 2012, there has been communication between the two schools to establish dates, numbers of people involved and how the programme should be best organised to provide maximum benefits and outputs from the visit. In the lead-up to the visit, pupils of both schools will research and present on the respective schools and the Aberdeen pupils will include photos and a film on Manor Park.

The teachers have created a draft programme for the Clermont-Ferrand visitors which will include the following activities:

- Shared lessons at Manor Park Primary
- Participation in a sports event at Manor Park Primary where parents will be invited to watch followed by a celebration of the visit in the school dining hall
- Showing of Manor Park Primary Film in the main hall as well as work Jean Jaurés pupils have prepared
- Sports Event at Aberdeen Sports Village with the help of Sport Aberdeen which will allow other local Aberdeen City schools to get involved
- A number of sea and shore related activities to appeal to the children from Clermont-Ferrand who live far from the sea.
- Outdoor pursuits with the help of Adventure Aberdeen

One of the events at Aberdeen Sports Village will be a 7-a-side Football Tournament where sixteen other schools are participating. Following the football tournament, there will be a multi-sports event with the help of Sport Aberdeen. For the Football Tournament, Manor Park Primary and Jean Jaurés will create their own joint team to compete against the other schools. The event will allow the French pupils to experience playing as a school team because in France, teams are run privately.

The visit of the children and staff from Jean Jaurés will reinforce and build on the links established on the last twinning visit in 2010 to Clermont-Ferrand. As a result of the proposed visit, it is envisaged that the Aberdeen young people will have an increased interest in learning about French culture and language. For most of the pupils, it will also

be their first contact with French people and French speakers. Manor Park Primary has a diverse range of nationalities within the school and has an increasing number of Eastern European pupils. The visit to Aberdeen will provide the opportunity for the Eastern European children living in Aberdeen to speak to their counterparts from the Jean Jaurés as the pupil profile in both schools is quite similar.

The visit fits appropriately within the aims of the Education Department at Aberdeen City Council, and approval has already been sought for the visit from Education. For the teachers of both schools it will allow the opportunity to broaden their horizons as both the national and international teachers will experience how classes are taught in both countries. It will also allow younger teachers to become involved and take over from the teacher organising the 2013 visit. Additionally, the visit supports the aims of the Curriculum for Excellence, *‘to enhance understanding and enjoyment of other cultures...and gain insights into other ways of thinking and views of the world...to develop skills to use and enjoy in work and leisure throughout life’*.

The project will have a positive impact on the Aberdeen community as it allows other schools to be involved in the twinning link so it is not solely limited to Manor Park Primary. The parents and communities are invited to watch the young people engage in sport and football tournaments. The young people involved both from Manor Park and other city schools will benefit from the exposure to a different culture and language as well as develop their international outlook.

During a French delegation visit to Aberdeen in October 2012 they asked Manor Park Primary to submit a short film on their school and area to be shown at Clermont-Ferrand’s ‘Vidéocollectif’. The teachers of Manor Park Primary have responded positively to this and are keen to showcase the school and Aberdeen internationally. The School is working with the Education Film Officer at Belmont Cinema to create and edit a short film to be premiered in Clermont-Ferrand. By doing so, it will create a favourable impression of the city, its surroundings, its people and its facilities.

The application requests a total of £4,300 to help support the cost of accommodation, transport and food. In the future the staff at Manor Park will seek sponsorship from companies with French links to ensure the sustainability of the twinning link. A full break-down of costs is given below:

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Flights	£5,400
Insurance	£100
Hire of Mini-Bus/Coach	£350
Accommodation	£3,500
Some subsistence in Aberdeen	£100
Cost of Tutors and Equipment	£350

Cost session Aberdeen Sports Village	£60
Cost of Harbour Tour	£140
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,000</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Contribution by Participants	£5,000
Other sources of Income	£700
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,700</b>
Expenditure-Income	10,000-5,700
<b>Total Applying For</b>	<b>£4,300</b>

**iii) Contribution towards the visit of Aberdeen Girl Guiding to the National Scout Jamboree Event in Stavanger, 6<sup>th</sup> July to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013.**

Girl Guide units from across Aberdeen have submitted an application to help for funding to attend the National Scout Jamboree in Stavanger. The wish to establish a twinning link with the Guides and Scouts in Stavanger came about after two guides researched possibilities and came back with the idea of attending the International Camp in Stavanger 2013. The guides carried out independent research and collected details to report back to their seniors demonstrating their enthusiasm to create and maintain links with the Norwegian twin city of Aberdeen. The Executive Committee of Girlguiding Aberdeen approved the trip and has thought it an excellent way of fostering links between the youths of the two cities. In total, 28 Guides aged between 11-16 years and 7 adults have signed up for the trip. The girl guides come from different Girl Guiding units within Aberdeen City ensuring that all guides have had an equal opportunity to attend the scout camp in Stavanger.

The Aberdeen Guides will meet with many of the 15,000 Guides and Scouts attending the camp and it will be an excellent opportunity for the young people to hear different languages, learn about different cultures, to live in a tented village without many modern day appliances and to make to friends from Norway and the rest of Europe.

The Guides are involved in every aspect of planning the trip to ensure their opinions and preferences are taken into account. The trip will also develop their leadership, decision-making and ability to compromise all of which are essential life and work skills.

Prior to travelling to Stavanger all participants shall attend various events for team building, trip organising and outline planning for a future, reciprocal event in Aberdeen in 2014. Some specialist skills are required by the participants including cooking, orienteering, map reading and compass work for the Aberdeen group camp contribution which will be gained through workshops before leaving for Stavanger.



During the event in Stavanger, Girlguiding in Aberdeen have to host activity sessions at the camp and it is envisaged that these activities will have an Aberdeen focus and Scottish influence to highlight and demonstrate to our European and Norwegian counterparts our culture and traditions. There is also a Cultural Market where participants have the opportunity to swap items or have entertainment from their home area. This will provide the ideal opportunity to advertise Aberdeen. The project will particularly help those who may be shy and encourage them to get involved with every aspect of the camp so when they return to Aberdeen they will have much more confidence. The leaders of the Girlguiding units expect the girls to take the lead on inviting groups to Aberdeen in 2014 and the format of future events, developing their project management and research skills.

Anticipated outcomes of their participation at the camp in Stavanger will be increased confidence and development of teamwork, leadership, social and communication skills which will benefit not only the girls but also their schools, Guiding units and their local community. The girls who participate in this project will speak at various events on their experience and are willing to present to interested Councillors and officers to demonstrate the benefits of ACC's support and legacy of participation in this event.

This will be the first time that Girlguiding have ventured into a project with the Stavanger Guide and Scout Association and the participants will build relationships with their Norwegian counterparts which will be continued and strengthened beyond camp. Their visit will attract Stavanger, Norwegian and other European Scouts and Guides to attend a camp in Aberdeen in 2014.

The application requests a total of £7,000 to help cover some of the costs of the camp fee and air flight costs. A break-down of the costs are provided below:

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Airfare	£200
Camp Fee	£220
Group Clothing	£30
Transfer to camp	£20
Equipment Hire	£30
Training in Aberdeen	£20
Insurance	£20
Contingency Fund	£60
Camp Activities	£30
Shipping Costs	£100
Total	£730 x 35 participants
<b>Total</b>	<b>£25,550</b>
<b>Income</b>	

Contribution by Participants	£10,550
Fund-Raising	£3,000
Other sources of income	£5,000
Total	£18,550
Expenditure-Income	25,550-18,550
<b>Total Applying For:</b>	<b>£7,000</b>

**iv)Contribution towards the visit of a group of school pupils of Gymnasium 71, Gomel to Kincorth Academy, Aberdeen, 4<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013.**

Kincorth Academy and Gymnasium 71 in Gomel are now in their eighth year of their educational and social partnership and Kincorth Academy are very proud of the record that they have of engaging young people from the two cities, through a wide range of activities including the exchange visits. To date the school partnership's main aim has been to engage in active learning and teaching in each other's school. For October 2013, Kincorth Academy has invited a group of seven pupils and two adults from Gymnasium 71 to Aberdeen on a reciprocal visit from June 2012. This will be the first time a pupil's visit from Gomel has taken place since 2008 and their visit will provide the platform for continuing the professional dialogue had with teachers in June 2012 with regard to sharing of resources, supporting English in their curriculum and promoting the benefits of twin city links. Kincorth Academy are continuously '*always aiming for excellence*' and want to become an example of good practice in working with a partner school.

Staff at Kincorth Academy wants to develop and move the project forward by using the expertise of the Expressive Arts faculty at the Academy. By doing so, it will allow both pupils and staff from Gymnasium 71 the opportunity to access native speakers through the visual arts of music and drama whilst continuing to promote lasting friendships, mutual appreciation and understanding between the young people of the two cities. During the visit both Scottish and Belarusian cultures will be explored as stimulus and this will give both sets of students the opportunity to engage and contribute towards the drama and music process in the production of a joint theatre production. Staff of Gymnasium 71 will have the opportunity to observe and participate in this active learning process as well as observe learning and teaching taking place across the school.

During the course of the visit the Gomel pupils will be staying with host families. Staying with local families has always had a positive impact on the host and extended families of the exchange, for example a previous host notes

*'We had a wonderful week and learned so much about their culture. There were tears from the children and parents at the airport. The*

*children still keep in touch with each other and have made a friend for life', Host parent*

Kincorth Academy has decided that the Gomel teachers will stay in separate accommodation to allow them sufficient rest time. The staff of Kincorth Academy will find the teachers accommodation in the Kincorth area so they are close to the Gomel pupils and academy.

Kincorth Academy will liaise with the organisation 'Blue Horizon' on the project, who are an organisation dealing with youth issues to fully embed the visit into the local community. As a group will be visiting from Gomel, it will allow the wider school community the chance to meet and experience students from a different country and culture. Kincorth Academy have an excellent partnership with the International School in Aberdeen, who have kindly offered to invite the students from Gymnasium 71 into their school for the day, as well as host a social event to bring the students together.

At the end of the week a joint performance will be given from the students of Gymnasium 71 and Kincorth Academy which will help to raise the profile of the twin city agreement further. Kincorth Academy will continue their partnership after the visit by the following means:

- Blogging
- Exchange of DVD's of expressive arts performances
- Arrange Glow meetings which is the online community for Scottish schools and used nationally by teachers
- Sharing resources
- Sharing scripts
- Planning for future exchanges through a Gomel pupil working group at Kincorth Academy who will take responsibility for leading events and sourcing materials.

The anticipated project outcomes are as follows:

- Strengthen and foster existing relationships between the two schools
- A shared cultural appreciation
- The show will enhance the confidence of all students involved
- Learning in the expressive arts will assist the pupils to recognise and value the variety and vitality of culture globally
- Experience the enjoyment and contribution to other peoples' enjoyment of the expressive arts
- Develop and enhance important transferable skills through the creative arts
- Breakdown cultural barriers

The application requests a total of £3,170 towards the cost of air flights and some subsistence. Pupils and staff will also be undertaking a

number of fund-raising events such as car boot sales, selling hand-baked Belarusian pastries, concerts and school show. Any monies raised through the joint performance will be put towards the Gomel fund to support future projects. A break-down of costs is given below.

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Flights	£3,960
Transport	£120
Subsistence	£120
Accommodation for 2 teachers	£850
Visa Reimburse	£720
School Activities/Costs	£600
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,370</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Estimated Revenue	£500
Estimated Fund-Raising	£1,700
Other sources of Income	£1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,200</b>
Expenditure-Income	6,370-3,200
<b>Total Applying For:</b>	<b><u>£3,170</u></b>

**v) Contribution towards the educational and cultural visit of a group of 21<sup>st</sup> Aberdeen Scouts (Cults) to Gomel, Belarus, 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013.**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Aberdeen Scouts (Cults) are applying for funding to help support their long-standing partnership with schools in Gomel. Nine Scouts and two adults will travel out to Gomel between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 in order to continue their working relationship with Gomel schools.

The aim of the Aberdeen Scout project aims to help teach conversational English in schools in Gomel by a small group of Explorer Scout Young Leaders visiting schools in Gomel and working in classrooms with Gomel pupils on English projects under the guidance of the English teaching staff. During the Scout visit in 2012, the Scout Group was invited to sign a Friendship/Partnership agreement with School No.10 and 71 as well as Irininskaya School to promote and develop English language projects with each School. The partnership agreement is to also focus on the development of cultural awareness, exchange knowledge in the sphere of school education and projects aimed at widening horizons about Scotland and Belarus.

The project starts January 2013 by identifying suitable projects in consultation with Gomel schools. The work on each project, including Scots Language; Scouting in Aberdeen, the School Curriculum in Aberdeen and Food and Leisure continues throughout the year

culminating in the visit to Gomel in October to present the projects to the schools. In addition to work in the classroom, the group of Young Leaders will be accompanied by Gomel pupils on practical English/Russian language projects in Gomel.

Consultation is undertaken with the English teaching staff in Gomel in order to identify suitable joint projects for the Young Leaders and Gomel pupils. Once the project headings are agreed, the Young Leaders will meet about monthly, prior to the October visit, to prepare and plan for the projects, including preparation of the multi-media presentations, oral presentations, gathering information and materials to deliver the projects in Gomel. The Scouts will also learn some basic Russian, history of Belarus and Gomel as well as take some of the lead in planning their journey to Gomel.

During the year, the Young Leaders will be collecting books, newspapers, maps and other suitable educational to be donated to the schools. The Young Scout Leaders also have a link with Gomel State Children's Centre and will be visiting the centre to meet with the pupils and donate toys, clothing, stationary and educational games to the Centre.

The anticipated project outcomes of the Scout visit to Gomel are outlined below:

- To promote and develop the twinning link between Aberdeen and Gomel
- To promote the international dimension of The Scout Association's training programme
- To give Gomel pupils an opportunity to meet pupils from Aberdeen
- To give Gomel pupils exposure to hear native English speakers
- Provide an unique experience for young people in Aberdeen and Gomel to learn of different cultures of both countries.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Aberdeen Scouts (Cults) received funding from the International & Twinning Grant for their visit to October 2012. If funding is approved for their visit in 2013, the group will use this funding to enhance and maintain their ground work in Gomel, especially by the signing of the friendship/partnership agreements with the three schools enabling more pupils in Gomel to meet with the Young Leaders. Through the work of the Scouts and International Partnerships Officer, other schools have requested the Scouts to visit. It is expected that over 200 pupils from various schools to be visited will have the opportunity to engage in conversational English with the Young Leaders during the visit to Gomel. Scouts which have not previously visited will be chosen for the 2013 visit.

The Gomel project will encourage other members to become involved and for new individuals to join the Scouts. The participants from

Aberdeen will give a feedback presentation on the project to organisations connected with Gomel. The Scouts will also give reports to their own schools in Aberdeen, as well as to Aberdeen Third Sector Interface, Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO) and be interviewed for broadcast on SHMU local radio.

The application requests a total of £2,500 to help cover some of the costs of the Gomel visit. Most of the balance of funding required will be met by fund-raising and contribution of the participants. A break-down of costs is provided below:

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Air Flights	£4,070
Hire of Mini-Bus	£550
Scout Insurance	£165
Visa Costs	£990
Interpreter	£55
Basic Accommodation	£1,650
Meals	£440
<b>Total</b>	<b>£7,920</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Estimated Fund-Raising	£400
Contribution by Participants	£3,620
Other sources of Income	£1,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,420</b>
Expenditure-Income	7,920-5,420
<b>Total Applying For</b>	<b>£2,500</b>

## 6. IMPACT

### *Aberdeen – the Smarter City*

- We will promote Aberdeen as a great place to live, bring up a family, do business and visit.
- We will ensure that Union Street regains its position as the heart of the city and move cultural activity centre-stage through re-invigorated cultural leadership.

### *Smarter Living (Quality of Life)*

- We aspire to be recognised as a City of Culture, a place of excellence for culture and arts by promoting Aberdeen as a cultural centre hosting high quality diverse cultural events for the whole community and beyond.

### *Smarter Economy (Competitiveness)*

- We will work with partners to promote the city as a place to invest, live, work and export from.

### *Community Plan*

- Work with other organisations, agencies and groups, including Visit Scotland and Visit Aberdeen, to encourage tourism and the provision of facilities for tourists.

Promoting and supporting international exchanges, involving various communities of interest, significantly contributes to Aberdeen City Council Vision as outlined above and to the actions of the Single Outcome Agreement. The outlined twinning projects also align with the cultural strategy vision as it allows for improved communication of cultural opportunities, helps with changing the perception of the city, to develop a stronger cultural identity and to have increased levels of effective partnership working.

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 groups, communities and organisations to access twin city projects and exchanges and for possible sources of 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 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 used

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Amye Robinson  
International Partnerships Officer  
[ARobinson@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:ARobinson@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
01224 523749