

## **ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL**

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COMMITTEE	<b>Finance, Policy &amp; Resources</b>
DATE	<b>29th June 2017</b>
REPORT TITLE	<b>Erasmus + Key Action 1 School Education Staff Mobility Project</b>
REPORT NUMBER	<b>ECS/17/038</b>
DIRECTOR	<b>Gayle Gorman</b>
REPORT AUTHOR	<b>Marie-Claire Lyon</b>

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:-**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the Council to accept a European grant for an Erasmus+ Key Action 1 School Education Staff Mobility project entitled “Developing Modern Languages Opportunities for Aberdeen City Council Primary Teachers” and to spend the grant as detailed in this report.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 It is recommended that members:
- a) Delegate authority to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to accept a grant from the UK National Agency, British Council and enter into a Grant Agreement for the Erasmus+ Key Action 1 School Education Staff Mobility Project grant funding of €91,980 (c. £80 410) and
  - b) Approve expenditure of the grant funding by the Council for participation by primary school teachers in a French immersion course.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Acceptance of the 100% funded Erasmus+ Key Action 1 School Education Staff Mobility Project grant will allow 28 primary school teachers from Education and Children Services to participate in the ‘Developing Modern Languages Opportunities for Aberdeen City Council Primary Teachers’ project. The 28 primary school teachers from Education and Children Services will attend a two week French immersion course at the CAVILAM language centre in Vichy, France. The course will take place during the school holidays.
- 3.2 Supporting the Scottish Government 1+2 Modern Languages Initiative.

All primary schools in Aberdeen City Council are engaged in implementing the 1+2 Modern Languages Scottish Government initiative. All teachers have a responsibility to deliver a language. Many practitioners have not studied French to a high level and need to acquire the knowledge in language and methodology that will allow them to teach lessons confidently. They will familiarise themselves with techniques and approaches. The course will give them a wider knowledge of culture allowing them to support inter-disciplinary projects, a key component of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence programme. Their contact with colleagues from the UK and other countries will create a platform for exchanging good practice. Participating teachers will be able to include this study in their CPD programme of activities and use it for GTCS (General Teaching Council Scotland) professional update.

### 3.3 European mobility and cooperation activities.

The CAVILAM – Alliance Française Language school is situated in the region of Clermont-Ferrand and the participants will receive a certificate on completion of the course signed by the CAVILAM language school and the University Blaise Pascal in Clermont-Ferrand. This will strengthen educational links between the twinned cities of Aberdeen and Clermont-Ferrand. Some of the teachers are participating in work in schools where a link has already been established and others will have opportunities to create new partnerships. Members from Aberdeen City Council Education and Children Services have visited the premises of the CAVILAM centre in March 2016, as part of an educational visit to Clermont-Ferrand and have discussed the programme with the course director and the school administrator. During their visit, the Curriculum Officers from Aberdeen City Council explained the needs and requirements of the primary school teachers who would attend the course. In 2012, the centre was commended by the French Ministry of Education for the quality of courses, expertise of teaching staff, welcoming, premises and administration.

### 3.4 Objectives of activities.

The immersion course will give teachers the opportunity to secure language skills and get further knowledge of the local area and French daily life and culture. The cultural activities organised by the CAVILAM will have an impact on the understanding of local and international cultures. The participants will do a language test at the start to ensure that their needs are best addressed during the course.

## 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Approval from committee is essential for the project, in order not to lose the total amount of the grant awarded. The UK National agency has set 30 days from 8th June 2017 to sign and return the Grant Agreement.

4.2 The UK National Agency British Council has awarded 100% of €91980 (= £80410) applied for to sustain the entire project. The application was sent on 30th January 2017 and the reply from the British Council confirming the award of the grant received on 26th May 2017.

4.3 The grant will cover:

Staff mobility: € 7700 (£ 6742)

Individual support:	€ 54880 (£ 48056)
Organisational support:	€ 9800 (£ 8609)
Course fees:	€ 19600 (£ 17162)

Staff mobility	Travel from Aberdeen to Vichy, France (Standard Travel Grant per Participant + top-up for “Expensive Domestic Travel Cost”)
Individual Support	Accommodation, food, local travel to and from the placement in the host country Participants are eligible for unit costs per day that they engage in the mobility activity (€140 per participant per day)
Organisational Support	Participants preparation (pedagogical, intercultural, linguistic) Educational materials Monitoring of participants during mobility Validation of learning outcomes
Courses Fees	Invoice from the CAVILAM Language Centre

#### Payment arrangements:

The UK National Agency will pay Aberdeen City Council within 30 days following the entry into force of the Agreement a pre-financing payment of €64386 (£ 56561) corresponding to 70% of the grant awarded.

Within 60 calendar days of the end of the project and following submission of the final report, the payment of the remaining balance will be made.

- 4.4 The 28 teachers will travel and take part in the course during their school holidays and there will be no additional cost for staff cover.
- 4.5 The duration of the project is set between 2nd July 2017 and 1st January 2019
- 4.6 No additional funding will be required from Aberdeen City Council or any other agency.

## 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Prior to issuing the grant, the UK National Agency require the Council to enter into a Grant Agreement, which requires the Council to comply with funding guidance. The Grant Agreement has been reviewed by Legal Services and it is recommended that Members delegate authority to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to sign the Grant Agreement on behalf of the Council.

## 6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

- 6.1 Financial  
The funding will be managed following the recommendations set by the UK National Agency and in accordance with Aberdeen City Council procedure. There are no associated risks from Brexit as the full programme will be

complete by the period that Britain leaves the EU. In addition, the Scottish Government has confirmed that any agreements entered into before Brexit will be respected by the Government.

Risk – Low

#### 6.2 Employee

The health and safety implications of all visits are taken into account during planning, with any exceptional implications addressed at the time of application. Adventure Aberdeen, Education and Children Services, regularly review the travel advice provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and ensure that information to participants is accurate and up-to-date. When participating in overseas visits, Council employees are covered by the Council's insurance policy.

Risk – Low

#### 6.3 Customer/citizen

Attending an immersion course ensures that representatives from various schools in the city can roll-out the 1+2 Modern Languages implementation in their areas. Failure to sign this agreement risks the quality of implementation into primary schools across the city.

Risk – Low

#### 6.4 Environment

All travel undertaken will be by public transport.

Risk – Low

#### 6.5 Technological

There are no associated technological risks.

Risk – n/a

#### 6.6 Legal

Failure to delegate authority to Head of Legal & Democratic Services to sign the Grant Agreement will result in not being able to undertake the project.

Risk – High

#### 6.7 Reputational

Aberdeen City Council is known to National Languages organisations for its implementation of 1+2 ML initiative, with best practice case studies published in newsletters. Aberdeen City Council have taken a sustainable and strategic approach to the implementation. Participating in this programme ensures that Aberdeen City Council continues to support the development of teachers in the implementation of this nationally identified educational priority.

Risk – High

## 7. **IMPACT SECTION**

#### 7.1 Economy

This project demonstrates Aberdeen City Council's commitment to teachers' professional development. Providing such opportunities, which can be used in nationally recognised GTCS (General Teaching Council of Scotland)

Professional Update, creates a culture which encourages teachers to stay in the area.

#### 7.2 People

The skills learnt from this course will be disseminated through a number of events to pupils and teachers, ensuring a wide-reaching impact across the city. There are 28 teachers participating in this course from 17 schools across the city. The implementation of 1+2 ML instils life-long learning skills of young people throughout the city.

#### 7.3 Place

This opportunity ensures that young people from multiple areas of the city can realise their full potential in language development through the skills learnt from their teachers attending this course. This raises the international profile of schools within communities.

#### 7.4 Technology

This experience will promote modern languages within schools. To continue to promote such opportunities with native language speakers, E-Twinning Online resources will be explored through a variety of dissemination events.

### 8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Erasmus + Key Action 1 (KA1) Handbook for Beneficiaries  
Erasmus + 2017 Key Action 1 School Education Staff Mobility

### 9. **APPENDICES (if applicable)**

NA

### 10. **REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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