

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration

Meeting of the Cultural Committee: 29 November 2021

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 will take place in February 2022;
- (b) to note that the Royal Scottish National Orchestra commemorative concert will go ahead as planned on Sunday, 21 November 2021;
- (c) to approve the recommendation of the Clydebank Blitz Working Group that overnight accommodation be provided for the Mayor of Letterkenny when he attends the above concert; and
- (d) to note the latest update on the Cultural Fund, as detailed in Section 6 of the report.

Background

- 3.1** At its meetings on 23 August and 7 October 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 a recommendation from the Clydebank Blitz Working Group to offer overnight accommodation to the Mayor of Letterkenny when he visits this area to attend the commemorative concert on 21 November 2021.

4. Main Issues

Commemorative Medals

- 4.1** Work is progressing well on the production of the commemorative medals which will be presented to various organisations in recognition of the support they provided to the people of Clydebank during and after the Clydebank Blitz in 1941. It is anticipated that the medals will be ready in plenty of time for presentation in March 2022.

Royal National Scottish Orchestra (RSNO)

- 4.2 The RSNO commemorative concert will be held on 21 November 2021 as planned and will include the following programme of music:

Mozart	<i>Figaro</i> Overture
Kilar	Orawa
Asman	Wrought
Sibelius	Valse Triste
Gough	Clydebank '41
Mascagni	<i>Cavalleria rusticana</i> : Intermezzo sinfonico
Dvorak	Slavonic Dances – No. 2, 3 and 8

Encore: Brahms Hungarian Dance No. 6

- 4.3 A number of distinguished guests will attend the concert together with representatives from those organisations who came to the aid of the people of Clydebank during and after the blitz along with representatives from the West Dunbartonshire School Orchestra and various community groups.

Tom McKendrick's Blitz Exhibition

- 4.4 The Arts and Heritage Team has established an exhibition plan with the artist, identified a budget and will look to accommodate this within the existing Arts and Heritage budget. The exhibition will focus on a selection of works (made by the artist) that describe the devastation of the Clydebank Blitz. There will be some contextualising information provided upon entry to the gallery space, and the display solutions will be developed in consultation with the artist. Exact dates for the exhibition are yet to be agreed but it has been proposed that the exhibition will open to the public on either the 11th or 12th March, prior to the anniversary of the Blitz.

Town Twinning/Friendship Agreements

- 4.5 The Committee is asked to note that it is still the intention for the planned trip to Letterkenny to take place in February 2022 and hopefully a final date will be fixed before the Cultural Committee meets on 29th November..
- 4.6 The Committee is asked to note that in accordance with its previous decision, the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services will contact the Mayor of Gdynia's Office to arrange an online meeting to discuss the proposed friendship with the City of Gdynia, Poland.

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** The Clydebank Blitz Working Group has recommended that the Mayor of Letterkenny be offered overnight accommodation when he and his wife visit West Dunbartonshire on 21 November 2021 to attend the commemorative concert. The cost of the room including breakfast will be £98.
- 6.3** It is estimated that approximately £20,653 of expenditure has still to be incurred in relation to the commemorations (includes all committed expenditure to date and the cost of accommodation for the Mayor, if approved) which will leave the sum of £779 to be funded from the 2021/22 Cultural fund. This means that the balance of unallocated funds remaining is estimated to be £24,221 at this time.

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: 10 November 2021

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: None.