

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	21 <sup>st</sup> May 2013
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Twinning & International Partnerships
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/13/066

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to bring before Committee applications for financial assistance from the International Twinning Budget 2013-2014 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 2013-2014:

- i) £2,000 contribution towards the visit of Regensburg Town & County History Society to Aberdeen Town & County History Society on an educational and cultural exchange, Aberdeen, 24<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
- ii) £2,000 contribution to accept the invitation for an Aberdeen Jazz Group to perform and participate in 'Jazz en Tête', Clermont-Ferrand, 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013.
- iii) £3,740 contribution towards the exploratory visit to Regensburg and reciprocal visit to Aberdeen to develop the 100 Word Project promoting the Bavarian and Doric Language, Aberdeen and Regensburg between August 2013 and March 2014.
- iv) £1,180 contribution towards sending an Aberdeen delegation to Clermont-Ferrand to participate in the Artogue Artist Exhibition and to continue developing strong cultural and economic links between the cities, Clermont-Ferrand, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013.
- v) £2,900 contribution towards hosting a music group from Gomel to participate in the Aberdeen International Youth Festival and fund-raising events for the Friends of Gomel, Aberdeen, 25<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

- vi) £2,050 contribution towards a music group from Stavanger to participate in the Re-Opening Ceremony for Duthie Park and Torry Lighthouse Festival, 28<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.
- vii) £2,900 contribution towards a group from Regensburg to participate in Tartan Day, 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013.
- viii) £5,000 contribution towards the River Don/Sustainable Urban Rural Fringes Exhibition and project initiatives with Regensburg, Aberdeen, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
- ix) £1,600 contribution towards the cost of sending up to three Aberdeen City Council Officers to conduct an exploratory visit of 'Mini Regensburg', Regensburg, 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Full council approved the International Twinning Budget for 2013-2014 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 at April 2013</b>	<b>£102,000</b>
i)	Contribution towards the visit of Regensburg Town & County History Society to Aberdeen Town & County History Society on an educational and cultural exchange, Aberdeen, 24 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2013.	£2,000
ii)	Contribution to accept the invitation for an Aberdeen Jazz Group to perform and participate in 'Jazz en Tête', Clermont-Ferrand, 20 <sup>th</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2013.	£2,000
iii)	Contribution towards the exploratory visit to Regensburg and reciprocal visit to Aberdeen to develop the 100 Word Project promoting the Bavarian and Doric Language, Aberdeen and Regensburg between August 2013 and March 2014.	£3,740
iv)	Contribution towards sending an Aberdeen delegation to Clermont-Ferrand to participate in the Artogue Artist Exhibition and to continue developing strong cultural and economic links between the cities, Clermont-Ferrand, 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2013.	£1,180
v)	Contribution towards hosting a music group from Gomel to participate in the Aberdeen International Youth Festival and in fund-raising events for the Friends of Gomel, Aberdeen, 25 <sup>th</sup> July to 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2013.	£2,900

vi)	Contribution towards a music group from Stavanger to participate in the Re-Opening Ceremony for Duthie Park and Torry Lighthouse Festival, 28 <sup>th</sup> June to 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2013.	£2,050
vii)	Contribution towards a group from Regensburg to participate in Tartan Day, 26 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2013.	£2,900
viii)	Contribution towards the River Don/Sustainable Urban Rural Fringes Exhibition and project initiatives with Regensburg, Aberdeen, 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2013.	£5,000
ix)	Contribution towards the cost of sending up to three Aberdeen City Council Officers to conduct an exploratory visit of 'Mini Regensburg', Regensburg, 5 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2013.	£1,600
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£23,370</b>
	<b>Amount remaining in budget if recommendations approved:</b>	<b>£78,630</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 Regensburg Town & County History Society to Aberdeen Town & County History Society on an educational and cultural exchange, Aberdeen, 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.**

The Aberdeen Town & County History Society was formed in 2004 by a group of people interested in local and Scottish history and heritage. The aim of the Society is to develop an interest in the history and culture of Aberdeen City and the North East of Scotland. In 2010 the Aberdeen Town & County History Society formed a link with Regensburg Town & County History Society, with a Regensburg group visiting Aberdeen in 2011 and a reciprocal visit from Aberdeen to Regensburg in September 2012. The return visit of the Regensburg Society is testament to the friendship and hospitality offered in 2011. The visit in 2013 will build on the fellowship of the two nationalities and exchange of views to educate both societies and reveal the vibrancy of Aberdeen.

Regensburg will participate in a programme of events and experiences organised by the Aberdeen Society in order to encourage friendship and co-operation between the two cities and showcase what Aberdeen has to offer. The programme aims to give the Regensburg visitors a taste of traditional music, song, culture, history and heritage of the North-East of Scotland. The Society will also present the ancient and modern history of Aberdeen City to the visitors while here. The Regensburg visitors will be asked for feedback on the differences in cultures in order to help the Aberdeen group produce their history and

research publications. Local groups with an interest in history or meeting the Regensburg visitors will also be invited to attend events, maximising the benefits of the international visit. An outline of programmed visits is given below:

- Musical Evening Concert at Aberdeen College
- St Machar's Cathedral and tour of Old Aberdeen
- Tour of St Nicolas Kirk and archaeological dig
- Tolbooth, Marischal College, Provost Skene House
- Harbour, Fittie, Torry Battery and Nigg Bay
- Meeting with the German Consul in Aberdeen
- St Fergus Churchyard and ancient Celtic Stones
- Aberdeen Art Gallery
- Parks and Gardens in Aberdeen

Visits such as these allow Aberdeen an excellent opportunity to showcase our fascinating and unique history and to network with other Aberdeen organisations in developing other joint working projects. The River Don/SURF community group is eager to meet with the Regensburg Town & County History Society to showcase their work, the history of the River Don as well as discuss networks and contacts who would be interested in collaborating with the River Don community group. Other organizations involved in the visit include Aberdeen College and Aberdeen University.

The Aberdeen Town & County History Society is predominantly made-up from retired Aberdeen citizens. They are seeking younger members to join the Society and with the enhancement of the annual programme through the Regensburg visitors, this is seen as a way to attract new and younger members.

A special publication will be produced by the Aberdeen Society on the German visit and the two societies will continue to strengthen their relationship throughout the year by exchanging news and work of the individual societies and of the research projects which they are undertaking.

Though visits have taken place between the twin cities, this is the first time the Aberdeen Society is applying for funding from the International Twinning Fund. The application requests a total of £2,000 towards the cost of food, transport, small gifts and entry to buildings. The participants will be covering the cost of their own flights to Aberdeen. During the visit of the Aberdeen Town & County History Society in 2012, Regensburg Stadt covered some costs of their hospitality.

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Flights	£2,700
Food Costs	£1,500
Transport in Aberdeen	£250

Gifts	£100
Entry to Buildings	£150
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,700</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Contribution by Participants	£2,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,700</b>
Expenditure-Income	4,700-2,700
<b>Total Applying For</b>	<b><u>£2,000</u></b>

**ii) Contribution to accept the invitation for an Aberdeen Jazz Group to perform and participate in ‘Jazz en Tête’, Clermont-Ferrand, 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013.**

During the International Partnerships Officer visit to Clermont-Ferrand in early February 2013, an invitation was extended by the organisers of ‘Jazz en Tête’ for a professional jazz music group from Aberdeen to participate and perform in their Jazz Festival, ‘Jazz en Tête’ in October 2013.

An Aberdeen quartet group has formed specifically for ‘Jazz en Tête’ and is made-up from some of Aberdeen’s best known and busiest artists. The group spans a wide range of styles and ages and will promote the vibrancy and diverse range of music of Aberdeen whilst in France. The group will be performing in the Festival, and will also undertake workshops in schools and with local community music groups to maximise their visit to Clermont-Ferrand and to promote the Aberdeen music scene and quality of music education.

During the visit the Aberdeen group will use the opportunity to build links between the Aberdeen and Clermont-Ferrand music scene by networking with local musicians, promoters and local educators with a view to similar activities taking place in Aberdeen. Music festivals are generally a platform for people to form new contacts, reinforce the formation of exciting cross cultural projects and building relationships that benefit the participants and the audiences.

Successful funding of this project will provide a loud and clear message that Aberdeen is promoting fresh, exciting music projects. Additionally, the group’s wide ranging ages and styles mean that they have wide appeal for different audiences. The project will also raise the profile of the twinning partnership within a global festival, generate interest in cultural exchanges and promote the local music scene.

The application requests a total of £2,000 to cover the cost of air flights for the Aberdeen group quartet. Clermont-Ferrand will cover the cost of accommodation, food and transport for the group during their stay.

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Flights	£2,000
Food Costs	£800
Accommodation	£1,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,000</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Contribution by Participants	£2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,000</b>
Expenditure-Income	4,000-2,000
<b>Total Applying For</b>	<b><u>£2,000</u></b>

**iii) Contribution towards the exploratory visit to Regensburg and reciprocal visit to Aberdeen to develop the 100 Word Project promoting the Bavarian and Doric Language, Aberdeen and Regensburg between August 2013 and March 2014.**

This project is a development from the 100 Words Project run by the Arts Development Team at Aberdeen City Council. 100 Words was an intergenerational project which explored Aberdeen's cultural past, present and future through the medium of the city's indigenous languages, Gaelic and Doric. The young people who participated in the project attend the Gaelic medium unit at Gilcomstoun School in Aberdeen, actively learning and speaking the Gaelic language. The older generation attended workshops about Doric, reminiscing in a language they were actively discouraged from speaking at school, where they were taught in English. The project culminated in a cultural afternoon, held at Aberdeen Arts Centre, celebrating the two languages and bringing generations together to view the artworks created.

The project leaders are now looking for support to undertake an exploratory visit to Regensburg and a reciprocal visit to Aberdeen by a delegation from the twin city. The project is to establish and build strong partnerships to explore the development of a project which will focus on local cultural identities and how the wider community engages with this local culture and identity. There are several similarities between the two cities on how dialect is used and celebrated to establish identity. Local dialects are used within each city's communities for similar purposes as follows:

- Expression of local identity
- Within certain trades
- In familial settings
- Artistic purposes, particularly in song and on stage

Often these dialects have been disparaged by society instead of being celebrated for their cultural significance. Visits will compare and

contrast how each city currently celebrates its historical cultural identity and how language use may form future cultural identity.

Regensburg hosts a festival to celebrate and share its local cultural identity. The delegation from Aberdeen will visit this festival to see if this is a model that could be developed locally and what content such a festival could offer citizens, locally, nationally and internationally. A delegation from Regensburg will visit Aberdeen to explore our local cultural diversity and help to develop strong partnerships to encourage celebration of this cultural identity by the wider community.

It is envisaged that the project would lead to the development of the translation of a Bavarian piece of theatre/literature, music into a Doric piece to be performed and staged in Aberdeen with a parallel piece being shared with an audience in Regensburg. The final outcome of this project would showcase Aberdeen as a culturally vibrant city where cultural heritage and unique identity is celebrated and actively shared with the widest possible audience promoting Aberdeen City.

In the future, EU and Creative Scotland funding would be applied for to develop a major piece of work to develop and celebrate cultural diversity on an international stage.

The application requests a total of £3,740 to seek support for maximum three adults from each city to investigate the use of local dialect in delivery of cultural activity. The funds would cover the cost of local transfer costs and subsistence during the visit.

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Flights to Nuremburg (Aberdeen delegation)	£1,200
Flights Nuremburg to Aberdeen (Regensburg delegation)	£1,200
Food Costs	£960
Accommodation in Aberdeen	£2,400
Local Transport	£320
Hospitality and Entry Costs	£1,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>£7,480</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Contribution by Participants	£3,740
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,740</b>
Expenditure-Income	7,480-3,740
<b>Total Applying For</b>	<b><u>£3,740</u></b>

iv) Contribution towards sending an Aberdeen delegation to Clermont-Ferrand to participate in the Artogue Artist Exhibition



**and to continue develop strong cultural and economic links between the cities, Clermont-Ferrand, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013.**

During the International Partnerships Officer and Cultural Co-Ordinator visit to Court Metrage, Clermont-Ferrand in early February 2013 an artist from Aberdeen was invited to showcase work and participate in 'Collectif Artogue' which runs between the 6<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013. After joint discussions between Aberdeen and Clermont-Ferrand it has been decided that Peacock Visual Arts (PVA), in collaboration with Creative Learning at Aberdeen City Council, will select one practicing visual artist from Aberdeen to exhibit.

Accompanying the artist from Aberdeen will be the Print Curator of PVA. The visit will be a cultural exchange with a view to setting-up new arts based twin city partnership projects. This support will facilitate a stronger, more productive visit for PVA and the artist.

Specifically, the aim of the visit to Clermont-Ferrand is to begin dialogue with the community of artists in Clermont-Ferrand, in partnership with Artogue, and to select a suitable candidate for a short residency opportunity to make an editioned print, published in Aberdeen PVA. This print would be available for sale through PVA, as well as through outlets in Clermont-Ferrand. Links will also be made with the Videoformes Festival. PVA's Digital Co-Ordinator will organise virtual meetings with Gabriel Soucheyre, of the film department of Blaise Pascal University, with a view to partnership working on Videoformes 2013 and setting up a live performance exchange between PVA and Videoformes.

The anticipated outputs of the project are as follows:

- Exhibition and research opportunity for Aberdeen based artist
- Professional development opportunity for 2 members of PVA staff
- 360 Panorama produced by PVA, of the Artogue Mixte 2013 exhibition in Clermont-Ferrand, for use by all parties for marketing and publicity
- Strengthening of cultural exchange and partnership between Aberdeen and Clermont-Ferrand
- Residency for a Clermont-Ferrand artist with PVA in Aberdeen
- Edition of prints and exploration of a model of exchange using the creation of saleable artworks
- Videoformes performance broadcast in PVA 2014

The residency opportunity for a Clermont-Ferrand artist will include undertaking a collaborative working partnership with PVA in making an editioned print. The resultant edition will be split in half with the artist, with one half being sold in Aberdeen and world wide through on-line shop facilities, and all carrying the Aberdeen City Council and PVA identity alongside. The other remaining half will be exhibited or sold in

Clermont-Ferrand, carrying the PVA logo stamp on the paper. This residency would build on the initial visit in June 2013 and also inform future cultural and economic exchanges between the partner cities. It is the aim of PVA to brand all its published work from 2013 onwards with 'Made in Aberdeen', giving an important geographical context and global promotion of Aberdeen City. To maximise the visit the delegation will attend partnership development meetings with Artogue, Videoformes Festival and Blaise Pascal University to discuss future arts based twin city partnership work.

The 360 panorama of the Mixte Artogue exhibition produced by PVA Digital will be a unique practical visual legacy from the visit. Developing strong partnership with the Videoformes Festival will bring live digital performance exchange opportunities to Aberdeen, bringing international artists to the city, either physically or virtually.

The application requests a total of £1,180 to cover the cost of flights and transport of the artworks. Clermont-Ferrand will cover the cost of accommodation, food and artist fees. PVA will also contribute to the project.

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Flights	£900
Transportation of Artworks	£280
Artist Fee	£100
Accommodation	£800
Subsistence	£300
PVA Fees	£500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,880</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Contribution by Participants	£1,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,700</b>
Expenditure-Income	2,880-1,700
<b>Total Applying For</b>	<b>£1,180</b>

- v) **Contribution towards hosting a music group from Gomel to participate in the Aberdeen International Youth Festival and in events for the Friends of Gomel, Aberdeen, 25<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August 2013.**

The organisers of the Aberdeen International Youth Festival have extended an invitation for up to four young people or classical musicians from Gomel to participate and perform in the 2013 Festival. The project will build on the success of previous visits to the AIYF in recent years and continue to introduce as wide a range of cultural influences to the event as possible.

During the visit of the group they will work with many different people from Aberdeen as well as staff and other participants of the Festival. These will include:

- General public as part of the various main festival programme and free shows during 'Festival in the City'
- Community groups as part of the festival community tour. The organisers will have a wide range of contacts in different groups and as part of the event they will be able to meet and talk with the audience and participants
- Friends of Gomel with whom the group from Gomel will spend time with and undertake a day of fundraising for
- International participants from across Africa, Americas, Australasia and Europe. This exchange and socialising is one of the most important elements of the whole festival programme.

The project outputs will include a broad schedule of events and social opportunities for both the group from Gomel and groups within Aberdeen:

- 9 day schedule of events to include main shows, extended festival shows, community engagements events and social activities
- Up to 3 main festival performances as part of the shared gala programmes, individual shows as part of the daytime and evening schedules
- 2 events as part of the community tour taking festival shows into less well served areas of the city. The style and venues of these sessions (performance or workshop) will depend on the type of music ensemble that attends the festival. The two sessions will include work with two of the following groups-early years, special needs groups, community lunch groups, residential centres, youth groups and community centres.
- Perform in one or two extended festival events across the region which will allow the group to meet with a wider range of North-East communities, but also give them a different view of the region.
- Participation in 2 free public events including the festival parade and free AIYF 'Festival in the City' event where there will be opportunities for them to be seen, met and watched by the local Aberdeen citizens
- Take part in one of the festival social cabaret events at the halls of residence with other local and international performers as part of the wider engagement programme
- A day hosted by the Friends of Gomel where the Gomel group will also carry out performances to help raise funds for the Friends of Gomel

The visit anticipates the following outcomes:

- More wide ranging AIYF programme
- Further strengthening the relationship and contacts in the twin city of Gomel
- A memorable experience for the young musicians exposed to the multi-arts festival to take back and share with other young performers
- Increased participation in the community tour element of the programme with wider and more international offer available
- Enabling AIYF to bring a wider experience of different cultures to areas less well served with opportunities for this to happen
- Continued support from Friends of Gomel organisation for AIYF and future partnership arrangements

The application requests a total of £2,900 to help towards the cost of hosting the visit. Match funding of the visit will meet by the Friends of Gomel and by AIYF.

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Flights	£2,000
Accommodation	£1,800
Festival Travel Costs	£400
Festival Courier	£250
Festival Venue Staff	£150
Venue Hire Fees	£500
Production & Technical Support	£400
Production & Administration	£300
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,800</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Estimated Fund-Raising	£2,000
Other sources of income	£900
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,900</b>
Expenditure-Income	5,800-2,900
<b>Total Applying For</b>	<b><u>£2,900</u></b>

**vi) Contribution towards a music group from Stavanger to participate in the Re-Opening Ceremony of Duthie Park and Torry Lighthouse Festival, 28<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.**

The organisers of the Re-Opening Ceremony of Duthie Park have asked for the presence of a professional music group from the twin city of Stavanger to enhance and give an international element to the Re-Opening Ceremony. The Re-Opening Event of Duthie Park will be a family fun day with a 'Band in the Park' theme in the afternoon and is a one-off event within the Summer Festival programme for 2013.

The group will perform in the 'Band in the Park' afternoon performances and will give the local people and visitors to the city a flavour of music from Stavanger, as well as giving the event an international dimension. The group's participation will be highlighted within publicity materials and in public announcements to ensure the twinning link and profile of the twin cities is raised. An international stall will be present during the day to highlight the twin city and international links, as well as opportunities available to participate in the twinning programme/exchanges and funding through the International Twinning Budget. The aim of the stall is to encourage members of the public to learn more about the twin cities, opening more opportunities for Aberdeen citizens to become involved in twin city or international partnerships.

The Stavanger group will also perform on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June in the Torry Lighthouse Festival which is a local community event. The group's participation will further enhance and add to the performances and variety at this community event and act as a marketing tool for attracting people to the Re-Opening Ceremony at Duthie Park the following day.

Aberdeen and Stavanger share very strong business and economic links. The music group from Stavanger will be an excellent tool in demonstrating the strength of our existing relationship. Their participation will be highlighted to the Norwegian Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Norwegian Club in Aberdeen.

The application requests a total of £2,050 to cover the cost of accommodation, food and transport for the group during their stay in Aberdeen. Stavanger will cover the cost of flights and transport of instruments.

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Flights	£1,700
Accommodation	£1,200
Food Costs	£450
Transport	£400
Artist Fee	£500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,250</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Estimated Fund-Raising	£1,700
Other sources of income	£500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,200</b>
Expenditure-Income	4,250-2,200
<b>Total Applying For</b>	<b><u>£2,050</u></b>

vii) Contribution towards a group from Regensburg to participate in Tartan Day, 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

Given the historic links between Germany and Scotland, the organisers of this year's Tartan Day celebrations thought it fitting to invite a group of entertainers from Regensburg to perform and participate in Tartan Day 2013.

Tartan Day is a popular event in the Summer Festival programme and can attract up to 10,000 people. The Regensburg group of performers will perform in the parade, as well as in and around the city centre during the day. The performers will be encouraged to interact with the general public to answer any questions on Regensburg and promote our twin city links.

Regensburg has Scottish links through the Scottish Church situated in their city centre and only recently a Regensburg artist was asked to design a panel for a tapestry being produced in Aberdeen. This tapestry is being produced with other Scottish and international communities and will be displayed in 2014. By having the participation of the Regensburg group it will continue to demonstrate the historic and international ties of the city, promote Aberdeen as a vibrant and welcoming city, proud of its culture and heritage. In turn this will lead to other reciprocal visits to Regensburg. An invitation has already been extended to Aberdeen to have bagpipers or traditional dancers perform for the Opening of their Christmas market.

The application requests support for up to nine people from Regensburg for accommodation, food and transport. Regensburg Stadt would cover the cost of air flights.

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Flights	£3,600
Accommodation	£1,800
Food Costs	£900
Transport	£200
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,500</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Estimated Fund-Raising	£3,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,600</b>
Expenditure-Income	6,500-3,600
<b>Total Applying For</b>	<b><u>£2,900</u></b>

**viii) Contribution towards the River Don/Sustainable Urban Rural Fringes Exhibition and project initiatives with Regensburg, Aberdeen, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013.**

The River Don Community Exhibition (RDCE) is an engaging and inclusive exhibition which celebrates and promotes the past, present and future of one of Aberdeen's best loved areas. The RDCE is a

legacy of the successful Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) Aberdeen project. The SURF Aberdeen project aims to bring together communities, organisations and ideas to initiate a renewed focus and collaborative management to the River Don area, at a time of significant change. The community, supported by the SURF Aberdeen project, will develop and run this high profile exhibition, by showcasing a wonderful array of images of the River Don.

This exhibition is community initiated and led. It is a means by which a clearly passionate community will demonstrate to the City of Aberdeen just how valued, valuable and beautiful this area is for people and wildlife. It is also a means to develop cultural skills and activities in Aberdeen at the time of the 2017 Culture Bid, and to help promote Aberdeen internationally as a vibrant and attractive destination. The community is being supported in this process with the aid of an award winning professional local photographer, Alicia Bruce who has previously been to Regensburg for their Photo Symposium in 2012.

The visit proposes the supporting artist, an Aberdeen City Council Officer and three individuals from the River Don community, to undertake a working visit to Regensburg in September 2013. The individuals from the River Don community consist of developing and accomplished local artists/photographers. Their role, and motivation, is promoting and celebrating the cultural and natural diversity of the River Don to a wider audience through initiating, developing and running this high profile community exhibition project.

The project outcomes are anticipated as follows:

- Empowered and more confident community members
- Improved and documented skills and experience for project participants
- Increased wider awareness of the River Don Corridor and communities
- Increased wider positive perceptions of Corridor as a City/Regional asset
- Identify the River Don Corridor as a destination of choice
- Increase positive behaviour along the Corridor
- Increased cultural activities in Aberdeen and participation in arts/culture
- Additional cultural activities to support Bid for UK City of Culture 2017

Following the visit, the Aberdeen community groups will invite community partners from Regensburg to join their online forums. This will allow continued or expanded interaction and dialogue about these specific projects and their associated themes. The group will also invite community partners from Regensburg on a reciprocal visit to Aberdeen to exchange ideas and information on urban/urban fringe riverside regeneration and community engagement as well as any similar

projects or approaches from Regensburg which Aberdeen can learn from.

The River Don community will build on a lasting legacy with Regensburg through the following means:

- Publish a blog which documents their community journey
- Publish a series of postcards between the two cities to highlight the common love of nature and wildlife within the urban fringes
- Provide professional photographs of their journey for Twinning Aberdeen to use in promotional materials and reports
- Include Twinning Aberdeen's involvement in all press releases and promotional materials within planned exhibitions in Aberdeen summer 2013
- Celebrate the opportunity to 'think global, act local'.

The application requests £5,000 in support of the delegation visit to Regensburg. The group will also undertake fund-raising through seeking business sponsorship and print sales. A break-down of costs is given below:

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Flights	£2,000
Travel Costs	£300
Accommodation	£2,500
Subsistence	£1,350
Supporting Artist	£2,200
Exhibition Materials	£2,000
Marketing materials	£500
Insurance	£500
Ancillary Costs	£300
Contingency	£1,165
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,815</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Estimated Fund-Raising	£1,500
Contribution by Participants	£500
Other sources of Income	£5,815
<b>Total</b>	<b>£7,815</b>
Expenditure-Income	12,815-7,815
<b>Total Applying For</b>	<b>£5,000</b>

ix) Contribution towards the cost of sending up to three Aberdeen City Council Officers to conduct an exploratory visit of 'Mini Regensburg', Regensburg, 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August 2013.



During the International Partnerships Officer and Arts Development Officer visit to Regensburg for the Photo Symposium in September 2012, discussions were had on 'Mini Regensburg', what the Festival exactly entailed and if it would be appropriate for an Aberdeen group to participate in the future. Communications have since taken place to invite three Officers from Aberdeen City Council to undertake an exploratory visit to Mini Regensburg from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August 2013, with the ambition of taking an Aberdonian school group to participate in the next Mini Regensburg which is August 2015.

Mini-Regensburg is a 'game' for children where they can actively experience how life is organised within society. Other twin cities, or international partners, of Regensburg take part in Mini Regensburg, such as Clermont-Ferrand who will be sending a group to Regensburg for the 4<sup>th</sup> time. Each country or group taking part has their own 'Embassy' where the children are able to shape and determine lives in their own city. This allows the children to participate and understand how democracy and social contexts work, as well as the economic cycle and effect of policies. Each group also directly experiences the consequences of their decisions.

A group of three Officers from Aberdeen City Council will travel out to Regensburg to conduct an exploratory and learning visit of Mini Regensburg. This will better enable the Officers to approach the Education service in order to form a group running a 'Scottish Embassy' during Mini Regensburg in August 2015. It is further envisaged that this learning process would activate a similar event in Aberdeen where local school children can have the opportunity to participate, widening the benefits for the greater Aberdeen community.

The application requests a total of £1,600 to contribute towards the cost of air flights for the three officers to conduct the visit and a contingency fund for emergencies. Regensburg Stadt will cover the cost of accommodation and food for the Aberdeen delegation.

<b>Expenditure</b>	
Flights	£1,200
Contingency	£400
Accommodation	£1,000
Food Costs	£600
Transport	£200
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,400</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Estimated Fund-Raising	£1,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,800</b>
Expenditure-Income	3,400-1,800
<b>Total Applying For</b>	<b><u>£1,600</u></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