

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration

Meeting of the Cultural Committee: 17 May 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 agree that a commemorative medal be presented to the British Red Cross in recognition of the support it provided to the people of Clydebank during and after the Clydebank Blitz;
- (b) to note that Creative Scotland had not yet responded to the request for funding for the commemoration of the Clydebank Blitz;
- (c) to note that that a meeting would be arranged with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Convener and the Manager of Democratic Services and Registration Services to finalise arrangements for the proposed live concerts, etc.;
- (d) to note that the planned trip to meet of the Mayor of Letterkenny to discuss the friendship agreement was still scheduled to take place this financial year; and
- (e) to note that a report providing an update on all the above matters would be submitted to next meeting of the Committee.

Background

- 3.1** The Cultural Committee met on 29 March 2021 to consider the recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group on the Clydebank Blitz on 5 March 2021 and agreed a number of actions to progress matters. This report provides a further update on town twinning/friendship developments and the remaining plans to commemorate the Clydebank Blitz.

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 that a medal be presented to the British Red Cross who also provided support during the blitz.

- 4.2 The silversmith has confirmed that the additional medal can be provided within the original budget of £10,000 as previously agreed by the Committee and therefore no additional funds are required.

Creative Scotland

- 4.3 At its meeting in March 2021, the Committee noted that a request for funding towards the Blitz commemorations had been submitted to Creative Scotland. To date, no response has been received and the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services will continue to pursue the matter with Creative Scotland and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

Royal National Scottish Orchestra (RSNO)

- 4.4 Since the last meeting of the Committee, the Convener has had discussions with the Chief Executive of the RSNO to take matters forward and it is now proposed that the Convener and Manager of Democratic and Registration Services meet with the RSNO to finalise arrangements for the proposed live concerts, etc., and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

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 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 as soon as it deemed safe to do so.
- 4.6 The Committee is asked to note that the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services has been in regular contact with the Polish Consulate in Edinburgh who are still very keen to facilitate a friendship partnership between the City of Gdynia and West Dunbartonshire. The Manager of Democratic services will provide a verbal update at the meeting should there be any further developments in this regard.

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, 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** Invoices for the commissioning, recording and filming of the RSNO performance of the commemorative music 'Clydebank 41' and the commemorative plaque at Solidarity Plaza were received in 2020/21 in the sum of £18,397 and £11,725 respectively; both were slightly lower than the budgeted expenditure approved by the Committee. In addition, the sum of £3,200 was paid in respect of the purchase of silver for the commemorative medals and £1,047 toward the cost of commemorative booklets.
- 6.3** It is estimated that there is still 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, if the Committee is so minded. However, as previously stated a response has still not been received in respect of the request for funding from Creative Scotland, which if successful might help to offset part or all of this balance.

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: 11 May 2021

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: None.