

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee
DATE	31 May 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/10/035

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.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1 Approve a grant of £1,600 to enable a small music group of up to 4 people to travel to Regensburg, to accept Regensburg's invitation to participate in the cultural programme marking the 55th anniversary of the twin city partnership.
- 2 Approve a grant of £1150 for the invitation to 3 musicians from Stavanger to participate in Aberdeen's Highland Games festivities in June 2010 to mark the 20th anniversary of twinning link.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Finance and Resources Committee approved the International Twinning Budget for 2010/2011 at its meeting of 11 March 2010. 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- Applications

Ref	Balance of Budget available 2010/2011	£25,269
6.1.	Travel to Regensburg of a music group to participate in the cultural programme for the 55 th anniversary of twinning	£1,600
6.2.	Invitation to 3 musicians from Stavanger to participate in Aberdeen's Highland Games festivities in June 2010	£1150
	Amount remaining in budget if awards approved	£22,519

6.1. Travel to Regensburg of a music group to participate in the cultural programme for the 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. A delegation from Aberdeen of up to 6 people, including the Lord Provost and an international officer, is planned to attend the anniversary celebration in Regensburg from 23-26 September (as approved by the Committee on 20/04). This delegation will also include representatives from the Regensburg-Aberdeen photo project from Aberdeen City Council's Arts Team and from Aberdeen College, as the visit will coincide with the opening of an exhibit of photos of Aberdeen taken by citizens of Regensburg on a previous exchange.

The Mayor (Oberbürgermeister) of Regensburg, Hans Schaidinger, has also expressed his wish to invite a Scottish music group from Aberdeen to participate in the cultural programme of the jubilee celebrations alongside Bavarian music and dance groups. The Regensburger city council has therefore already booked accommodation for a total of 10 people for the civic delegation and a small music group.

For the 50th anniversary in 2005, Aberdeen hosted a delegation of 9 people from Regensburg, including the Oberbürgermeister.

To respond to Oberbürgermeister Schaidinger's invitation a group of 4 traditional Scottish musicians will be sought out by the International Partnerships Officer in liaison with the Arts team to participate in the cultural programme for the jubilee in Regensburg. Costs are estimated at £400 per person. Regensburg will cover the cost of accommodation and meals.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee approve a grant of £1,600 to enable a small music group of up to 4 people to travel to Regensburg, to accept Regensburg's invitation to participate in the cultural programme marking the 55th anniversary of the twin city partnership.

6.2. Invitation to 3 musicians from Stavanger to participate in Aberdeen's Highland Games in June 2010

The Events team wish to invite 3 musicians from Stavanger to participate in the cultural programme of Aberdeen's Highland Games in June 2010, thus also marking the 20th anniversary of the twinning link between Stavanger and Aberdeen. The musicians would be in Aberdeen from 18-21 June, and perform on 20 June alongside Scottish performers during the games. The total cost of the visit is of £2180, the Highland Games organisers' in kind contribution of £430 and the travel costs are to be covered by the musicians. The balance applied for is of £1150, slightly over 50% of the total cost.

		£
1	Flights for 3 people @£200	600
2	Accommodation and food*	600
3	Taxis from and to airport*	50
4	Performance fees*	500
5	Venue and production costs would be in kind	300
6	Production costs in kind	100
7	Event transport costs	30
	Total Cost	2180
	Balance applied for	1150

*Costs applied for

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee approve a grant of £1150 for the invitation to 3 musicians from Stavanger to participate in Aberdeen's Highland Games festivities in June 2010 to mark the 20th anniversary of twinning link.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None