

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	29 th August 2013
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Twinning & International Partnerships Applications
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/13/131

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) £1,180 towards the visit of two curators from Gomel Museum of Military Glory to undertake learning workshops from museums in Aberdeen, 7th to 12th October 2013.
- ii) £3,500 towards an educational delegation to undertake a working visit to Academie Clermont to continue developing Franco-Scottish school links between the cities, Clermont-Ferrand, 16th to 20th September 2013.
- iii) £1,590 towards the participation of a Stavanger music group in the annual 'Christmas Light Switch-On Parade', 24th to 25th November 2013, Aberdeen.
- iv) £4,050 towards the participation of the Umdumo Wesizwe from Bulawayo in the Aberdeen International Youth Festival, Aberdeen, 25th July to 4th August 2013.
- v) £5,590 towards the visit of film and visual students and teaching staff of the University of Aberdeen to participate in Court Metrage 2014, and reciprocal visit by Court Metrage staff to Directors' Cut, Aberdeen, 1st February 2013 to 1st December 2014.

- vi) £4,789 towards the visit of music groups from Gomel and Regensburg for their participation in the International Concert during Offshore Europe, Aberdeen, 2nd to 5th September 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.

	Balance of Budget Available at April 2013	£81,530
i)	Contribution towards the visit of two curators from Gomel Museum of Military Glory to undertake learning workshops from museums in Aberdeen, 7 th to 12 th October 2013.	£1,180
ii)	Contribution towards an educational delegation to undertake a working visit to Academie Clermont to continue developing Franco-Scottish school links between the cities, Clermont-Ferrand, 16 th to 20 th September 2013.	£3,500
iii)	Contribution towards the participation of a Stavanger music group in the annual 'Christmas Light Switch-On Parade', 24 th to 25 th November 2013, Aberdeen.	£1,590
iv)	Contribution towards the participation of the Umdumo Wesizwe from Bulawayo in the Aberdeen International Youth Festival, Aberdeen, 25 th July to 4 th August 2013.	£4,050
v)	Contribution towards the visit of film and visual students and teaching staff of the University of Aberdeen to participate in Court Metrage 2014, and reciprocal visit by Court Metrage staff to Directors' Cut, Aberdeen, 1 st February 2013 to 1 st December 2014.	£5,590
vi)	Contribution towards the visit of music groups from Gomel and Regensburg for their participation in the International Concert during Offshore Europe, Aberdeen, 2 nd to 5 th September 2013.	£4,789
	TOTAL	£20,699
	Amount remaining in budget if recommendations approved:	£60,831

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 two curators from Gomel Museum of Military Glory to undertake learning workshops from museums in Aberdeen, 7th to 12th October 2013.

The Gordon Highlanders Museum and the Gomel Museum of Military Glory share a long-standing link which has to date seen several loan and social exchanges take place. Last year a loan exhibition was sent to the Gomel Museum of Military Glory from The Gordon Highlanders Museum and this year a reciprocal loan exhibition will be sent to Aberdeen. To further develop the relationship between the two museums, the Director of the Gomel Museum of Military Glory proposed to The Gordon Highlanders Museum to receive two of the curators from the Gomel museum to undertake a learning and working visit. The proposed dates of the curator visit to Aberdeen are the 7th to 12th October 2013. The request from the museum Director in Gomel showcases Aberdeen as a sought after destination to learn from, promotes our museums and highlights the expertise in the city.

Discussions have already taken place with museums in Aberdeen as to whether they would be able to host and provide workshops for the curator visitors which have received a positive and enthusiastic response. The curator visitors will therefore spend two days at the Gordon Highlanders Museum, a day with the University of Aberdeen Special Collections and one further day with an Aberdeen City Council museum. It was decided to include other museums and contacts in Aberdeen to increase the benefits of the curators visit and maximise potential links which could be created.

During the curators visit it is anticipated they will learn the following:

- language skills training
- type of work with visitors by the different Aberdeen museums
- museum educational activities and interaction with schools
- how funding is attracted to the museums
- preservation techniques
- way of acquiring museum artifacts

The visit of the curators will provide continued professional development for both the Gomel and Aberdeen staff involved and a platform to learn new and different techniques from one another.

Aberdeen Gomel Trust and the Friends of Gomel will also be involved in the Gomel curators visit to Aberdeen and the Trust will be contributing financially to the visit so it can take place.

The application requests a total of £1,180 to cover accommodation, and food costs in Aberdeen. A full break-down of costs has been given below. As Gomel is unable to contribute as much financially the Aberdeen Gomel Trust and Friends of Gomel have agreed to contribute to their Aberdeen visit to cover their flights and visa costs.

Expenditure	
Flights	£1,000
Visa	£200
Accommodation	£880
Food Costs	£300
Total	£2,380
Income	
Other sources of income	£1,200
Total	£1,200
Expenditure-Income	2,380-1,200
Total Applying For	£1,180

ii) Contribution towards an education delegation to undertake a working visit to Academie Clermont to continue developing Franco-Scottish school links between the two cities, Clermont-Ferrand, 16th to 20th September 2013.

A delegation of Inspectors, Head Teachers and the Head of International Education from Clermont-Ferrand visited Aberdeen in late May 2013. This visit was to find out more about Scottish Education, meet with people who had visited Clermont-Ferrand, look at specific areas such as modern languages, business education, economics, English, vocational education and generally how the school system functions both in Aberdeen and Scotland. This was a very successful visit with our visitors impressed by what they witnessed in the schools and learnt from meetings with Officers in Education, Culture and Sport. It was a cordial and enthusiastic visit, during which there was a willingness to further develop links in feedback and planning sessions. An invite was issued by the delegates from Academie Clermont for an educational delegation from Aberdeen to visit schools and teachers in Clermont-Ferrand.

This application and joint initiative between Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure and Education, Culture and Sport will fulfil part one of the next steps in the planning discussions. It is proposed up to ten people will travel to Clermont-Ferrand for the visit. This number is based on the Quality Improvement Officer (QIO) part of the work and the Head Teachers wishing to form a sustainable link with schools in Clermont-Ferrand. Approximately eight members of the delegation are QIOs and the remaining two are Head Teachers. This is a representative sample to gain maximum benefit from the visit.

The schools which have expressed interest and QIOs will be represented in this group with a view to:

- Head Teachers meeting their equivalent Head Teachers and visiting schools in Clermont-Ferrand to develop plans.
- QIOs working with inspectors to share and develop skills
- Building lasting relationships with curricular projects planned at school level and working together at local authority level
- Beginning the conversation to working together with Regensburg, also a twin of Clermont-Ferrand, to develop joint educational projects.

The anticipated project outcomes are envisaged to be the following:

- Increased opportunities for global citizenship experiences in schools, therefore promoting better understanding between countries and expanding horizons of staff and pupils
- Motivating experiences for developing modern languages skills and understanding which is better known as the 1+2 Language Plan
- Continuing Professional development for QIOs
- Improved image of Aberdeen and understanding of Aberdeen as a City of Learning
- Contribution to Aberdeen's 'Illuminating the North' 2017.
- Improved links educationally but also potentially with offshoots economically.

The International Twinning Budget last year supported a visit to Stavanger by Head Teachers and Education Officials in September 2012. This has since led to a joint application by Aberdeen and Stavanger Education Services for European funding to develop 5 joint secondary school projects in the area of skills for learning, life and work. This request for financial support will further develop educational links with our twin cities and will create additional school to school partnerships with a particular focus on improving the quality of modern language development. Following the visit a Comenius-Regio bid will be submitted to further develop projects between at least Aberdeen and Clermont-Ferrand.

This initial funding contributes to establishing lasting links with Clermont-Ferrand as personal contact provides the stimulus to sustainable project development. Clermont-Ferrand has made the first contact and this visit reciprocates and shows our commitment. Having established the links, schools will be able to develop sustainable language projects involving staff and pupils and the QIOs will continue to work in partnership with their counterparts sharing and developing experiences. The links will overall add to Aberdeen as an international city, developing a place and reputation in the world and a belief in Aberdeen as a city of learning.

The International Partnerships Officer, after the publicity of Twinning through school circulars and brochures, has received a number of school requests in Aberdeen to form a link with a school in Clermont-Ferrand. Clermont-Ferrand is a more popular choice to form a school link with as the majority of schools offer French as a foreign language. Having a French school link encourages the enthusiasm and demonstrates the importance of learning a foreign language to school pupils.

The application requests a total of £3,500 to contribute towards the cost of air flights to Clermont-Ferrand. La Ville de Clermont-Ferrand will pay for the cost of accommodation, food and transport as per the normal twinning arrangement.

Expenditure	
Flights to Clermont-Ferrand	£3,500
Food Costs	£1,500
Accommodation	£3,200
Total	£8,200
Income	
Contribution by Participants	£4,700
Total	£4,700
Expenditure-Income	8,200-4,700
Total Applying For	<u>£3,500</u>

iii) Contribution towards the participation of a Stavanger music group in the popular annual 'Christmas Light Switch-On Parade', 24th to 25th November 2013, Aberdeen.

Planning is underway for the annual Christmas Light Switch-On Parade which kick-starts Aberdeen's Winter Festival programme on Sunday 24th November 2013. The Parade is a highly popular event within the programme and can attract an audience of 15,000-25,000 depending on the weather conditions.

In 2012 a choir from Stavanger was invited to sing at the Christmas Tree Light Switch-On Ceremony. In keeping with the Norwegian links during the festive period in recognition of their gift of the Christmas Tree to Aberdeen, a choir of maximum 12 people from Stavanger has been invited to participate in the Parade for 2013 and not the Tree Ceremony. This is because the choir will have a larger and different audience to the Tree Ceremony, thus widening the benefits to the Aberdeen community and visitors to the city. The choir will have their own float within the parade and be fitted with a generator and microphones so the spectators can hear them. The choir has also been asked to dress in traditional Norwegian and/or festive clothing in keeping with the Parade festive elements.

Aberdeen and Stavanger share strong business and economic links and efforts continue to build more cultural and social links into the twinning and business partnership. Our invitation to Stavanger to participate in the Parade will demonstrate our continued desire to work together and develop cultural and business links with their city.

The application requests a total of £1,590 to cover the cost of accommodation, food and transport whilst in Aberdeen. Stavanger Kommune will cover the cost of air flights to and from Aberdeen.

Expenditure	
Air Flights	£2,400
Food Costs (2 days)	£720
Accommodation in Aberdeen	£720
Local Transport	£150
Total	£3,990
Income	
Contribution by Participants	£2,400
Total	£2,400
Expenditure-Income	3,990-2,400
Total Applying For	£1,590

iv) Contribution towards the participation of the Umdumo Wesizwe from Bulawayo in the Aberdeen International Youth Festival, Aberdeen, 25th July to 4th August 2013.

The organisers of the Aberdeen Youth Festival originally invited a group from Gomel to participate in the 2013 Festival, however due to the eligibility of the groups proposed to the organisers a Gomel group are no longer able to attend. No monies have been transferred to the AIYF organisers in this respect.

Since then the AIYF received a request from the Umdumo Wesizwe group from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe to perform and participate in the AIYF 2013. The group will travel to Aberdeen and are then going on to perform in the Edinburgh Fringe as well as other shows across the UK. In the group from Bulawayo are nine young people between the ages of 18-26. It was not possible for the AIYF organisers to apply for funding at last Committee in May due to the short notice they received the request from the Umdumo Wesizwe group.

The Umdumo Wesizwe group is a young singing and dance company and their group builds on the festival's desire to promote and showcase as wide a range of cultural influences to the event as possible. Their participation allows re-connection with the twin city of Bulawayo who last performed in the AIYF in 2007.

This particular project aims to:

- Support the participation of a group of nine young musicians and staff as part of the AIYF 2013. The last time a group from Bulawayo performed in the Festival was 2007, so this will enable Bulawayo to share the cultural traditions and songs as widely as possible.
- Deliver a schedule of activities that will have an impact on festival audiences, participants and supporters across a wide range of venues. This schedule will include a variety of activity including free community events as part of 'Festival in the City' and community tours, performances and social events. The project schedule will endeavour to include connections with other local and international participants, festival staff and general public as audiences and venue hosts.
- Look at future opportunities to connect with groups from this and other Aberdeen twin cities through innovative partnerships with other Aberdeen groups.

The project outputs are anticipated as below:

- 9 day schedule of events to include main theatre performances, extended festival shows, community engagements, events and social activities
- Up to 3 main festival performances as part of shared gala programmes, individual shows as part of the daytime and evening schedules.
- Two performance/participatory events as part of the community tour taking festival shows into less well served areas of the city. The two sessions will be performances with two of the following groups; early years, special needs groups, community lunch groups, youth groups and community centres.
- Perform in one or two extended festival events across the region which will allow the group to meet a wider range of North East people but also give them a different view of the region.
- Participation in the festival and Tartan Day Parade and AIYF's 'Festival in the City' event including performances across the city centre.
- Take part in the festival social cabaret events at the Halls of Residence with other local and international performers as part of the wider engagement programme.

Through the participation of the group from Bulawayo the project will add more diversity of music and performance styles as well as geographical spread to the AIYF programme. It also permits the AIYF to be recognised as a premiere destination for showcasing the talents of young international artists.

A longer stay at the Festival by the group increases the variety of performances, engagements and social events provided to the

Aberdeen Community. Overall the group will provide an exciting and unusual element to the cultural and creative experience through their professionalism and quality, as well as their range of folk, traditional and contemporary programme of music and dance.

The application requests a total of £4,050 to help support the participation and accommodation fees. A full break-down of costs has been provided below.

Expenditure	
Flights Zimbabwe-UK	£7,669.26
Travel Costs to Aberdeen	£900.00
Visa Costs	£760.86
Accommodation/Participation Fee	£4,050
Festival Travel Costs	£400
Festival Courier	£250
Festival Venue	£150
Venue Hire Fees	£500
Production & Technical Support	£400
Promotion & Administration	£300
Total	£15,380.12
Income	
Contribution by Participants	£9,330.12
Other Sources of Income	£2,000
Total	£11,330.12
Expenditure-Income	15,380.12-11,330.12
Total Applying For	£4,050

v)Contribution towards the visit of film and visual students and teaching staff of the University of Aberdeen to participate in Court Metrage 2014, and reciprocal visit by Court Metrage staff to Directors' Cut, Aberdeen, 1st February 2013 to 1st December 2014.

Following the visit of the International Partnerships Officer and Arts Development Officer of Aberdeen City Council to Court Metrage 2013, links have been made between the Court Metrage organisers and the Film and Visual Department at the University of Aberdeen.

Up to seven people, a mixture of 2 University of Aberdeen staff and 5 students, will travel to participate in the Court Metrage, Clermont-Ferrand in 2014 for a maximum of 5 nights. During their visit the students and staff will showcase their innovative creative work completed in Aberdeen, attend a series of workshops and screenings, interact with other student and professional filmmakers and producers attending the festival, using the festival's La Jetee Resource Centre. Given that in 2013 the festival was attended by some 3,300 industry delegates from 33 countries, with 301 film and media organisations

participating, 518 producers and 505 festival curators, this project offers an excellent opportunity to expose the Aberdeen film students and their work to an international mix of experts in the field. Through the participation of the University staff, this exchange will also provide a foundation for future civic and institutional collaborations.

The University of Aberdeen Film and Visual Department run the unique event, 'Directors Cut' which has proved popular, attracting personalities such as David Attenborough and Simon Callow to the programme in previous years. The tutor accompanying the students will invite the Festival's Director and Coordinator to Aberdeen to appear in the Directors Cut series. This will enhance Aberdeen's cultural programme by giving members of the local community an opportunity to listen to these innovative film directors and will help promote a greater understanding about the art of filmmaking. Through this exposure, the project will encourage students and young people to consider a career in film and broadcasting, thus stimulating interest in local educational institutions and cultural organisations that offer access to this area and twinning partner.

The Director's Cut and research carried out by the member of staff from the University of Aberdeen has been selected by the School of Language and Literature as an 'Impact' Case Study for the 2014 Research Excellence Framework. These impact case studies are selected to demonstrate how the University's academic staff produces research related output which corresponds to impact in the public sphere outside of the University. The participation of the Clermont-Ferrand delegate will contribute to the 'Impact' research from the Director's Cut Series.

Cultural exchanges play a valuable role in exposing participants to international activities, other forms of creative practice and new professional relationships. The publicity surrounding the students' involvement with the Festival will generate greater awareness in Aberdeen twin city link with Clermont-Ferrand. The high profile Festival delegation from Clermont-Ferrand to Aberdeen will heighten public awareness about the city's internationally acclaimed festival and output, and the potential impact hosting such an event for a city of just 140,000 can have on its international profile and revenue base.

The application requests a total of £3,910 to help support the cost of air flights and some subsistence in Clermont-Ferrand. Clermont-Ferrand and the University of Aberdeen will also financially contribute to the visit to Clermont-Ferrand.

Expenditure	
Flights to Clermont-Ferrand	£3,150
Accommodation	£2,100
Food Costs Clermont-Ferrand	£1,680
Film Preparation Costs	£200

Flight to Aberdeen	£450
Accommodation in Aberdeen	£300
Food Costs in Aberdeen	£160
Reception at Belmont Cinema	£700
Director's Cut staging and filming of main event	£2,500
Filming and post-production of the Director's Cut Masterclass at Belmont	£900
Publicity for the Director's Cut events	£600
Total	£12,740
Income	
Contribution by Participants	£2,920
Other sources of income	£4,230
Total	£7,150
Expenditure-Income	12,740-7,150
Total Applying For	<u>£5,590</u>

vi) Contribution towards the visit of music groups from Gomel and Regensburg for their participation in the International Concert during Offshore Europe, Aberdeen, 2nd to 5th September 2013.

This year will see the 40th Anniversary of Offshore Europe in Aberdeen. To celebrate this special anniversary a series of concerts will take place from Tuesday 3rd September to Thursday 5th September in Marischal College Quad. One of the concerts will be an 'International Night' on Tuesday 3rd September in which an invite of interest was issued to the twin cities for a music group to perform in this special one-off concert.

Regensburg and Gomel have responded positively to the invite and will be sending a high quality music group to perform at the International Night. Their participation in the concert and during Offshore Europe maximises and strengthens the links between the twin cities by allowing them a platform to raise awareness of the links not only to the locals of Aberdeen but also to visitors of the city. Visitors will be allowed to witness the international links Aberdeen successfully maintains and develops both with the twin cities and international communities in Aberdeen. Locals will also be able to benefit as it is free admission to the concerts and the concerts can be seen as a way of 'thanking' the locals as the city becomes extremely busy during the Offshore Europe Week.

The application requests a total of £4,789 towards the cost of accommodation, food and transport for the twin city groups whilst they are here in Aberdeen for the International Concert. Regensburg and Stavanger will meet the cost of air flights and other funding has been sought to support the visit from Gomel. As hotel prices greatly increase

in Aberdeen during Offshore Europe efforts have been taken to minimise costs.

Expenditure	
Flights	£5,300
Accommodation	£3,105
Food Costs	£1,170
Transport	£500
Total	£10,075
Income	
Contribution by Participants	£2,800
Other sources of income	£2,486
Total	£5,286
Expenditure-Income	10,075-5,286
Total Applying For	£4,789

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

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