

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration****Meeting of the Cultural Committee: 29 March 2021**

Subject: 80th Anniversary of Clydebank Blitz - Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To provide the Committee with an update on the 80th Anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz and in particular to consider recommendations arising from the meeting of the Member/Officer Working Group, which was held on 5 March 2021.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Committee is asked to:

- (a) to note the update on the commemorative events which took place on 13 and 14 March 2021, as detailed in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.3 of the report;
- (b) to note the meeting which took place with Creative Scotland and await the outcome on the identification of suitable funding;
- (c) approve the recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group on the Clydebank Blitz (the Working Group), as follows:
 - (i) that the Royal Concert Hall was the Working Group's preferred venue to host the main concert in November given its superior size and acoustics compared to the Clydebank Town Hall, and that the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services and the Convener should meet with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra to explore this proposal further and report back to a future meeting of the Committee;
 - (ii) that the proposal to produce a CD or DVD of the music 'Clydebank 41' which the Council co-commissioned with the RSNO should be explored and a report brought back to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration; and
 - (iii) that the Committee agrees to purchase 250 hard copies of the e-book on the Clydebank Blitz, produced by Tom McKendrick at an estimated cost of £2500 and instructs the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services, in consultation with the Convener, to progress this matter once final costs of the book are known.

3. Background

- 3.1** The Working Group met on 5 March 2021 to finalise plans for Saturday, 13 March 2021 and to consider other proposals to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz as outlined in the main issues section of this report.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** The Committee is asked to note that Provost William Hendrie unveiled the new commemorative plaque at Solidarity Plaza on Saturday 13th March 2021, after laying wreaths at Old Dalnottar Cemetery, Graham Avenue Memorial and the Polish Memorial in Solidarity Plaza. Provost Hendrie was accompanied by Bailie Agnew and Gil Paterson, MSP.
- 4.2** On Sunday 14th March 2021, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) published a short film on its YouTube channel, which included the recording of the piece of music entitled 'Clydebank 41' which the Council and the RSNO had co-commissioned in commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz.
- 4.3** It should also be noted that that the proposed Commemorative Booklet on the Clydebank Blitz, which contained contributions from 20 Elected Members, the First Minister, the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, the Polish Consul General, Lord Lieutenant and local MSPs and MP have now been printed and arrangements have been made to circulate copies of the booklet to all contributors. Copies will be passed to all schools and libraries in West Dunbartonshire. It was also suggested by the Working Group that copies be passed to the National Library for Scotland and the British Library.
- 4.4** The Committee is also asked to note that a meeting has taken place with Bailie Agnew, Martin Docherty-Hughes, MP., the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services and senior officials from Creative Scotland to discuss joint funding for the Clydebank Blitz anniversary events and that the said manager had now sent details of the various activities and estimated costs to Creative Scotland to enable them to identify any appropriate sources of funding for the event commemorations.
- 4.5** The Working Group received a brief presentation from Mr Tom McKendrick, local artist, on his new book on the Clydebank Blitz which depicted the story of the Clydebank Blitz in graphic detail. Although the printing costs of the book were not known, the Working Group were of the view that the Council should purchase a limited number of copies (250) to commemorate the 80th Anniversary. It is estimated that this may cost approximately £2500. The Committee is therefore invited to consider this proposal.

4.6 The Working Group also considered the proposed location for the live events in November 2021 and came to the view that the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow may be better in terms of both size and acoustics. It was also suggested that the Council could produce a recording of the music on CD or DVD and that this should be explored. It is therefore recommended that the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services and the Convener should meet with the RSNO to explore these proposals.

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 January, the Committee noted that a total of £23,523 was available from the 2019/20 earmarked budget and the sum of £25,000 was available from the 2020/21 Cultural fund, resulting in a total of £48,523.

6.2 The Committee has already committed £10,000 towards the costs of silver commemorative medals and £11,750 towards the cost of the granite memorial which was recently unveiled by Provost Hendrie. This left a balance of £26,773 available.

6.3 The Committee also agreed to approve up to a maximum of £21,550 for the RSNO film and music and also that a booklet be produced up to a maximum cost of £1,999. The final cost of the commemorative booklet was £1,027 but the final cost of the RSNO film and music have still to be received. It is now clear that the medals will not be paid for until the next financial year and therefore monies need to be earmarked from this year's budget to cover that cost.

6.4 It is now proposed that 250 books be purchased at a cost of approximately £2500 which means there will be a balance of funds left unspent at the year end. The Committee has already agreed at its meeting in in January 2021, that any unspent balances from the current financial year be earmarked for expenditure relating to the 80th Anniversary which will be incurred in 2021/22 i.e. cost of live concerts, hospitality, etc. This might also include any costs associated with the production of recordings of the 'Clydebank 41' music, if agreed by Committee.

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: 19 March 2021

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Appendix: RSNO proposal and budget for recording and filming musical piece.

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: None.