

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

### Report by Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration

Meeting of the Cultural Committee: 28 March 2022

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**Subject: Town Twinning and 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Clydebank Blitz - Update**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** To provide the Committee with an update on Town Twinning and the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1** The Committee is asked to note the updated position in relation to town twinning and the events which took place to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz, as outlined within the report.

#### **Background**

- 3.1** Since the last meeting of the Committee, a number of events have taken place to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz. This report provides the Committee with an update on those events and in relation to town twinning.

#### **4. Main Issues**

- 4.1** At its last meeting, the Committee noted that the Mayor of Letterkenny had requested that the proposed visit to Letterkenny in February be postponed and be rescheduled to take place in March/April once Covid -19 restrictions have been relaxed in Ireland. To date, no arrangements have been made for the visit to take place and it is possible that the proposed visit may now take place after the local elections in May 2022.
- 4.2** With regard to the proposed friendship agreement with Gdynia, the Committee noted that the Consul General for Poland had prepared a draft programme of co-operation for Gdynia and West Dunbartonshire to consider as a basis for the friendship agreement between both authorities. A copy of the draft agreement was circulated to all Members of the Committee after its last meeting and has been passed to the relevant Council services for comment. It is anticipated that further discussions with Gdynia to progress the relationship will take place after the Council elections in May, subject to the agreement of the newly elected Council.

- 4.3** The plaque to commemorate the lives lost as a result of the enemy bombing of Dumbarton during World War II was unveiled by Depute Provost Karen Conaghan in the grounds of the Municipal Buildings on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- 4.4** The Tom McKendrick exhibition on the Clydebank Blitz was opened in the Clydebank Town Hall on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 as planned and copies of Mr McKendrick's book on the Clydebank Blitz have now been received and will be distributed to all secondary schools and main libraries in due course.
- 4.5** As agreed by the Committee at its last meeting, the medals which were commissioned to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Clydebank Blitz have been hand delivered to senior representatives of Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, The Royal College of Nursing, The Royal College of Physicians, The British Red Cross and the Scottish Ambulance Service along with a letter from Provost Hendrie. The remaining medal was delivered by courier to the Royal Voluntary Service.
- 4.6** Work is underway to complete the commemorative photograph album containing images taken at the commemorative concert in November 2021 and other events held this year to commemorate the Clydebank Blitz. It is hoped that the album will be completed by 31 March 2022 and will be made available for the public to see in the Room of Remembrance.

## **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** It is estimated that approximately £2,260 of expenditure has still to be incurred/paid in relation to the blitz commemorations and town twinning commitments (production of photo album, the Dumbarton Memorial and if feasible, the Letterkenny trip) which will mean that the balance of unallocated funds for 2021/22 is now estimated to be approximately £22,755. This includes the final instalment of grant from Creative Scotland in the sum of £2500 which has still to be paid to the Council. This sum has now been requested to be paid in full.

## **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 has been an important element of the Clydebank Blitz commemorations which fits well with the Council's strategy on community involvement and engagement.

**Name:** Peter Hessett  
**Designation** Chief Officer - Regulatory and Regeneration  
**Date:** 14 March 2022

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**Appendices:** None

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** None.