

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Strategic Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	13 March 2014
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Twinning & International Partnerships
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/14/010

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, Strategic Planning & Infrastructure Committee recommend the approval of the following grants from the International Twinning Budget 2013-2014:

- i) £7,000 contribution towards the commissioning and performance of two new works to commemorate the outbreak of World War One performed by local musicians from Clermont-Ferrand at the Sound Music Festival on the 24th October and in Clermont-Ferrand on the 10th November 2014.

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 March 2014	£29,011
i.	Contribution towards the commissioning and performance of two new works to commemorate the outbreak of World War One performed by local musicians from Clermont-Ferrand at the Sound Music Festival on the 24 th October and in Clermont-Ferrand on the 10 th November 2014.	£7,000
	TOTAL	£7,000
	Amount remaining in budget if recommendations approved:	£22,011

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 commissioning and performance of two new works to commemorate the outbreak of World War One performed by local musicians from Clermont-Ferrand at the Sound Music Festival on the 24th October and in Clermont-Ferrand on the 10th November 2014.**

As part of the commemorative events for the outbreak of World War One, the Sound Festival and its partner festival, *Musiques Demesurees* will commission two new works, one by Scottish Composer William Sweeney and the other by French composer Laurent Cuniot. These works will be 10-15 minutes each and will be performed by the combined forces of the Orchestre d'Auvergne (string orchestra from Clermont-Ferrand) and Scotland's Red Note Ensemble (in all 33 musicians).

Laurent Cuniot's work will seek inspiration from the perspective of a soldier going over the top, and Bill Sweeney's from the psychological after-effects of war on ex-soldiers and their families.

The works will be rehearsed in Scotland prior to the world premiere in Aberdeen at the Sound Festival on the 24th October 2014 and will then be performed in Clermont-Ferrand on the 10th November 2014.

This is the first joint activity of the two festivals, and follows on from a visit by Sound to Musiques Demesurees in November 2013. The two festivals, the two orchestras and the two composers will work closely together in the realisation of this project, which will be the first in a series of joint projects between the two festivals.

A full break-down of costs has been given below.

Expenditure	
Performance fee Orchestre d'Auvergne	£2,666
Per diems Orchestre d'Auvergne	£3,096
Accomodation Aberdeen	£5,200
Local transport (transfers)	£800
Venues Aberdeen (inc rehearsal venue)	£2,600
Percussion hire/transport	£1,000
Marketing	£800
50% of admin costs	£500
Contingency (approx. 8%)	£1,368
Total	£18,030
Income	
Estimated ticket sales	£2,000
Contribution by Participants Sound Festival	£3,000
Other sources of income	£6,030
Total	£11,030

Expenditure-Income	£18,030 -11,030
Total Applying For	£7,000

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

Daniel Parrott
Senior Events Officer
dparrott@aberdeencity.gov.uk
01224 523842