

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration****Special Meeting of the Cultural Committee: 11 February 2022**

Subject: Town Twinning and 80th Anniversary of Clydebank Blitz - Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To provide the Committee with an update on Town Twinning and the 80th Anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Committee is asked:

- (a) to note that the planned trip to meet of the Mayor of Letterkenny to discuss the friendship agreement in February 2022 has been postponed and, if feasible, should now be held in March/April;
- (b) to approve the recommendations of the Clydebank Blitz Working Group as detailed in paragraph 4.5 below; and
- (c) to approve the additional costs involved in the purchase of Tom McKendrick's book on the Clydebank Blitz.

Background

- 3.1** At its meetings on 29 November 2021 and 20 December 2021, the Cultural Committee received updates on town twinning and on progress being made with the planning of commemorations of the 80th anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz. This report provides a further update on these issues and asks the Committee to consider the recommendations from the Clydebank Blitz Working Group which met on 14th January 2022.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** The Mayor of Letterkenny has requested that the proposed visit to Letterkenny in February be postponed and be rescheduled to take place in March/April once Covid -19 restrictions have been relaxed in Ireland. The Committee is asked to approve this change to the plans.
- 4.2** The Convener and Manager of Democratic and Registration Services met with the Polish Consul General on 1 February 2022 to discuss the proposed friendship agreement with Gdynia and also took the opportunity to present the commemorative medal to the Polish Consul General in recognition of the bravery shown by the crew of the ORP Piorun during the Clydebank Blitz.

- 4.3** The estimated cost of Tom McKendrick's book on the Clydebank Blitz is higher than originally estimated and will now cost approximately £3250 for 250 copies compared with the original estimate of £2500. The Committee is requested to agree that these additional costs be met from the revenue Cultural Fund.
- 4.4** The Committee is asked to note that permission has been sought from Clydebank Property Company to bury a time capsule in the grounds of Solidarity Plaza.
- 4.5** The Clydebank Blitz Working Group met on 14th January 2022 and made the undernoted recommendations:
- (a) that a plaque to commemorate the bombing of Dumbarton during World War II should be laid in a suitable location within the grounds of the Municipal Buildings;
 - (b) that the Council should not proceed with the proposed church service in Our Holy Redeemers Church on Sunday, 13 March 2022, in view of the news that Kilbowie/St. Andrew's Church, Clydebank, intended to hold a service, very similar to what the Council had been planning, at 2 p.m. on that date and had invited Bailie Agnew to speak and would also play the commemorative music 'Clydebank 41' performed by the RSNO from the CD; and
 - (c) that a presentation of the commemorative medals should not be held, but instead the medals should be sent, by courier or hand delivered to the recipients along with a letter from the Provost.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no people implications arising from the content of this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** At its meeting in March 2021, the Committee agreed that the remaining balance of funds within the Cultural budget for 2020/21, £13,074 be earmarked for any further expenditure in relation to the Clydebank Blitz i.e. RSNO concerts, CDs, books, etc.
- 6.2** It is estimated that approximately £17,750 of expenditure has still to be incurred/paid in relation to the commemorations (includes all committed expenditure to date and the additional cost of the books, if approved) which will leave the sum of £11,018 to be funded from the 2021/22 Cultural fund. However, the Committee has also committed a further £600 towards the cost of the Jubilee beacon which means that the balance of unallocated funds is now estimated to be £13,982. It should be noted that this calculation assumes that the full £10,000, agreed by the Committee in December 2021 towards the final costs of the commemorations, will be spent.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 There are no risks arising from the recommendations of this report.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 There are no impacts on any equality groups arising from the recommendations of this report.

9. Consultation

9.1 Officers from Legal and Finance Services have been consulted on the contents of this report.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 The involvement of local churches and communities is an important element of the Clydebank Blitz commemorations which fits well with the Council's strategy on community involvement and engagement.

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Date: 03 February 2022

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: None.

