

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee
DATE	20 April 2010
CORPORATE DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure
TITLE OF REPORT	Applications for Funding from the International Twinning Budget 2010/2011
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/10/033

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to bring before the Committee applications for financial assistance from the 2010/2011 International Twinning Budget and to make recommendations. A report on the use of the International Twinning Budget for the financial year 2009/2010 is provided separately as a bulletin.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 6.1 Approve paragraphs 6.1. a-d reaffirming the criteria for twinning applications and the monitoring of funded projects.
- 6.2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve a grant of £9,486 to the Aberdeen International Youth Festival including £3,934 towards the cost of an inward visit to participate in AIYF by 6 members of the rock group Kaifa from Clermont-Ferrand and £5,552 towards the cost of an inward visit to participate in AIYF by 6 members of the music group Bifolk from Gomel.
- 6.2.2 Approve a contribution of £4,200 from the 2010/2011 international twinning budget towards the cost of an outward visit to Regensburg by 12 members of the board of YMCA Aberdeen to develop their partnership.
- 6.2.3 Approve a contribution of £3,000 towards the travel costs for the Scouts' project to help teach English and deliver books and equipment to the schools and orphanage in Gomel.
- 6.2.4 Approve a grant of £3,125 to bring the Mayor of Gomel, his spouse and an interpreter to Aberdeen to mark the 20th anniversary of the twin city partnership between Aberdeen and Gomel.

- 6.2.5 Approve a grant of £2,400 to enable a delegation of up to 6 people, including the Lord Provost and an officer from the international team, to accept Regensburg's invitation to mark the 55th anniversary of the twin city partnership in Regensburg.
- 6.2.6 Approve a grant of £1,830 towards the travel and accommodation costs for the Gordon Highlanders' Museum's curator and an officer from the international team to visit Gomel to develop the joint exhibition project.
- 6.2.7 Approve a contribution of £190 to cover the full cost of local transport for the visit to Aberdeen by the Stavanger Scouts Group.
- 6.2.8 Approve a grant of £12,500 towards the cost of the tri-city youth theatre project for performances at AIYF 2010.
- 6.2.9 Decline the application from Aberdeen International Football Festival for £22,390 (deferred from EP&I Committee 23 February 2010) and
- 6.2.9a Decline the alternative award of £20,548 towards the cost of bringing a third twin city team (Gomel) to the 2010 Aberdeen International Football Festival.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Finance and Resources Committee approved the International Twinning Budget for 2010/2011 at its meeting of 11 March 2010m. The approved budget, which is from the Common Good Fund, earmarked £72,000 in grants available for financial year 2010/2011. £10,000 of this budget has already been committed to supporting Aberdeen's presence at the festival that accompanies the Offshore Northern Seas exhibition in Stavanger in August 2010, since 2010 is the 20th anniversary of the twinning link between Aberdeen and Stavanger.

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: 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

- 6.1. Proposal to reaffirm the criteria for twinning applications and the monitoring of funded projects
 - a. Given the limited size of the International Twinning Budget and the significant increase in applications at the start of the financial year 2010-2011, a tighter focus will be given to the promotion of

international twinning opportunities within Aberdeen's communities to foster the participation of new groups. The monitoring and evaluation of funded projects will also be reinforced by making feedback from participants and partners in the twin cities a condition of award.

- b. In the context of the 2010 European Year for Combating Social Exclusion and the 2011 European Year of Volunteering, promotion of the twinning grants will be particularly targeted at third sector and voluntary organisations.
- c. Where relevant, incoming applications will be supported to seek match funding from external sources. The service will take a proactive approach to this.
- d. The criteria for processing applications and the monitoring of funded projects will be stated more explicitly to potential applicants:
 - Applications are processed on a "first come, first served" basis,
 - Priority is given to new applicants (or new participants within the groups which have previously received funding),
 - Funding recommendations will take into account the need to balance the funding attributed between inward and outward twinning projects
 - For outward visits, applicants will be asked to adapt the numbers of participants to the nature of the project and activities involved
 - The requirement to report on return from twinning visits will be implemented systematically and compliance thereof will be a condition for eligibility for future applications.

6.2- Applications

Applications marked with an asterisk in the table below are those recommended for approval.

Ref	Balance of Budget available 2010/2011	£62,000
6.2.1.*	Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF) 2010 – request to support participation from Clermont-Ferrand and Gomel *	£9,486
6.2.2.*	YMCA board members' visit to Regensburg 2010 *	£4,200
6.2.3*	Aberdeen Scouts to Gomel Oct 2010 *	£3,000
6.2.4.*	Visit to Aberdeen by new Mayor of Gomel for 20 th anniversary of twinning *	£3,125
6.2.5.*	Lord Provost's visit to Regensburg Sep 2010 for 55 th anniversary of twinning *	£2,400
6.2.6.*	Gordon Highlanders' Museum joint project visit to Gomel *	£1,830

6.2.7.*	Visit from Stavanger Scouts hosted by Cults Scouts Group *	£190
6.2.8.*	Arts Development Team/AIYF Theatre Project *	£12,500
6.2.9	Aberdeen International Football Festival 2010 – request to support participation from Gomel	£22,390
	Total of funds applied for	£59,121
	Budget balance if all applications are funded	£2,879
	Total of funds recommended for approval (marked with *)	£36,731
	Budget balance if only those applications recommended for approval are approved	£25,269

6.2.1. Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF) 2010 – request to support participation from Clermont-Ferrand and Gomel

It should be noted that the requests for twinning grants for participation in AIYF from Clermont-Ferrand and from Gomel initially came as separate applications. So as to reduce costs and with the intention to be able to invite both music groups, the AIYF, in negotiation with the music groups, have reduced the length of Kaifa's visit by one day and that of Bifolk by 3 days compared to their initial plan. The invitation to both groups was then presented as one application totalling £9,486 (£3,934 for Kaifa + £5,552 for Bifolk)

Participation of rock group Kaifa from Clermont-Ferrand

The Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF) is inviting the rock band Kaifa from Clermont-Ferrand to participate in concerts and workshops as part of the Festival's programme of performances and related activities engaging with Aberdeen's public. The group Kaifa proactively submitted their application/audition for the Festival as early as November 2009 and obtained funding from the Mission des Relations Internationales (MRI) in Clermont-Ferrand for their travel costs. The Festival then accepted their audition in principle (subject to availability of funding).

From 27 July to 7 August, the group are to perform both in music venues (Tunnels, Lemon Tree) and community settings, linking in with the work of AIYF's partners in Aberdeen, such as SHMU, Foyer Music and Transition. Small-scale concerts at affordable prices will be organised to attract a new audience to AIYF and city centre venues.

The total cost of the group's visit is £9,604. The amount applied for is £3,934. The City of Clermont-Ferrand (through MRI) has already approved a grant of £3,720 to cover the group's travel costs (air fares for 6 persons with equipment). The AIYF, through its own resources and sponsorships, will contribute another £1,950.

AIYF is applying to the International Twinning budget to cover the balance for accommodation, subsistence and technical assistance costs for the artists' activities in Aberdeen.

The funds applied for would cover the following;

	£
1. Full board and lodging at the University of Aberdeen's halls of residence (£34 per participant/day x 6 for 11 nights)	2,244
2. Local transport	400
3. Global fee for their workshops and performances*	750
4. Per diems*	990
5. Venue Hire, Staff and courier	700
6. Production costs	800
Total costs of invitation (travel covered by C.F.)	5,884
Total costs of invitation – AIYF funding (1,950) = Balance applied for	3,934

* The reason for these fees – which are well under the usual professional rates – is that the AIYF has an objective to support young semi-professional artists at the start of their artistic trajectory; the rock group Kaifa falls within this category. Lesley Thomson, Strategist for Arts, Culture, Heritage and Sport has been consulted regarding the payment of per diems to confirm that this was usual practice and that the rates are well below professional rates.

In the past, the AIYF has received varying amounts of funding from the International Twinning budget (£2,068 in 2005 for a group from Stavanger, £1,383 in 2006 for a group from Clermont-Ferrand, £5,733 in 2007 for a group from Gomel; £18,788 in 2009 for inviting 2 groups, one from Stavanger and the other from Bulawayo). AIYF underline that they have not had participation from Clermont-Ferrand in recent Festivals which, combined with the group's quality, is why the organisers are particularly keen on inviting Kaifa.

Participation from music group Bifolk from Gomel

To mark the 20th anniversary of the twinning links with Gomel, the Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF) is inviting the music group Bifolk from Gomel to participate in concerts and workshops as part of the festival's programme of performances and related activities from 27 July to 5 August.

The invitation came as an initiative from the Friends of Gomel and the Gomel Trust. In reply to an inquiry from the international team, the Director of Culture from Gomel City selected the group Bifolk to represent Gomel at the AIYF. The Festival then accepted their audition (subject to availability of funding).

The total cost of the group's visit is £8,502. The amount applied for is £5,552 or 65% of the total cost (which is not atypical for projects with Gomel where, due to

very low comparative income, participants are unable to raise funds/contribute themselves).

AIYF is applying to the International Twinning budget to cover the balance for travel, accommodation, subsistence and technical assistance costs for the artists' activities in Aberdeen. The friends of Gomel have committed to support the visit by making a contribution of £1,300. The AIYF, through its own resources and sponsorships, will contribute an additional £1,650, thus covering £2,950 or 35% of the total cost.

The funds applied for would cover the following;

	£
1. Travel costs	<u>4,500</u>
2. Full board and lodging at the University of Aberdeen's halls of residence (£34 per participant/day x 6 for 8 nights)	1,632
3. Local transport	400
4. Per Diems (£15 per day for 8 days x 6 people)	720
5. Venue Hire	350
6. Festival courier, venue staff and administration	<u>850</u>
7. Production costs	<u>400</u>
Total costs – funds from AIYF and Friends of G. (8,502-2,950) = balance applied for	5,552

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Committee approve a grant of £9,486 to the Aberdeen International Youth Festival including £3,934 towards the cost of an inward visit to participate in AIYF by 6 members of the rock group Kaifa from Clermont-Ferrand and £5,552 towards the cost of an inward visit to participate in AIYF by 6 members of the music group Bifolk from Gomel.

6.2.2. YMCA board members' visit to Regensburg 2010.

Aberdeen YMCA are planning a visit of 12 board members to their partners in Regensburg from 3 – 8 July 2010. Aberdeen YMCA and the YMCA (CVJM) Regensburg have sustained a partnership since 1994. Whereas previous visits have involved youth and accompanying volunteers, this visit will engage board members to consolidate their partnership strategically.

Aberdeen YMCA has 4 international partnerships with YMCAs in Europe (Berlin and Regensburg in Germany, Kolosovar in Romania and Vitebsk in Belarus), working together to strengthen youth leadership, provide health education and skills training. These partnerships have the aim of "fostering a sense of responsibility to each other (...) fostering a sense of global citizenship through global awareness, education programmes, international youth exchanges and volunteer training events" (Aberdeen YMCA, annual report 2009).

The total cost of the visit is of £7,839, including £4,059 for travel (£338 per person), £2,400 for accommodation and £1,200 for meals and programme costs. The group is contributing £3,639, half of which in fundraising and the other half from the participants' direct contribution. YMCA Aberdeen is applying for the balance of £4,200, just over half the total cost of the visit.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee approve a contribution of £4,200 from the 2010/2011 international twinning budget towards the cost of an outward visit to Regensburg by 12 members of the board of YMCA Aberdeen to develop their partnership.

6.2.3. Aberdeen Scouts to Gomel Oct 2010

To mark the 20th anniversary of the twinning link with Gomel, the Aberdeen Scouts have been invited to Gomel by Schools Nr.10 and 71. It is also the 18th anniversary of the Scout Group's link with Gomel.

The Group, which includes 11 participants (8 scouts, 3 adults) from 21st Aberdeen-Cults Scouts and Aberdeen Scout District, is to visit Gomel from 6 to 13 October 2010 to help teach conversational English in schools 10 and 71 and at the University as well as to deliver books and equipment requested by the schools and an orphanage. 9 out of the 11 participants are taking part for the first time. The visit will help maintain links and build on the success of their visit in 2009. It is estimated the visit will benefit 64 people in Aberdeen, through direct and indirect participation in the project.

The total cost of the visit is estimated at £7,650 and includes £4,400 of air fares (via Kiev), £1,500 for accommodation, £900 for visas and £500 for meals. Further costs are for local transport and interpreters. The Scouts' Group is seeking to raise £4,650 (£600 through fund raising events, £2,050 through contributions by the participants and £2,000 from other sources, which included a request for £900 from the Gomel Trust, which the Trust declined on 6th April). The application to the International Twinning budget is to cover the anticipated shortfall of £3,000.

Recommendation: It is recommended the Committee approve a contribution of £3,000 towards the travel costs for the Scouts' project to help teach English and deliver books and equipment to the schools and orphanage in Gomel.

6.2.4. Visit to Aberdeen by new Mayor of Gomel for 20th anniversary of twinning

Aberdeen and Gomel celebrate 20 years of twin city partnership in 2010 and, as a new Mayor of Gomel came into office in late 2009, it is also an opportune time for him to visit Aberdeen (as the Mayor of Stavanger will do in August, also to mark the 20th anniversary of its twin city partnership with Aberdeen).

The visit would be used not only to mark the anniversary but also to show the Mayor examples of current projects between Aberdeen and Gomel (involving the twinning links, Aberdeen Gomel Trust and Friends of Gomel) and progress discussions on future projects, particularly those that may attract external funding.

The estimated cost to bring over the Mayor, his spouse and an interpreter for a 3-day visit (visit length determined by availability of direct flights from Minsk to London) is approximately £3,125, based on estimates of £400 per person for flights, £400 per person for accommodation and meals, £75 per person for visas and £500 for a civic dinner.

Dates will be agreed in due course with the Lord Provost's Office, Civic Administration and the Mayor's Office.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee approve a grant of £3,125 to bring the Mayor of Gomel, his spouse and an interpreter to Aberdeen to mark the 20th anniversary of the twin city partnership between Aberdeen and Gomel.

6.2.5. Lord Provost's visit to Regensburg Sep 2010 for 55th anniversary of twinning

The Lord Provost has been invited to visit Regensburg in September 2010 to mark the 55th anniversary of the twin city partnership between Aberdeen and Regensburg. Aberdeen hosted a delegation of 9 people from Regensburg, including the Oberbürgermeister, Herr Hans Schaidinger, for the 50th anniversary in 2005.

The timing of the visit is designed to coincide with the launch of a photo exhibition which representatives from the two cities have been working on over the last 2 years. A similar exhibition took place in Aberdeen last year.

Regensburg has also asked the Aberdeen delegation to bring a small group of traditional musicians to perform alongside Bavarian musicians.

Costs are estimated at £400 per person. It is anticipated that Regensburg will cover the cost of accommodation and meals.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee approve a grant of £2,400 to enable a delegation of up to 6 people, including the Lord Provost and an officer from the international team, to accept Regensburg's invitation to mark the 55th anniversary of the twin city partnership in Regensburg.

6.2.6 Gordon Highlanders' Museum joint project visit to Gomel

The Gordon Highlanders' Museum (GHM) is planning a visit by their curator to their partners at the Museum of Military Glory in Gomel from 23/05 to 30/05/2010 to organise their joint project for an exhibit at GHM about Gomel's experience during the Second World War.

The exhibit is to be held in spring 2011 to mark the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the invasion of Belarus by National-Socialist Germany, a hugely significant date for the countries of the former Soviet Union. The exhibit, which will focus on civilians' and common soldiers' experience of the war in Gomel, will allow Aberdeen's public to learn more about the history of Gomel and create awareness of both shared and contrasting experiences as allies during the war. The Gordon Highlanders' Museum aims to work with schools in Aberdeen to tie the exhibit into the pupils' curricular activities and would like to link this with similar activities in Gomel, building on the already existing school twinning ties between both cities.

The visit is to allow the curator of the Gordon Highlanders' Museum to make direct contact with his equivalent in Gomel so as to organise the exchange, to review in person which exhibit materials could be borrowed for the 2011 exhibit in Aberdeen, and to learn about the school and community engagement programmes developed by the museum in Gomel. The visit and face to face work sessions will facilitate the collaboration, with the aim of developing future projects and possible joint bids for external European funding.

The Gordon Highlanders' Museum's curator has expressed his wish to be accompanied by an international officer, given that this would be his first visit to Gomel and given the nature of the museums' collaboration, which requires a high degree of co-operation with Aberdeen's official partners in Gomel City Executive Committee.

Participation in this visit would also be a useful opportunity to further develop relationships with Gomel City Executive Committee and Gomel Regional Executive Committee, as well as to visit further partner institutions with which Aberdeen's community groups are working (schools, local orphanage, university). On this occasion the international officer would also have the opportunity to gauge interest in preparing joint applications for European funding with the objective of generating income to support and enhance the exchanges between Gomel and Aberdeen, particularly as the International Twinning budget is in such high demand.

The estimated total cost of the visit is £1,830 for both the Gordon Highlanders' Museum's curator and an international officer. This includes air travel (£400), accommodation (£210 per person); meals (£46 daily rate per person) and the rest for visas (£75 each). Interpreters are to be provided by Gomel City at their

cost. The Gordon Highlanders' Museum will contribute to the visit in kind, through their officer's salary. The Museum will also cover the costs of the shipment of the exhibit items to be sent from Gomel to Aberdeen.

Recommendation: It is recommended the Committee approve a grant of £1,830 towards the travel and accommodation costs for the Gordon Highlanders' Museum's curator and an officer from the international team to visit Gomel to develop the joint exhibition project.

6.2.7. Visit from Stavanger Scouts hosted by Cults Scouts Group

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the twinning link with Stavanger, Cults Scouts Group will host a group of members of Stavanger's Scouts Group and members of their families from 29 – 31 October.

The Norwegian participants will meet the costs of their travel and Aberdeen Cults Scouts will cover the costs for meals and home hospitality.

The Cults Scouts Group is applying for £190 towards the cost of local transport for the Scouts from Stavanger during their visit to Aberdeen.

Recommendation: It is recommended the Committee approve a contribution of £190 to cover the full cost of local transport for the visit to Aberdeen by the Stavanger Scouts Group.

6.2.8. Arts Development Team/Aberdeen International Youth Festival Theatre Project

18 young people who currently attend drama workshops in Aberdeen, Regensburg and Stavanger will be given the opportunity to work with highly skilled practitioners to produce a joint piece of theatre for the 2010 Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF). It will be the first project of its kind involving young people from Aberdeen and its twin cities, working together to participate in and perform at the 2010 AIYF, having been given very prominent timing slots.

The project includes organising visits to Regensburg and Stavanger for the young participants and hosting the Regensburg and Stavanger groups for their participation in AIYF from 28th July to 7th August 2010. The theatre piece will challenge national stereotypes from and about the three countries of the participants.

The Aberdeen group will visit Regensburg, where they will meet with the young people from Stavanger and Regensburg to share their short pieces and start to discuss ideas and break down national stereotypes. They will then travel to Stavanger and further develop and expand on ideas. The final period will be in Aberdeen where the groups will come together and deconstruct the stereotypes

and dramatically visualise the reality of young people in their country. This piece will be premiered during the 2010 AIYF.

The Arts Development Team will work with their partners at Aberdeen Performing Arts (APA), Aberdeen International Youth Festival (AIYF), and directors in the twin cities of Stavanger and Regensburg to produce pieces of theatre on the theme of cultural identity for the 2010 Aberdeen International Youth Festival.

The Arts Development Team will work with Aberdeen Performing Arts (the Lemon Tree) to enable young people from Northfield, Torry and the city centre to work outside their formal drama groups to create pieces of theatre to share with groups of young people from Stavanger and Regensburg. The group and their tutors will spend three days at a school in Regensburg, sharing work and delivering drama workshops to students from Regensburg and Stavanger. This will be followed with three days at Rogaland Theatre in Stavanger with brainstorming, critical analysis and workshops with the young people from Stavanger and Regensburg.

The project will raise the profile of Vibrant Aberdeen as a place to première new and exciting youth theatre. It will promote Aberdeen's cultural venues and cultivate new and lasting partnerships. The project also fits well with the Single Outcome Agreement objective 13: "We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity".

Aberdeen's young people will become more directly involved with AIYF. The staff involved in this project will also benefit from their involvement through skills sharing and professional development. The young people will gain many skills throughout the duration of the project and will perform during Festival in the City, and two high profile performances at AIYF, attracting audiences of up to 600 people.

The total cost of the project is estimated at £43,801 (including £21,020 in in-kind contributions of officer time and contributions to cover accommodation from Stavanger and Regensburg). The grant requested is £12,500 towards the cost of transport to Regensburg, and Stavanger, meals, insurance and the cost of accommodation in Aberdeen during AIYF for 18 young people.

The grant is also required to engage Colin Bradie to work with the group. Colin Bradie is a highly regarded theatre practitioner, and currently the CEO for Promote Youth Theatre Scotland.

A similar grant was awarded to the Arts Development Team in 2009/2010 to do a similar project with Regensburg, which attracted significant audiences and positive media coverage in Regensburg.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee approve a grant of £12,500 towards the cost of the tri-city youth theatre project for performances at AIYF 2010.

6.2.9. Aberdeen International Football Festival 2010 – request to support participation from Gomel

The Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee of 23 February 2010 approved an award of £7,250 (out of a request for £29,640) from the 2009/2010 International Twinning budget to the Aberdeen International Football Festival (AIFF) towards the cost of bringing one or more teams to the Festival in July 2010.

Both Regensburg and Stavanger proactively registered their interest in late 2009 in participating in the 2010 Festival. AIFF has now advised it will use the grant to bring over a team from Stavanger, and AIFF will be able to use its own resources to bring over a team from Regensburg.

The Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee of 23 February 2010 also deferred consideration of the remaining balance of AIFF's request (£22,390) until the 2010/2011 International Twinning budget had been agreed at Finance and Resources Committee on 11 March.

Therefore this application deals with the balance of £22,390. AIFF has advised that they would wish to invite a team from Gomel as a third twin city representative for the 2010 Festival. The cost of this is estimated at £20,548 for 20 players and 2 adults (a total of £934 per person, broken down into £539 per person for flights; £320 per person for full board accommodation; £75 per person for visas). Therefore it is suggested that consideration of the balance of £22,390 should simply be noted for no further action. Instead, Committee is asked to consider an alternative award of £20,548, in line with AIFF's request to bring a third twin city (Gomel) to the 2010 AIFF.

It is suggested that this application should be declined for the following reasons:

- AIFF has already been awarded £7,250 from the 2009/2010 budget to bring one twin city (Stavanger) to the 2010 AIFF
- AIFF has indicated it is able to fund from its own resources the participation of a second twin city team (Regensburg)
- the significant number of other applications to this budget, submitted earlier
- to keep some funding available for other community groups, organisations and events in Aberdeen
- to balance the funding appropriately between inward and outward twinning projects

Recommendation: It is recommended that the committee decline the AIFF's application for £22,390 and decline the alternative award of £20,548 towards the cost of bringing a third twin city team (Gomel) to the 2010 AIFF.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Nicolas Ellison

International Partnerships Officer

Tel: 01224 814635; Email: nellison@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Elaine Robertson

International Strategist

Tel: 01224 814599; Email: elrobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None