

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Strategic Lead - Regulatory****Meeting of the Cultural Committee: 27 January 2020**

Subject: Town Twinning Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To provide the Committee with an update on progress being made in relation to the friendship agreement with Letterkenny and other related matters.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Committee is asked to:

- (a) agree a date for the visit to Letterkenny to discuss the development of the Friendship Agreement; and
- (b) note the contents of the report.

3. Background

- 3.1** At its meeting on 23 September 2019, the Cultural Committee noted that a communication had been received from the Mayor of Letterkenny inviting Members of the Committee to meet with him in Letterkenny to discuss the development of the Friendship Agreement. The following dates have now been proposed: 30/31st January 2020, 6/7 February 2020, 12/13th March 2020, 19/20 March 2020 and 26/27 March 2020.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** The Manager of Democratic and Registration Services has been in communication with Donegal County Council to identify possible dates for the proposed visit to Letterkenny. A number of dates in 2020 have been proposed as stated in paragraph 3.1 above and as soon as a date is confirmed, arrangements will be made for Members of the Committee and the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services to travel to Letterkenny.
- 4.2** As reported to the Committee in November, Bailie Agnew and the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services met with Mr John Webster, Head of Scotland Office, Ireland on 20 December to discuss the friendship agreement with Letterkenny. The meeting was very positive and concluded by Mr Webster offering free use of his offices in Dublin to enable West Dunbartonshire to promote its businesses in Ireland. Accordingly, details of Mr Webster's offer have been passed to the Strategic Lead – Regeneration to consider.

- 4.3** As a result of communications between the Polish Consul General in Scotland and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra RSNO, the Convener and the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services met with the Chief Executive of the RSNO on 19 December 2019 to discuss a possible concert to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz to be held in Clydebank in March 2021. The meeting was very positive and it was agreed that the RSNO would carry out a site visit of possible venues in Clydebank early in the New Year.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no staff implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** There are no further financial implications arising from the recommendations of the report as all costs associated with the visit to Letterkenny have been reported and approved by the Committee in November 2019.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** There are no significant 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 development of town twinning activity could have some real educational and cultural benefits for those citizens who participate in such events and the promotion of West Dunbartonshire through these twinning or friendship links could potentially generate some economic benefit to area through increased tourism.

Name: Peter Hissett
Designation Strategic Lead - Regulatory
Date: 9 January 2020

Person to Contact: George Hawthorn, Manager of Democratic and Registration Services, Municipal Buildings, College Street, Dumbarton. Telephone 01389 737204 or email: george.hawthorn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendices: None.

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: None.