

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee

DATE 23 February 2010

CORPORATE DIRECTOR Gordon McIntosh
Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure

TITLE OF REPORT Applications for Funding from the International
Twinning Budget 2009/2010

REPORT NUMBER: EPI/10/030

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to bring before the Committee applications for financial assistance from the 2009/2010 International Twinning Budget and to make recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1 A) Decline the request for £29,640 to cover the travel costs from the Gomel team and the cost of accommodation and meals for teams from Gomel, Regensburg, and Stavanger to participate in the 2009 Aberdeen International Football Festival and

instead

- B) Approve an award of £7,250 to the Aberdeen International Football Festival to cover the cost of bringing one of the teams to the 2010 Festival, or as a contribution towards the cost of bringing more than one team.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council approved the International Budget for 2009/2010 at the Council meeting of 12 February 2009. The approved budget, which is from the Common Good Fund, earmarked £72,000 in grants available for financial year 2009/2010.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The use of the International Twinning Budget to support international activity links closely to several of the Community Plan Challenges, for example, Learning; Arts, Heritage and Sport; Aberdeen's Image; Getting Involved; Being Informed

and Leading the City. In the policy statement “Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking”, the Council sets out how it aims to make Aberdeen an even better place to live and work. Promoting and supporting international exchanges, involving various communities of interest, contributes to this aim and to the actions of the Single Outcome Agreement. 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 City groups and organisations to access twin city projects and possible funding are advertised through the Council’s website, press releases, school circulars where appropriate and the ACVO e-bulletin.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Health and Safety: The health and safety implications of all visits are taken into account during planning, with any exceptional implications to be addressed at the time of application. Officers regularly review the travel advice provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and are in close contact with counterpart officers in the twin cities to ensure information provided to participants is accurate and up-to-date. Participants are offered comprehensive pre-visit briefings by the International Strategist and 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 advised to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. The International Strategist carries out a risk assessment process for officer and Elected Member travel on twin city initiatives.

Risk Management: Aberdeen City Council will not be able to achieve its stated vision of being recognized widely as a leading local authority in Northern Europe by 2010 if it does not support activity that raises the profile of Aberdeen on the international stage. Long-established community links will not be maintained without support from the international budget and people in Aberdeen would lose a wide range of opportunities to engage effectively with the international community. In addition, incoming visitors to the city on twin city projects support the local economy through their use of the hospitality and retail sectors in particular, and it is important to maintain and build on this added value.

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 which have been under-represented in twin city activities. Applicants complete an equal opportunities monitoring form as part of the application process.

6. REPORT

Ref	Balance of Budget available 2009/2010 List of applications	£7,858
6a	2010 Aberdeen International Football Festival – request to support participation by Gomel, Regensburg and Stavanger	£29,640
	Deficit in budget if award Approved	£-21,782
6b	Recommended alternative award to 2010 Aberdeen International Football Festival	£7,250
	Amount remaining in budget if award approved	£608

6. Aberdeen International Football Festival 2010 – request to support participation by Gomel, Regensburg and Stavanger

The Aberdeen International Football Festival has submitted an application for funding of £29,640 from the 2009/2010 international twinning budget to cover the cost of travel for a team from Gomel and the costs of accommodation and meals for the same team from Gomel, and teams from Regensburg and Stavanger to participate in the 30th Aberdeen International Football Festival in July 2010.

Teams from these three cities participated in 2009, with Regensburg making it to the semi-finals in the Girls' tournament.

Last year a grant of £14,800 was approved to support the participation of the teams from Regensburg, Stavanger and to cover partial costs from Gomel.

The teams from Regensburg and Stavanger pay their own travel costs to Aberdeen, whereas the travel costs from Gomel would be covered by the Aberdeen side.

The teams are accommodated in Hillhead Halls of Residence at the University of Aberdeen for ease of transit to and from the tournament at Seaton Park.

The request is for £320 per person for 3 teams of 24 people per team, including accompanying adults, £400 travel costs for 24 people from Gomel, £208 for local transport for each team, £2,000 for visas for the Gomel team and extra meals

(depending on travel dates) and £1,000 pounds for pocket money for members of the delegation from Gomel.

Based on these figures, the total budget for the festival to have these three twin city teams participate is £36,265.

Taking into account that the festival's registration form counts 22 participants per team including accompanying adults, these figures have been reviewed on the basis of 22 participants per team amounting to a total of £33,425.

The total cost of the festival is £54,640 and AIFF have obtained £25,000 through fund raising activities and sponsorships.

There are insufficient funds remaining in the 2009/2010 international twinning budget to meet the request of £29,640.

It is suggested therefore that from the balance of funds in the 2009/2010 international twinning budget, a sum of £7,250 be awarded to the Aberdeen International Football Festival towards the cost of bringing one of the above teams to the 2009 Festival. The figure of £7,250 corresponds to the full cost of providing accommodation and meals to either the Regensburg team or the Stavanger team. The amount could also constitute a partial contribution to the travel costs of the Gomel team but in that case the AIFF would have to match a substantial difference.

Subject to the availability of the twinning budget in 2010-11, the AIFF could in principle apply for further funding to bring a second or third team to the 2010 festival. However, other projects not previously funded should take priority, and a further application for the 2010 festival would potentially diminish the likelihood of securing funding for the 2011 festival in the same budget year.

Recommendation: A) Decline the request for £29,640 to cover the costs of travel for the team from Gomel and accommodation and meals for teams from Gomel, Regensburg and Stavanger to participate in the 2010 Aberdeen International Football Festival and instead
B) Approve an award of £7,250 to the Aberdeen International Football Festival towards the cost of bringing one of the nominated twin city teams to the 2010 Festival.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None