

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration

Meeting of the Cultural Committee: 23 August 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 is still scheduled to take place this financial year at a cost £500 from the Cultural Fund;
- (b) to authorise the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services, in consultation with the Convener, to arrange a meeting with the Mayor of Gdynia to progress the friendship link and agree the way forward; and
- (c) to note the progress being made in respect of the arrangements to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Cultural Committee met on 17 May 2021 to consider a number of actions to progress town twinning/friendship developments and the remaining plans to commemorate the Clydebank Blitz. This report provides an update on all of the issues raised at that meeting and of any new developments.

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. It is now proposed, subject to the Provost's agreement, that a Civic Reception be held in Clydebank Town Hall in March 2022 to present these medals to the various organisations previously identified.

Creative Scotland

- 4.2 At its meeting in March 2021, the Committee noted that a request for funding towards the Blitz commemorations had been submitted to Creative Scotland. Creative Scotland has now confirmed that the Council has been awarded up

to £10,000 from National Lottery Funding towards the cost to support creative activity in West Dunbartonshire as part of the commemorations of the 80th anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz.

Royal National Scottish Orchestra (RSNO)

- 4.3** Since the last meeting of the Committee, the Convener and Manager of Democratic and Registration Services has met with the Chief Executive of the RSNO to finalise arrangements for the proposed concerts, etc. Discussion has now taken place on the proposed concert to be held in the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow later this year and the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services is now waiting for the RSNO to provide him with details of the final proposal and associated costs. The Committee will receive a verbal update on the proposals should further information be received in advance of its meeting. The RSNO has also been asked to provide a cost for the production of CDs of the music which was co-commissioned to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz.
- 4.4** It is still the intention to hold short commemorative services involving the RSNO in three Clydebank churches and in the Clydebank Town Hall In March 2022, the details of which have still to be agreed with the RSNO.

Tom McKendrick

- 4.5** As previously agreed, arrangements are now being made for the Council to purchase 250 copies of Tom McKendrick's book on the Clydebank Blitz at a total of £2,500.

Town Twinning/Friendship Agreements

- 4.6** The Committee is asked to note that it is still the intention for the planned trip to Letterkenny to take place this financial year and that the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services will keep in contact with officials from Letterkenny to identify a suitable date for the visit.
- 4.7** The Committee is asked to note that a letter has been received from the Mayor of Gdynia on the issue of the proposed friendship request. The Mayor has responded as follows:

“We are keen to work with the city of Clydebank and the West Dunbartonshire particularly in the areas of culture, education and preservation of historic heritage with a priority to implement specific initiatives and projects, which to us is far more valuable than signed agreements. In these uncertain times of the ongoing pandemic, the most viable option seems to be holding an online meeting of representatives of departments managing projects in those areas, during which the details of our cooperation could be discussed.”

4.8 Accordingly, the Committee is asked to authorise the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services, in consultation with the Convener, to arrange a meeting with the Mayor and officials from Gdynia to progress matters and agree a way forward.

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 May 2021, the Committee noted that there was approximately £24,500 of expenditure to be incurred in relation to the commemorations (includes all committed expenditure to date) leaving the sum of £11,426 to be funded from the 2021/22 Cultural fund. However, now that Creative Scotland has confirmed the offer of £10,000 funding towards these costs, this will leave the sum of £1,426 to be funded from the 2021/22 Cultural Fund.

6.2 If the proposed trip to Letterkenny goes ahead this financial year, the estimated cost will be approximately £500 to be funded from the Cultural Fund.

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: 9 August 2021

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: Equalities impact Assessment - Screening on Friendship with Gdynia dated 9 August 2021.

Wards Affected: None.