
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**Helensburgh and Lomond Area
Committee**

Customer Services

21 June 2018

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

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 a visit to Thouars in 2019 and asks Members of the Area Committee to agree to utilise the Twinning Budget for 2018/19.

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

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A request for financial assistance from the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee Twinning Budget 2018/19 has been received from the Helensburgh and District Twinning Association which will assist with the costs of a visit to Thouars scheduled to take place in 2019.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to agree to grant the sum of £833 from the Twinning Budget for 2018/19 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 2018/19 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 After a very successful visit in July 2017 bringing cultural and economic

benefit to Helensburgh, the Association are now focussed on the trip to France in 2019 (Planned and booked in this Financial Year). The Association propose to use the funds to put towards the ever increasing transport costs when they are in France (£1169.93 in 2015). Specifically, they plan to make it that the children/young people will have free travel when they go to France making the Association appeal more to local families and a younger dynamic. 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 2019.

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 2018/19.
- 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

1 May 2018

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Appendix 1 – letter from Helensburgh and District Twinning Association