

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy & Resources
DATE	7 June 2016
DIRECTOR	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Twinning & International Partnerships
REPORT NUMBER	OCE/16/016
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 £5,600 towards the costs of secondary school pupils from Aberdeen participating in a twin cities summer camp organised by Clermont-Ferrand, 1-13 August 2016
- ii) Contribution of £3,600 towards the participation of pupils from Hazlehead Academy and civic attendance at a youth forum in Regensburg, 1-5 August 2016
- iii) Contribution of £1,450 towards a visit by festival organisers from Regensburg to Aberdeen, 11-15 August 2016
- iv) Contribution of £3,800 towards an inward exchange visit by Stavanger's St Olav School to Bucksburn Academy, 7-11 September 2016
- v) Contribution of £3,016 towards performances and workshops by a jazz band from Clermont-Ferrand at city venues, November 2016
- vi) Contribution of £1,800 towards musicians from Aberdeen performing at the Offshore Northern Seas exhibition in Stavanger, 29 August - 1 September 2016
- vii) Contribution of £7,000 towards an arts in healthcare project between organisations in Aberdeen and Bulawayo, June-December 2016

b) That Finance, Policy & Resources Committee approve the following amendments to the Twinning Grant criteria with regards to:

- i) Salaries and capital costs
- ii) Sources of match funding

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	£46,925
i)	Contribution towards the costs of secondary school pupils from Aberdeen participating in a twin cities summer camp organised by Clermont-Ferrand, 1-13 August 2016	£5,600
ii)	Contribution towards the participation of pupils from Hazlehead Academy and civic attendance at a youth forum in Regensburg, 31 July-6 August 2016	£3,600
iii)	Contribution towards a visit by festival organisers from Regensburg to Aberdeen, 11-15 August 2016	£1,450
iv)	Contribution towards an inward exchange visit by Stavanger's St Olav School to Bucksburn Academy, 7-11 September 2016	£3,800
v)	Contribution towards performances and workshops by a jazz band from Clermont-Ferrand at city venues, November 2016	£3,016
vi)	Contribution towards musicians from Aberdeen performing at the Offshore Northern Seas exhibition in Stavanger, 29 August - 1 September 2016	£1,800
vii)	Contribution of £7,000 towards an arts in healthcare project between organisations in Aberdeen and Bulawayo, June-December 2016	£7,000
	TOTAL	£26,266
	Closing Balance (if recommendations approved)	£20,659

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

- a) These recommendations involve the allocation of funds made available from the 2016-17 budget:
- i) **Contribution of £5,600 towards the costs of secondary school pupils from Aberdeen participating in a twin cities summer camp organised by Clermont-Ferrand, 1-13 August 2016**

Ville de Clermont-Ferrand have launched a new initiative this year which will bring young people from Clermont-Ferrand, Regensburg and Aberdeen together in a summer camp in France. The aim of the project is

to increase awareness of and encourage European Citizenship. Throughout the two week camp, 36 pupils from these twin cities will participate in team-building activities and share experiences of their home culture.

The Depute Mayor of Clermont-Ferrand has sent an invitation to Aberdeen to send a delegation of 12 young people and two leaders to an international summer camp which they are hosting this summer. The young people will be joined by peers from Clermont-Ferrand and Regensburg – who are also twin cities. The two week programme will take place in a countryside activity centre. Pupils will participate in outdoor teambuilding activities throughout the day and a social programme will be created for the evenings in which the pupils can share and actively participate in cultural traditions, such as food tastings and dance.

Details of the project have been circulated to all schools within Aberdeen City so that the opportunity is available to all pupils throughout the city, rather than one specific secondary school. Interested pupils have been invited to submit a brief statement detailing why they want to participate in the programme and how it would develop their skills. The leaders who will accompany the pupils include the Development Officer for Modern Languages from Education & Children's Services and the Educational Visits Co-ordinator from Adventure Aberdeen – both of whom are fluent in French and have extensive experience of leading school visits and outdoor activities abroad. Both officers will also travel to Clermont-Ferrand to explore the possibility of developing a similar summer camp in Aberdeen next year with young people from twin cities invited to attend. The possibility of facilitating this camp through Erasmus+ project funding will be explored upon their return with the Twinning & International Partnerships Officer.

This project provides young people with the opportunity to increase their awareness of European citizenship and cultural traditions. This supports pupils' development as 'Global Citizens' – a central concept to the Curriculum for Excellence. The pupils will develop communication skills by conversing with French and German peers as well as transferable skills through participation in activities, such as teamwork and personal development. Enabling young people with these attributes contributes towards ensuring they achieve a positive post-18 destination. This has been identified as a key priority within local and national strategic objectives, including Aberdeen City Council's Regional Economic Strategy, Education Scotland's Building the Classroom 4 and the Scottish Government's Developing the Young Workforce.

This application seeks a total of £5,600 to contribute towards twelve young people and two leaders from Aberdeen participating in an international summer camp in Clermont-Ferrand this summer. Ville de Clermont-Ferrand will contribute towards the costs of running the camp, including activities, accommodation and food.

Expenditure	
Travel	£5,600
Summer camp, including accommodation, food and activities	£8,400
Total	£14,000
Income	
Contribution from Ville de Clermont-Ferrand	£8,400
Total	£8,400
Expenditure-Income	£14,000-£8,400
Total Applying For	£5,600

ii) Contribution of £3,600 towards the participation of pupils from Hazlehead Academy and civic attendance at a youth forum in Regensburg, 31 July-6 August 2016

Stadt Regensburg is organising an international youth congress this summer. The Mayor of Regensburg has invited each of Regensburg's twin cities to send a delegation of young people to participate in the three day event. Teachers and pupils from Hazlehead Academy have expressed interest in this opportunity and hope to travel to Regensburg to represent Aberdeen in this international event. The presence of the Lord Provost or Mayor of each of these cities has also been requested and a programme will be created to complement the forum and strengthen international partnerships.

Organised by Stadt Regensburg's Youth Department, this opportunity has been endorsed by the Mayor of Regensburg who sent a direct invitation to the Lord Provost to support the attendance of a group from Aberdeen at the event. The aim of the forum is to provide a platform for young people from different countries to share experiences of their own culture, discuss current issues and develop ideas for future collaborative youth exchanges. Representatives from each of the twin cities will be invited to give short presentations to all groups about their home city. Delegates will then split into smaller groups comprised of representatives from each of the cities to discuss current issues which young people face in their home cities and collectively try to find solutions for these issues. A social programme will be created for groups in the evenings for the young people to meet and converse in a more informal environment.

The Modern Languages Department at Hazlehead Academy was approached about participating in the congress. Hazlehead Academy is Aberdeen City Campus' hub for Higher and Advanced Higher Modern Languages Learning. Engaging with a City Campus hub promotes this opportunity to pupils not only from the Hazlehead catchment area, but also from across the city. National 5 pupils who are interested in this event have been requested to submit a short application to demonstrate the impact that taking part in this experience would have to them personally and also start to think about how they would act as ambassadors for Aberdeen. The applications will be judged by Modern Languages staff at Hazlehead Academy who will select the successful six applicants. A member of teaching staff from Hazlehead Academy will accompany the pupils to the forum.

The Mayor of Regensburg has also sent an invitation to the Lord Provost to attend the event finale. This event will allow all of the participants with the opportunity to present their experiences and ideas from the previous week. A programme will be created to support the three day visit which will include the Lord Provost's attendance at other civic events and meeting various groups involved with twinning projects. The Twinning and International Partnerships Officer will support the Lord Provost at this event as the officer has established relationships with many of the groups involved in the itinerary and can assist with language translations, ensuring the efficiency of the visit.

A civic presence at this event demonstrates that Aberdeen City Council values the twinning agreement between the two cities and subsequent projects which have evolved from it. The attendance of civic representatives from Regensburg's other sister cities will provide the Lord Provost with the opportunity to network and meet with representatives of other international countries who are attending the event – including Clermont-Ferrand and Pilsen which was 2015 European Capital of Culture – opening potential development and business opportunities for Aberdeen. The media opportunities associated with a civic presence will raise the profile of the Twinning Programme and the opportunities which Aberdeen City Council provides to young people in the city.

The Regensburg Youth Congress provides an opportunity for local young people to enhance global citizenship skills. It will allow pupils who are studying German to N5 level to actively develop their language skills. It is hoped that this opportunity will allow pupils to see the benefit of language learning and encourage them to continue to Higher level and a positive post-18 destination. German language skills greatly enhance employability skills, particularly within engineering and automotive industries. The opportunity to meet with and share ideas with peers from

different countries will be a new experience for the pupils and will develop key citizenship skills as embedded in the Curriculum for Excellence.

This application seeks a total of £3,600 to support the flight costs of a group from Hazlehead Academy, Lord Provost and Twinning Officer to Regensburg. Accommodation, transport and subsistence whilst in Regensburg will be provided for by Stadt Regensburg.

Expenditure	
Flights	£3,600
Accommodation	£1,850
Food Costs	£1,700
Transport	£500
Total	£7,650
Income	
Contribution from Stadt Regensburg	£4,050
Total	£4,050
Expenditure-Income	£7,650-4,050
Total Applying For	<u>£3,600</u>

iii) Contribution of £1,450 towards a visit by festival organisers from Regensburg to Aberdeen, 11-15 August 2016

Organisations in Regensburg are developing a Scottish-German literary festival for March 2017. Representatives from these groups will visit Aberdeen in August with the intention of creating collaborative events between Aberdeen and Regensburg for the festival programme. An itinerary will be created for the group to meet with various city stakeholders to ensure that opportunities to become involved with next years' event are promoted to relevant groups and individuals in Aberdeen.

A variety of organisations are involved with the planning of this festival, including adult education providers, independent bookshops and local writers. In 2015, the organisers created a German-Czech Literary Festival in celebration of Regensburg's twin city of Pilzen being named as European Capital of Culture. Following the success of this festival, plans are now underway to develop a Scottish-German Literary Festival with Aberdeen. As well as inviting local writers from Aberdeen, the organisers also want to create a cultural programme around the event and are interested in exploring the potential for local traditional musicians and historic speakers to attend the event.

A delegation of four representatives from these organisations will visit Aberdeen in August. Meetings will be arranged with various city stakeholders involved with developing literary programmes in Aberdeen, such as City Libraries and Creative Learning. A drop-in session will also

be arranged for local writers to meet the organisers to hear about the festival, how they can get involved and opportunities available through the Twinning Grant. Traditional music and history groups will also be incorporated into the delegates' programme to ensure that they also meet people who can support the cultural aspect of the event.

Developing partnerships between literary groups in Aberdeen and Regensburg strengthens cultural links between the two cities. Writing projects have previously been developed between the two cities and have been popular – an intergenerational writing project to commemorate World War II was featured on BBC News and the launch of a Doric-Bavarian collection of prose and poems was a sell-out event at last years' May Festival in Aberdeen. There is a lot of interest from various groups in both cities to continue to develop literary partnerships. The festival provides an international platform for local writers and musicians to showcase their talent and also promotes opportunities available through the International Twinning Programme to local audiences. The attendance at individuals from Aberdeen at next year's festival also highlights the city as a cultural destination and encourages tourism to the area.

This application seeks a total of £1,450 towards the accommodation, internal transport and subsistence of the group whilst in Aberdeen. The group will contribute towards subsistence as well as fund travel to Aberdeen.

Expenditure	
Flights	£1,200
Accommodation	£900
Subsistence	£600
Internal Transport	£200
Total	£2,900
Income	
Contribution from participants	£1,450
Total	£1,450
Expenditure-Income	£2,900- £1,450
Total Applying For	<u>£1,450</u>

iv) Contribution of £3,800 towards an inward exchange visit by Stavanger's St Olav School to Bucksburn Academy, 7-11 September 2016

Bucksburn Academy is currently developing a new school partnership programme with St Olav VGS in Stavanger. St Olav VGS intend to visit Aberdeen at the start of the new 2016-17 school term. Pupils from both schools will create a programme which will allow them to interact in both

the classroom and after school social activities. Buckburn Academy anticipate making a reciprocal exchange later in the school year.

St Olav VGS is an Upper Secondary School in the centre of Stavanger. The school specialises in subjects within the science curriculum. In 2015, pupils travelled to Aberdeen and participated in TechFest – demonstrating and teaching within the Science Festival’s primary schools programme. A complementary programme was organised in parallel to this which allowed pupils to visit a local secondary school – Buckburn Academy – to meet with peers from Aberdeen and learn about life and culture of young people from Scotland.

The teachers from St Olav VGS and Buckburn Academy who facilitated this programme have remained in contact throughout the academic year. They are currently developing plans for a mutual exchange programme in 2016-17. The initial stages of this programme would allow twelve pupils and two teachers from St Olav VGS to travel to Aberdeen in September 2016. The Stavanger pupils will be ‘buddied’ with peers from Buckburn Academy and accompany them to classes and activities throughout their academic timetable. The pupils will also create a social programme for their Norwegian peers which will allow them to experience Scottish culture. These activities include a ceilidh with Scottish food at the school and visiting local tourist attractions. The dates of the visit also coincide with the TechFest public programme and arrangements will be made for them to participate in events.

The development of a new schools partnership between Buckburn Academy and St Olav VGS provides more young people from both cities to benefit from the experiences which school exchanges provide. The Norwegian pupils will gain active experience of Scottish culture and the education system and share their own experiences with Scottish peers. It is then anticipated that pupils from Buckburn Academy will have a similar experience in Stavanger later in the year. ‘Global Citizenship’ is a central concept of the Curriculum for Excellence, allowing young people to discover more about the world and their place within it and developing core transferable skills. The development of such skills increases confidence in local young people and provides an experience which enhances portfolios for future employment and further education, encouraging positive post-18 destinations – a key priority for local and national education agendas, as highlighted in Aberdeen City Council’s ‘Smarter People’ objectives.

This application seeks a total of £3,800 to contribute towards the accommodation, internal transfers and some subsistence for the group whilst in Aberdeen. Rogaland County Education Department will fund

flights of the pupils and all participants will also contribute towards subsistence costs.

Expenditure	
Flights	£4,200
Accommodation	£2,800
Subsistence	£1,000
Transport	£1,000
Total	£9,000
Income	
Contribution from participants	£5,200
Total	£5,200
Expenditure-Income	£9,000-£5,200
Total Applying For	£3,800

v) Contribution of £3,016 towards performances and workshops by a jazz band from Clermont-Ferrand at city venues, November 2016

Jazz at the Blue Lamp is a popular concert series in Aberdeen. The organisers have identified a jazz group from Clermont-Ferrand to participate in the series' autumn programme. As well as performing at The Blue Lamp, the group will lead music workshops with students from the Music Department at the University of Aberdeen culminating in joint public performances at the University.

Now in its' fifth year, the Jazz at the Blue Lamp concert series continues to evolve to attract national and international jazz musicians to the city centre venue. The programme is managed by volunteers with an active interest in jazz and includes organisers of various other jazz events, including Aberdeen Jazz Festival. Organisers of the programme attended a cultural forum organised through the Twinning Programme where they met with various organisations involved in running similar events in Clermont-Ferrand and Regensburg. Communications between these groups has been ongoing and has resulted in new opportunities for local musicians, including a musician from Aberdeen participating in a jazz festival in Regensburg this summer.

The organisers of Jazz at the Blue Lamp have been in communication with Massif Collectif, a five-piece jazz band from Clermont-Ferrand. The band is well known in the French city and regularly play at key city venues. Whilst in Aberdeen they will headline Jazz at the Blue Lamp's regular Thursday evening programme. Organisers of the Aberdeen Jazz Festival and Jazz at the Blue Lamp have established a relationship with the University of Aberdeen's Music Department which involves students learning skills and techniques from established artists. Massif Collectif

will lead a workshop for students when in Aberdeen which will culminate in a free public performance at a campus venue.

Organisers of various jazz events have established strong relationships with similar groups from Stavanger and Regensburg and it is anticipated that this project will develop jazz relations between the two cities. The group from Clermont-Ferrand are actively involved with organising Clermont-Ferrand's jazz festival – Jazz en Tete – and whilst in Aberdeen will meet with local musicians with the intention of providing a similar opportunity to local jazz musicians to perform in Clermont-Ferrand. Developing cultural links between jazz organisations in twin cities provides a platform for local musicians to perform to international audiences, enhancing their artistic skills and experiences. Hosting artists from twin cities in Aberdeen diversifies the cultural programme in the city which contributes towards Aberdeen's Regional Economic Strategy objective of 'Inclusive Economic Growth'. Facilitating workshops for local students also enhances their professional experience and providing such opportunities for internationalisation encourages their investment in Aberdeen's cultural scene.

This application seeks a contribution of £3,016 towards costs of hosting the group in the city. The band have sought funding for their flights from French organisations and Jazz at the Blue Lamp will contribute towards general costs of the event.

Expenditure	
Travel	£3,402
Accommodation	£876
Subsistence	£540
Artist fees	£1,300
Promotion & Marketing	£600
Venue hire	£200
Event costs for backline, etc	£500
Local transport	£200
Total	£7,618
Income	
Contribution from Clermont-Ferrand	£3,402
Contribution from event organisers	£500
Ticket sales	£700
Total	£4,602
Expenditure-Income	£7,618- £4,602
Total Applying For	£3,016

- vi) **Contribution of £1,800 towards musicians from Aberdeen performing at the Offshore Northern Seas exhibition in Stavanger, August 29-September 1 2016**

Stavanger's biennial Offshore Northern Seas (ONS) Exhibition, Conference and Festival is being organised for August this year. Representatives from Aberdeen City will be present at the event to advocate the city as a business tourism destination. The organisers have requested local musicians to attend the exhibition with the aim of enhancing Aberdeen City's promotional space, subsequently increasing investor footfall. Performing at this event also provides local musicians with a high-profile, international platform from which they can promote themselves and Scottish culture.

ONS is one of the leading oil and energy expos within Northern Europe. The exhibition takes place every two years in Stavanger. Over 90,000 people attended the event in 2014. Delegates include ministers and industry specialists from over 100 countries. As well as the exhibition space and accompanying conference and lectures, the dockside of Stavanger Harbour is transformed into a festival from which exhibitors can continue to showcase their expertise within a more informal setting in the evenings.

Aberdeen City will have a strong presence at the exhibition. Based within the predominantly positioned Scottish Development International (SDI) Pavilion, the City Council will be joined by local business to promote the city's expertise, products and services to international investors. The presence of local musicians at the stand will give the space a strong identity and encourage footfall to the area – with a significant audience increase during and immediately after performances by the musicians. Attracting more people to the Aberdeen City area provides the opportunity to advocate the skills and resources based within the city to a large number of investors, thus promoting Aberdeen City as a business tourism destination. This supports several key outcomes of the Regional Economic Strategy's 'Internationalisation' strand.

A traditional Scottish group, such as a pipe or ceilidh band, will be selected who can lend a strong identity to the event. The band will play in the exhibition space during the day as well as the evening receptions. Performing at this exhibition provides local musicians with the opportunity to showcase their talents to international audiences which encourages the development of local artists. Their presence will also promote Scottish cultural traditions which can inspire people to visit the area for leisure tourism as well as business tourism. These outcomes are closely aligned with the Regional Economic Strategy's 'Inclusive Economic Growth' strand.

This application seeks a total of £1,800 to support the travel and half of the accommodation costs of local musicians to Stavanger. The remaining accommodation costs, subsistence and artist fees will be met through corporate sponsorship.

Expenditure	
Flights	£1,050
Accommodation	£1,500
Subsistence	£600

Artist fees	£1,800
Total	£4,950
Income	
Contribution from corporate sponsorship	£3,150
Total	£3,150
Expenditure-Income	£4,950-£3,150
Total Applying For	£1,800

vii) Contribution of £7,000 towards an arts in healthcare project between organisations in Aberdeen and Bulawayo, June-December 2016

Following instruction from Full Council March 2nd 2016, the following report was deferred to the Aberdeen-Bulawayo Trust to allow for trustees to consider the application and make a recommendation to Finance, Policy & Resources Committee regarding support of the project. The Aberdeen-Bulawayo Trust met on April 20th 2016 and voted strongly in favour of supporting this project. The Aberdeen-Bulawayo Trust have referred the application to Finance, Policy & Resources Committee for a final decision.

This project brings together partners from a variety of organisations involved with arts and healthcare in Aberdeen and Bulawayo. The aim of the project is to enhance the maternal healthcare environment within Bulawayo whilst also engaging local Aberdeen audiences with the city's international development work and providing local artists with the opportunity to become involved in international projects. This project will have several facets, including the travel of individuals from Aberdeen to Bulawayo to create workshops in the city and dissemination of information to Aberdeen audiences through public events.

This proposal has evolved from a previous project by the University of Aberdeen's Impact Programme. Impact have collaborated with healthcare professionals and creative practitioners from Bulawayo and Aberdeen throughout 2015 to create a series of engaging events and resources including: A play to highlight maternal healthcare issues in sub-Saharan Africa which was premiered at the May Festival and is now being used as part of the University's Global Humanities Lecture Series to fifth year medical students and has also been shown nationally at the Medical Students Conference; a platform for knowledge exchange with partners from Bulawayo visiting facilities and staff at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and continuing interactive sessions via the internet; and the development of student exchanges between medical students from University of Aberdeen to United Bulawayo Hospitals, with the first student exchange intended to take place in 2016. Impact's project has

laid the foundations for future arts in healthcare projects between Aberdeen and Bulawayo.

This new project is a collaborative effort from several partners in the city involved in arts, healthcare and international development. These partners include individuals from Gray's School of Art, Grampian Hospital Arts Trust and creative practitioners as well as ongoing input from Impact. The aim of this proposal is to bring partners together, collate information for the development of future projects and disseminate information to local and national audiences through the development of events and resources. This will be achieved by professionals from Aberdeen travelling to Bulawayo to view facilities, meet colleagues and co-create workshops. Once back in Aberdeen, these experiences and findings will form a public engagement programme which will include the creation of public events and e-publications. These events and resources will be used for teaching purposes at students at Gray's School of Art and medical students at the University of Aberdeen. Resources will also be shared by both educational institutions and wider networks, including Twinning and Creative Learning, to highlight the relationships between Aberdeen and Bulawayo and make new audiences aware of the international arts and healthcare work currently being undertaken in the city.

This initial proposal is the first in a series of future plans which will include: The creation of an art presence in Bulawayo Maternity Hospitals through follow-up visits, with wider engagement and hands-on activities in and outwith the Maternal Health Spaces; complementary exchange visits involving established and emerging artists, possibly from an art institution in Bulawayo and Gray's School of Art; as well as healthcare professionals from United Bulawayo Hospitals and Aberdeen Royal Infirmary; and enhance working arrangements between partners that will strengthen the twinning relationship between Bulawayo and Aberdeen to achieve long term sustainable impact and exchange.

The project benefits the lives of women in childbirth in and around Bulawayo through the creation of safe healthcare environments. There are also several benefits to Aberdeen, including: Increasing Aberdeen's international development profile; aiding the professional development of arts and healthcare professionals in the city; enhancing the diversity of public programmes within Aberdeen; creating learning resources for at least two educational institutions in the city; supporting creative talent in the city; and demonstrating Aberdeen's continued support of the twinning agreement with Bulawayo.

This application seeks a total of £7,000 towards travel expenses incurred by partners in Aberdeen and Bulawayo during the project as well as contributing towards the creation of public engagement activities in Aberdeen. The remaining project costs, including salaries and venue hire, will be met by the project partners.

The impact to the project if the following percentage reductions were applied by Council to this application is outlined below;

25% (£5,250) the impact would be a reduced visit of 4 days instead of 6 days, which would reduce the amount of information that can be gathered and the degree of engagement possible with key partners in Bulawayo.

50% (£3,500) the impact would be to reduce to 2 project participants travelling to Bulawayo, depending on which two of the three participants were to travel, it would compromise the continuity of the relationship building aspects, compromise the activities key to establishing organisational aspects of Art and Health facility working together, remove the public engagement aspect and limit the information gathered on the surfaces/spaces opportunities available within the health environment.

75% (£1,750) the impact would make the project no longer feasible if funding limits to only one participant travel, and this limits the future viability of the project.

Expenditure	
Staff costs (relating to preparation, delivery and public event)	
• Project co-ordinator (12days)	£2,160
• Grampian Hospital Arts Trust (GHAT) Advisor on art and health care (10 days)	£1,400
• GHAT support staff (15 hours)	£150
• Creative writer (6 days)	£1,200
• Maternal Health Advisor (2 days)	£1,000
• Public Relations Advisor (4 days)	£1,000
Visas	£105
Consumables (inc. gifts, etc)	£455
Flights	£2,550
Accommodation & Subsistence	£2,340
Aberdeen public event	£2,350
Total	£14,710
Income	
Contribution from partners	
• GHAT staff costs	£1,550
• Project Co-ordinator	£2,160
• Maternal Health Advisor	£1,000
• Creative writer	£1,200
• Public Relations Advisor	£1,000
• Public event - Venue Hire provided by Gray's School of Art and GHAT	£700
• Public event - Workshop materials provided by Gray's School of Art	£100
Total	£7,710
Expenditure-Income	£14,710-

	£7,710
Total requested	£7,000

- b) That Finance, Policy & Resources Committee approve the following amendments to the Twinning Grant criteria with regards to:

i) Salaries and capital costs

To align the Twinning Grant with other funds available from Aberdeen City Council, such as Youth Funds Small Grants and Creative Funding, it is recommended that the following criteria be applied to the Twinning Grant, effective three months from date of committee to reduce the impact on existing applicants - thus 'Improving the Customer Experience':

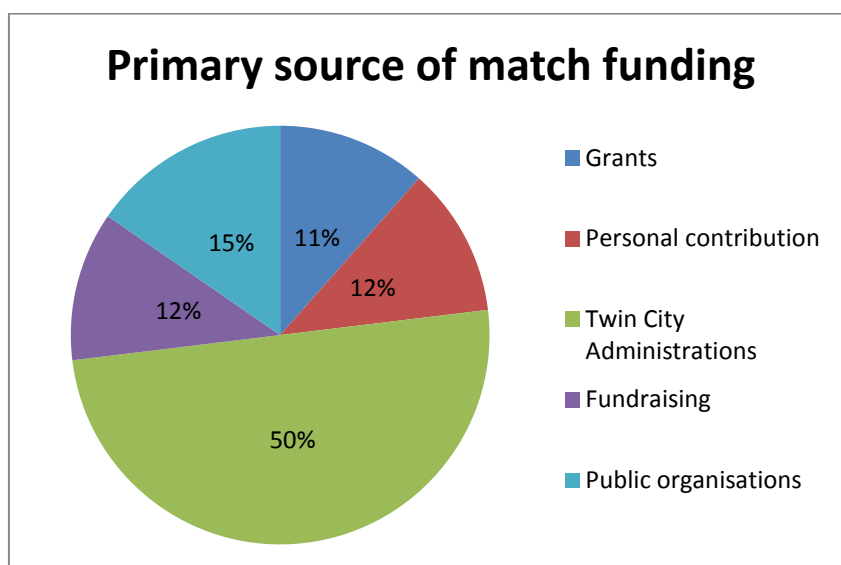
'With effect from September 7th, the Twinning Grant cannot support activities which include:

- Existing revenue or staff costs (Individual fees related to the project may be considered only for individuals who work outside of the applying organisation)
- Existing capital costs associated with buildings and vehicles, with the exception of project specific hire costs (Hire costs should not include vehicles owned or managed by the applicant)

Implementing these procedures will ensure a commitment to 'Improving Use of Resources' as outlined in Shaping Aberdeen.

ii) Sources of match funding

The Twinning Grant currently supports up to 50% of total costs associated with twin city projects. In financial year 2015-16, applicants obtained match funding from the following sources:



The majority of project match funding is sourced from the administrations of twin cities, such as Stadt Regensburg and Ville de Clermont-Ferrand, who make funds available to support twin city partnerships. Public organisations, such as the University of Aberdeen, contribute towards the costs of twinning projects. Applicants actively fundraise through sponsorship and events and as well as personally contributing towards participation in projects. Grant application to public bodies, such as UK-German Connection, are also submitted by applicants to support project costs.

There is no example of any grants distributed by Aberdeen City Council restricting match funding from public organisations external to Aberdeen City Council. An EHRIA Assessment is attached which details the potential impact of introducing a criteria which restricts the level of contribution from public organisations.

Grants administered by Aberdeen City Council do have policies in place in relation to match funding from other sources within the council. For example, the Creative Funding Grant stipulates that projects should not receive more than 75% of total income from Aberdeen City Council. It is recommended that the Twinning Grant adopt similar criteria to existing procedure and that the following amendment is made to the Twinning Grant guidelines:

‘Sources of match funding:

- At least 25% of total project costs must be sourced external to Aberdeen City Council.’

Aligning such policies reduces the impact to the public purse and extends the reach of the public pound.

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