

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Strategic Lead - Regulatory

Meeting of the Cultural Committee: 25 February 2019

Subject: Town Twinning Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To provide the Committee with an update on progress being made in relation to developing international links with potential partners.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The Committee is asked to:

- (a) approve the arrangements in respect of the ceremony to reveal the commemorative plaque for the ORP Piorun, as detailed in paragraph 4.1 below;
- (b) note that the Convener and the Manager of Democratic and Registration Services will finalise arrangements with representatives from Donegal County Council for an signing ceremony to be held in the Clydebank Town Hall at a date convenient to both parties; and
- (c) note that a formal response is awaited from the President of Gdynia.

3. Background

- 3.1** A site visit to the Titan Crane site took place on 17 January 2019 and a suitable temporary location for the plaque to commemorate the ORP Piorun was identified.
- 3.2** Following the special meeting of the Committee on 17 January 2019, contact was made with the President of Gdynia and Donegal County Council to progress the proposed friendship agreements.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** Following discussion with Bailie Agnew, Convener of the Cultural Committee and Provost Hendrie, it is proposed that the ceremony to unveil the plaque to commemorate the Polish warship ORP Piorun should be held on Saturday 9th March 2019 after the Clydebank Blitz Memorial Service in Dalnottar which commences at 11 am. There will be a short service at the memorial at Solidarity Plaza before guests will be transported to the Titan Crane site by bus and then returned to the Town Hall where the Provost has agreed to provide a small civic reception. The cost of the plaque and transport will be

approximately £2500 and will be funded from the cultural budget as previously reported.

- 4.2** Officials from Donegal County Council have confirmed that they are happy with the proposed wording of the draft Friendship Charter and are willing to sign the agreement at a Civic Reception held in Clydebank Town Hall as previously proposed. Unfortunately the Mayor and Depute Mayor of Donegal County Council are not able to attend on Saturday 2nd March (the original date proposed) and so officers, in consultation with the Convener and the Provost, will identify other dates when both parties are available and proceed to make arrangements for the event.
- 4.3** A formal letter has been sent to the President of Gdynia with letter of support for the Polish Consul General and a response is awaited.

5. People Implications

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

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** Costs of the proposed ceremony and reception to unveil the ORP Piorun Plaque will be met from the Provost's civic hospitality budget as previously reported. The cost of commissioning, installation, relocation of the plaque and the provision of transport will be approximately £2500 to be met from the Cultural budget.
- 6.2** Members will recall that a sum of up to £2000 was previously approved by the Committee from the Cultural budget for an event to celebrate the Council's European connections but it was subsequently agreed that the focus of the event should change to developing its new friendship agreements with Letterkenny and Gdynia. Therefore any costs associated with the arrangements for the signing ceremony, including accommodation, will be met from this sum.

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.

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Date: 20 February 2019

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Appendices: None.

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: None.