

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy & Resources
DATE	19 April 2016
DIRECTOR	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Twinning & International Partnerships
REPORT NUMBER	OCE/16/009
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to bring before Committee applications for financial assistance from the International Twinning Budget 2016-17 and to make recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- a) That Finance, Policy & Resources Committee approve the following grants from the International Twinning Budget 2016-17:
- i) Contribution of £10,000 towards the development of an arts project between Aberdeen and Stavanger which will culminate in public engagement activities at SPECTRA 2017, April 2016 – March 2017
 - ii) Contribution of £500 towards the cost of a musician from Aberdeen performing at Regensburg Jazz Festival, 3-10 July 2016
 - iii) Contribution of £1,800 towards a delegation from Aberdeen attending an art symposium in Regensburg, 20-25 August 2016
 - iv) Contribution of £2,300 towards the participation of a Bavarian Brass Band from Regensburg at Celebrate Aberdeen Weekend, 26-28 August 2016
 - v) Contribution of £10,000 towards a traditional music project for young people from Aberdeen, Clermont-Ferrand and Regensburg, April-November 2016
 - vi) Contribution of £8,200 towards a project with a choir from Stavanger at Sound 2016 (October 2016) and the creation of a residency project for musicians from Aberdeen and Clermont-Ferrand (January 2017) which will culminate in a performance at Sound 2017

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Full council approved the International Twinning Budget for 2016-2017 of £137,250. The approved budget from the Common Good Fund provides

£102,000 of monies towards the support of twinning projects and/or visits. Remaining funds support the infrastructure of the programme, such as salary and ICT costs. A total of £102,000 is available to support projects in 2016-17.

	Balance of budget available as at April 2016	£102,000
	Opening Balance	£79,725
i)	Contribution towards the development of an arts project between Aberdeen and Stavanger which will culminate in public engagement activities at SPECTRA 2017, April 2016 – March 2017	£10,000
ii)	Contribution towards the cost of a musician from Aberdeen performing at Regensburg Jazz Festival, 3-10 July 2016	£500
iii)	Contribution towards a delegation from Aberdeen attending an art symposium in Regensburg, 20-25 August 2016	£1,800
iv)	Contribution towards the participation of a Bavarian Brass Band from Regensburg at Celebrate Aberdeen Weekend, 26-28 August 2016	£2,300
v)	Contribution towards a traditional music project for young people from Aberdeen, Clermont-Ferrand and Regensburg, April-November 2016	£10,000
vi)	Contribution towards a project with a choir from Stavanger at Sound 2016 (October 2016) and the creation of a residency project for musicians from Aberdeen and Clermont-Ferrand (January 2017) which will culminate in a performance at Sound 2017	£8,200
	TOTAL	£32,800
	Closing Balance (if recommendations approved)	£46,925

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 Twinning & 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 Twinning & 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 Twinning & 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.

Grants provided through the twinning budget provide individuals and communities from throughout Aberdeen City with the opportunity to engage with international twinning activities. 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 Twinning & 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

These recommendations involve the allocation of funds made available from the 2016-17 budget:

i) **Contribution of £10,000 towards the development of an arts project between Aberdeen and Stavanger which will culminate in public engagement activities at SPECTRA 2017, April 2016 – March 2017**

SPECTRA is Aberdeen's urban festival of Light which takes place in February each year. The organisation which helped deliver the festival – SICC Productions – have developed a project with a partner organisation in Stavanger which would culminate in public engagement activities as part of the 2017 festival programme. The development of new aspects to the festival ensures that the event is vibrant and diverse and encourages local audiences to return. The involvement of an organisation from Stavanger promotes the event to Norwegian audiences which in turn encourages audiences to visit the festival.

SPECTRA Light Festival has evolved in recent years and attracted local and national audiences of 37,000 to the city in 2016. An Aberdeen City

Council event, the festival was delivered in partnership with the arts organisation Curated Place. SICC Productions is the not-for-profit arm of Curated Place. To develop the international profile of Aberdeen's events and festivals programme – a priority highlighted in Aberdeen City Council's Regional Economic Strategy – SICC Productions have identified a partner in Stavanger to collaborate with. IO Lab is an artist-led organisation with expertise within the fields of art, technology and science. They develop projects through creating places where art and research can be shared and explored by the community, often in public spaces. IO Lab organises innovative and interesting arts projects, such as Article Biennial – Stavanger Region's innovative arts festival.

An exploratory visit will take place by SICC Productions in April where they will travel to Stavanger to meet with IO Lab to identify artists and groups who they can collaborate with. Over the summer a mapping exercise will take place in Aberdeen and Stavanger which will connect artists in both cities and highlight available cultural engagement opportunities. From these initial meetings, a project will be created which will connect established artists who specialise in public engagement from both cities with the ultimate aim of developing work which will be presented at SPECTRA 2017.

This project engages with creative communities and city audiences within both cities. Practising artists and students will benefit from this project as they collaborate with local and Norwegian artists, providing them with the opportunity to develop art networks, enhance personal portfolios and raise their public profile. The organisers have approached this project with a cross-disciplinary view and opportunities to collaborate will be available to artists, musicians, architects and designers. The organisers have established relationships with a number of networks throughout the city, such as Seventeen and The Anatomy Rooms, which will ensure that opportunities are promoted to a wide variety of local practitioners. This collaboration also supports Aberdeen City Council's Cultural Mapping Report which identified creating Northern Arc cultural links with Scandinavian cities as a key objective to developing the city's cultural offering.

SPECTRA continues to grow in popularity with local audiences year on year. The programme changes every year to ensure that the festival remains vibrant and attracts local visitors. A new element which features local artists collaborating with international artists will be a draw to local audiences who are familiar with the individuals and their work as the outcomes of the collaboration will be new to the city. A high-profile partner from Stavanger will also ensure that the festival profile is raised to Scandinavian audiences. Visit Scotland statistics demonstrate that Norwegian visitors are Aberdeen's highest international tourist demographic. This project has the potential to raise awareness of the festival to these audiences, which would boost the tourism economy through costs associated with visiting the city, such as accommodation and food through extended weekend stays.

This project is an initial pilot project between the two cities. Following this project, it is intended that there will be a larger collaborative enterprise at SPECTRA 2018 which will develop into a large scale project in 2019, in which funds of up to €200,000 from Creative Europe would be sought to help finance. SICC Productions have experience of delivering European partnership projects, including sourcing funding from other bodies. Match funding for this project will be met through the organisers and the Nordic Council.

This application seeks a total of £10,000 to support the costs of an artist-led project between SICC Productions and IO Lab which will culminate in public engagement activities at SPECTRA 2017. All other project costs will be met by the organisers' existing SPECTRA budget and other funding sources, such as The Nordic Council and UKTI.

Expenditure	
Venue	£1,400.00
Promotion	£800.00
Transport	£3,728.03
Accommodation	£3,819.57
Subsistence	£1,349.50
Project implementation	
• Project Director	£2,995.74
• Project Marketing Director	£2,000
• Public Engagement Head	£2,000
• Artist Liaison	£2,000
• Project Book Keeper	£748.94
Production costs	£7,205.20
Total	£28,046.98
Income	
Core SPECTRA funding	£10,000.00
Grants from funding bodies	£8,046.98
Total	£18,046.98
Expenditure-Income	£28,046.98- £18,046.98
Total Applying For	£10,000.00

ii) Contribution of £500 towards the cost of a musician from Aberdeen performing at Regensburg Jazz Festival, 3-10 July 2016

The City of Regensburg have requested the presence of a musician from Aberdeen to perform at the city's annual Bavarian Jazz Weekend. The musician will form part of a group of musicians from Regensburg's "Sister Cities" who will perform together at a number of locations throughout the weekend. This event provides a unique opportunity to a local musician from Aberdeen to collaborate with international peers and perform to European audiences.

Bayerisches Jazzinstitut provide an archive, networking opportunities and artistic platforms to jazz musicians. The annual Bayerisches Jazzweekend is one of Regensburg's key cultural events, attracting more than 30 000

people to a variety of free events throughout the five day programme. This year the festival celebrates its' 35th anniversary.

To mark this occasion, the City of Regensburg have invited each of their twin cities to send a musical ambassador to the festival. The musicians will form a "sister city super band". The musicians will collaborate together to create music before performing at a variety of free events throughout the city, including at the opening ceremony on Wednesday 6th and on one of the main stages in the city on Friday 8th.

Details of this opportunity have been circulated to various jazz networks throughout the city. Interested participants from Aberdeen are required to submit an application to the festival organisers detailing their experience and repertoire. The organisers will evaluate the applications from all of the twin cities and chose a musician from Aberdeen based upon the specialities of musicians from other cities.

The attendance of a musician from Aberdeen at this popular event in Regensburg demonstrates Aberdeen City Council's commitment to providing the local population with development and cultural opportunities, as highlighted in the Regional Economic Strategy. The successful candidate will share experience and learn from other international musicians, as well as performing to international audiences. The presence of a musician from Aberdeen at such an event promotes the twin city partnership to a large audience in Regensburg and highlights the opportunities available through the twinning programme to jazz networks throughout the city. The successful candidate will be encouraged to create a dialogue with musicians from Regensburg to further strengthen the cultural network between the two cities, which could – for example – lead to a similar event here in Aberdeen.

Stadt Regensburg will pay for accommodation, food, transport and fees of the musician whilst in the city and this application requests a total of £500 towards the transport fee of the musician and instrument to Regensburg.

Expenditure	
Flights	£500
Accommodation	£525
Food Costs	£300
Transport	£100
Musician Fee	£100
Total	£1,525
Income	
Contribution from Stadt Regensburg	£1,025
Total	£1,025
Expenditure-Income	£1,525-£1,025
Total Applying For	£500

- iii) **Contribution of £1,800 towards a delegation from Aberdeen attending an art symposium in Regensburg, 20-25 August 2016**

The City of Regensburg has invited a delegation from Aberdeen to attend an arts symposium this summer. The invited delegation consists of individuals from key arts organisations in the city and includes a local artist. Delegates will actively participate in the symposium and meetings will be arranged with key cultural organisations from Regensburg to discuss future creative collaborations.

KunstvereinGRAZ is Regensburg's leading contemporary art centre. The centre is hosting an international arts symposium this summer. During this five day workshop artists will create artwork in a collaborative environment which is open to the public. All artworks will be on display for three weeks following the event.

Stadt Regensburg has invited an artist from Aberdeen to participate in the symposium, alongside artists from Germany and Europe. A call has gone out to local artists from Aberdeen to promote this opportunity. Interested parties are asked to submit a brief about the impact attending such an event would have on them alongside a portfolio of work. An artist will be selected by a panel of individuals from Aberdeen who are involved in the creative arts.

Following a cultural conference in Aberdeen last year, Stadt Regensburg has also invited a wider delegation of representatives from various cultural organisations in Aberdeen to visit at the same time to participate in the symposium and meet to discuss future creative partnerships. The delegates represent a diverse range of arts organisations in the city including The Anatomy Rooms, Peacock Visual Arts and Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums. Whilst in Regensburg these participants will meet with organisations to discuss projects such as the exchange of temporary exhibitions and the creation of an international artist residency in Aberdeen – all of which promote Aberdeen's cultural offering.

The attendance of a wider delegation at the symposium encourages the development of future creative projects between Aberdeen and Regensburg. The delegation consists of partners from a variety of local arts organisations which ensures that a wide variety of projects can be discussed and developed. This event also allows a local artist to collaborate with European artists and exhibit their work internationally. Such opportunities demonstrate that Aberdeen City Council is committed to developing resident artists and encourages them to stay in the city. This project supports Aberdeen City Council's objective of developing the city's international cultural offering, as highlighted in the 'Inclusive Economic Growth' section of the Regional Economic Strategy.

This application seeks a total of £1,800 to support the travel of four individuals to Regensburg to participate in an arts symposium, including an additional contingency of £200 to allow for extra luggage and/or purchase of materials for the artist. Stadt Regensburg will finance accommodation, food and airport transfers for all delegates.

Expenditure	
--------------------	--

Flights	£1,600
Accommodation	£1,480
Subsistence	£1,000
Internal Transport	£200
Artist supplies	£200
Total	£4,480
Income	
Contribution from Stadt Regensburg	£2,680
Total	£2,680
Expenditure-Income	£4,480- £2,680
Total Applying For	£1,800

iv) Contribution of £2,300 towards the participation of a Bavarian Brass Band from Regensburg at Celebrate Aberdeen Weekend, 26-28 August 2016

Celebrate Aberdeen Weekend is a key event in the city's 2016 Summer Festival programme. The organisers of the event have asked for the presence of a Bavarian Brass Band from Regensburg to enhance and add an international element to the event. The presence of a traditional music group from Regensburg at this free city event introduces local audiences to international music and promotes opportunities available from the twin city programme.

Celebrate Aberdeen is a popular summer event which has evolved over recent years. Originally a city parade to celebrate the diversity and work of the third sector, the event programme was developed last year to include free public performances throughout the city by local musicians. It was nationally recognised at the National Outdoor Event Association Awards last year when it won best Scottish Event. This year, Celebrate Aberdeen will incorporate both these elements into the event: A 'Union Street Mile' fun-run and parade will take place on the Saturday; and outdoor public performances and food stalls will be in situ in Union Terrace Gardens at a free outdoor event on both days. Based on figures from previous years, it is expected that combined events will attract an audience of over 10,000 people throughout the weekend.

Musicians from Regensburg have performed at this event for the previous two years and have proved popular with local audiences. The group will be involved with all aspects of the weekend programme: They will provide entertainment at the finishing line of the 'Union Street Mile'; perform as they march down Union Street with local groups during the parade; and provide entertainment on the Sunday at both the main stages and at pop-up performances to encourage audiences to other areas of the event, such as the new food stalls in Union Terrace Gardens.

This particular group – De Verkeadn – have never visited Aberdeen before. They consist of six players, all under the age of 30. De Verkaedn have already expressed interest in developing a long-lasting relationship

with brass players in Aberdeen which would result in a reciprocal opportunity for a local group to visit and perform with the band in Regensburg. They are also interested in participating at the Aberdeen International Youth Festival in future years and they have already entered into discussions with the Festival Director as to the content of this partnership.

Providing the opportunity for a group from Regensburg to participate in a large city event demonstrates Aberdeen's commitment to maintaining international partnerships. The attendance of the group at the event also promotes opportunities for Aberdeen citizens to create and establish projects and partnerships with twin cities. 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. Having an international group attend the event introduces audiences to new music, which strengthens the promotion of cultural activities within the city.

The application requests a total of £2,300 to cover the cost of accommodation, food and transport for the group during their stay in Aberdeen. Stadt Regensburg will cover the costs of the musicians to Aberdeen.

Expenditure	
Flights	£3,000
Accommodation	£1,200
Food Costs	£900
Transport	£200
Total	£5,300
Income	
Contribution from Stadt Regensburg	£3,000
Total	£3,000
Expenditure-Income	£5,300-£3,000
Total Applying For	£2,300

v) Contribution of £10,000 towards a traditional music project for young people from Aberdeen, Clermont-Ferrand and Regensburg, April-November 2016

A creative arts project has been developed which will introduce traditional music to communities in Aberdeen, Clermont-Ferrand and Regensburg through the formation of folk academies for young people. Young people from each city will research traditional music songs from their home region, learn how to play instruments associated with the genres and perform together at the end of the project in each of the three twin cities.

Culture Together will enable young people to research their regional cultural heritage and jointly create an international folk music academy and ensemble dedicated to the collection, learning and sharing of traditional music that exists in Bavaria, Auvergne and North East Scotland.

This project will engage with 180 young people – 60 from each city – and introduce them to traditional music. Pennywhistle workshops will be offered to two classes from each city (maximum 30 per class). From these pupils, 24 young people will be selected through an application process to create a local folk academy and international folk music ensemble with peers from the other two cities. Pupils in the folk academy will have musical instruments loaned to them for free and engage in tuition classes for 30 weeks. At the end of this year, the 24 pupils will create their own work based on their experiences and perform together three times – in each of the twin cities. The final months of the project will be spent collating information and evaluating the legacy of the project. If successful, the arts organisation who are developing this project are considering a long-term folk academy project between the three cities which would be eligible for €100, 000 Creative Europe funding.

This project provides a unique opportunity for young people in each of the cities to engage with local traditions and culture through researching archives, listening to musicians, learning to play new musical instruments, creating new compositions and performing to local and international audiences. Through this project they will also learn about traditions from the twin cities of Clermont-Ferrand and Regensburg and participate in an ensemble with peers from other countries. This is an innovative project and demonstrates that Aberdeen City Council is committed to providing high quality interdisciplinary learning experiences to young people in the city. It has the potential to act as an exemplary best practice project to national and international education authorities.

This application seeks a total of £10,000 towards the costs of delivering the project to young people in Aberdeen, including travel to twin cities. Clermont-Ferrand and Regensburg are supportive of the project and applications to fund equal costs have been submitted to their city councils. All other project costs will be covered by funding from arts organisation Gael Music and ticket sales from the public events.

Expenditure	
Staff costs	
• Project management	£4,050
• Music workshops	£12,300
• Archive research	£1,500
Travel costs	£6,180
Advertising	£2,490
Volunteer expenses	£660
Printing	£1,510
Musical instruments	£4,750
Contingency	£3,460
Total	£36,900
Income	
Contribution from twin cities	£20,000
Contribution from project managers	£4,000
Ticket sales	£2,200

Participant contribution	£700
Total	£26,900
Expenditure-Income	£36,900- £26,900
Total Applying For	£10,000

vi) Contribution of £8,200 towards a project with a choir from Stavanger at Sound 2016 (October 2016) and the creation of a residency project for musicians from Aberdeen and Clermont-Ferrand (January 2017) which will culminate in a performance at Sound 2017

Sound have created projects with partners from two twin cities – Clermont-Ferrand and Stavanger – which will culminate in public performances at the festival in 2016 and 2017. The first project will see a series of public workshops delivered alongside performances by a leading Norwegian vocal ensemble from Stavanger at Sound 2016. A residency project for musicians from Aberdeen and Clermont-Ferrand will be launched in the city in January 2017 which will culminate in the composition and performance of new works at Sound 2017.

Sound is Scotland’s leading new music festival and a highlight of Aberdeen’s cultural calendar. The three week programme contains a broad spectrum of performance in a variety of free and paying concerts throughout the city. Sound itself has developed to a new music organisation with events and workshops throughout the year, as well as the festival itself.

The organisers have developed a new partnership with leading Norwegian vocal ensemble – Song Circus – from Stavanger. The world premiere of a new Scottish composition will take place in Aberdeen during the festival and will feature the vocals of Song Circus. As well as the premiere, a series of public workshops with music students will also be arranged before the piece travels throughout Europe.

In January, a three day residency will take place in Aberdeen for musicians from the city as well as the twin city of Clermont-Ferrand. The musicians, which include leading vocal performers, will develop new work with Scottish and French composers. This new work will be performed at Sound 2017 and then again at France’s leading new music festival – Musiques Demesurees in Clermont-Ferrand.

Sound and Musiques Demesurees have developed an excellent working relationship. The organisers contact one another on a weekly basis, exchanging contacts and developing projects. Both leading new music organisations in their respective countries, this is now the third year that the festivals have collaborated. This project will strengthen the partnership

work between the festivals and develop the level of cultural exchange between Aberdeen and Clermont-Ferrand. It also builds links between local musicians from each city, making them active participants in the creative process and cultural exchange.

This is the first time that Sound have collaborated with Song Circus from Stavanger. Since developing this initial project, the organisers have already discussed other programme and exchange opportunities. It is anticipated that this relationship with Song Circus will flourish and lead to more cultural partnerships between Aberdeen and Stavanger. Organisers are also considering creating a project between Sound in Aberdeen, Musiques Demesurees in Clermont-Ferrand and Song Circus in Norway which would qualify for substantial funding from EU grants, such as the Creative Europe strand.

Both these projects enhance the cultural offering of Aberdeen. Local audiences have the opportunity to listen to world premieres of high quality new music in their home city. Song Circus will deliver workshops to local students and pupils throughout six days of public workshops, engaging young people with musical tuition. The musician residency in January engages the local music community with development opportunities to share knowledge, build experience and perform to local and international audiences. It is anticipated that this project will also have a wider positive effect on local musicians as the participants will be chosen in part by their local influence, encouraging fellow local musicians to engage with and perform new music in the future. This ensures a legacy to the project which will strengthen and diversify the local music community.

This application seeks a total of £8,200 to support the costs of Stavanger's Song Circus performing and delivering public workshops in Aberdeen as part of the Sound 2016 programme and establishment of a musician residency project in Aberdeen in January for local musicians in collaboration with Clermont-Ferrand's Musiques Demesurees. These large scale projects will be supported with additional funding from Sound, partners in twin cities, grant applications and ticket revenue.

Expenditure	
Administration	£4,000
Marketing	£2,400
Stavanger Project	
• Commission by Sound	£9,000
• Performance fees	£20,925
- Ensembles	£18,645
- Conductor	£1,080
- Narrator	£900
- Technicians	£300

• Venue hire	£1,200
• Instrument hire	£3,060
• Travel costs	£4,930
• Subsistence	£1,725
• Accommodation	£6,600
• Local travel	£400
Clermont-Ferrand Project	
• Commission by Sound	£6,000
• Performance fees	
- Local musicians	£1,200
- Professional performers	£4,600
• Venue hire	£2,000
• Accommodation	£3,060
• Travel costs	£4,300
• Subsistence	£1,860
• Local travel	£400
Contingency	£3,830
Total	£81,490
Income	
Ticket sales	£1,200
Trusts	£8,000
Sponsorship	£2,000
Contribution from European partners	£25,220
Contribution from Sound for commissions, etc	£19,270
Contribution from Ensembles	£17,600
Total	£73,290
Expenditure-Income	£81,490- £73,290
Total Applying For	£8,200

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –

Twinning & International Partnerships supports the principles of the Common Good Fund:

- Upholding the dignity of the City: The expense of civic ceremonies; and of the provision of suitable hospitality on appropriate occasions and for appropriate persons, and guests would fall under this purpose;
- Any other purpose which, in the bona fide and reasonable judgement of the Council, is for the good of the community as a whole, or in which the inhabitants at large may share: to be distinguished from the separate interest or benefit of any particular individual or group of people, however deserving or needy.

Improving Staff Experience –

The Twinning and International Partnerships Officer works closely with internal departments to create partnerships and projects between Aberdeen City Council and twin cities, regularly working with the Education, City Events and Civic Teams amongst others.

Improving our use of Resources –

The International Twinning Grant is funded through the Common Good Fund. Recommendations for grant allocations are presented to council committee and all reports detailing grant allocations are readily available through the council website. Twinning & International Partnerships will be reviewed in 2016-17.

Corporate -

Promoting and supporting international exchanges, involving various communities of interest, significantly contributes to Aberdeen City Council's Smarter City Vision 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.

Public –

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. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Twinning & International Partnerships upholds the principles of the Common Good Fund. The cessation of the programme could result in failure to 'uphold the dignity of the city' and a breakdown in projects 'which are good for the community as a whole'.

Should this diverse and engaging programme not continue, then Aberdeen could potentially cease to be an attractive destination for visitors and local residents with economic spend being distributed elsewhere in Scotland and international partnerships could be at risk.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None used.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Laura Paterson
Twinning & International Partnerships Officer

Email: lapaterson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Tel: 01224 523749