

**REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HELENSBURGH – THOUARS  
TWINNING COMMITTEE**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Request for financial assistance from the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee Twinning Budget 2012/13 has been received from the Helensburgh Twinning Committee towards the costs of promoting the Helensburgh- Thouars Twining Association.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the request and agree to grant the sum of £833 from the Twinning Budget for 2012/13 towards the costs of this initiative.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Helensburgh – Thouars Twinning Association was set up in 1983 with Dumbarton District Council to link the town of Thouars, France with Helensburgh. The Twinning Agreement was re-signed with Argyll and Bute Council in 1999. Accordingly, the Association is due to celebrate 30 years of effective twinning between the towns in 2013 and the Committee is keen to make sure the visit is a special, memorable event.
- 3.2 The Argyll and Bute Council budget available for 2012/13 is £833 to financially support twinning initiatives.

**4. DETAILS**

4.1 Over the last 29 years the twinning between Helensburgh and Thouars has proven to be successful with visits between the two towns, which has assisted French and Scottish young people with work experience in another country and is of great benefit to those who are learning languages.

- 4.2 In recognition of the anniversary event, the Association wishes to promote the twinning links locally, with a specific emphasis on increasing the number of young people and young families who participate in the twinning links.

- 4.3 Particular initiatives being undertaken this year in preparation for the anniversary visit include development of the Association's website, production of a promotional brochure, purchase of banners, and the purchase of a small marquee to facilitate promotional activities even when the weather is inclement. It is assistance towards the cost of these promotional activities which is being sought by the Committee in this request.

## 5. IMPLICATIONS

<b>Policy:</b>	Consistent with Council's policy to support twinning links between Helensburgh and Thouars
<b>Financial:</b>	Utilising the Twinning Budget 2012/13
<b>Personnel:</b>	None
<b>Equal Opportunities:</b>	None

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