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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**Helensburgh and Lomond Area  
Committee**

**Customer Services**

**13 December 2016**

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**REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HELENSBURGH AND DISTRICT  
TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides information on a request from the Helensburgh and District Twinning Association for financial assistance which would help with the visit from a delegation from Thouars in July 2017 and asks Members of the Area Committee to agree to utilise the Twinning Budget for 2016/17.

**REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HELENSBURGH AND DISTRICT  
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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 A request for financial assistance from the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee Twinning Budget 2016/17 has been received from the Helensburgh and District Twinning Association which will assist with the costs of a visit from a delegation from Thouars scheduled to take place in July 2017.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members are asked to agree to grant the sum of £833 from the Twinning Budget for 2016/17 towards the costs of the visit.

**4.0 DETAIL**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The Argyll and Bute Council budget available for the Helensburgh and Lomond area for 2016/17 is £833 to financially support twinning initiatives.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.

- 4.5 A delegation from Thouars will be visiting Helensburgh in July 2017. A group of approximately 50 will visit Helensburgh from 13-20 July 2017. The Twinning Committee hope to be able to fund trips on the steam train from Helensburgh Upper to Oban and also a trip on the Waverly. A letter outlining the request and further detail of the proposed visit is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Twinning Association wishes to continue to promote links with Thouars and this would be assisted by the awarding of the grant to help with the costs of the visit in July 2017.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy - Consistent with the Council's policy of supporting twinning links between Helensburgh and Thouars.
- 6.2 Financial – utilises the Twinning Budget for Helensburgh and Lomond for 2016/17.
- 6.3 Legal - None
- 6.4 HR - None
- 6.5 Equalities - None
- 6.6 Risk - None
- 6.7 Customer Service - None

### **Executive Director of Customer Services**

**Policy Lead** - Councillor Robin Currie

18 November 2016

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**Appendix 1** – letter from Helensburgh and District Twinning Association