
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**Helensburgh and Lomond Area
Committee**

Legal and Regulatory Support

17 June 2021

**REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM 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 Helensburgh by residents from Thouars in 2022 and asks Members of the Area Committee to agree to utilise the Twinning Budget for 2021/22.

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

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A request for financial assistance from the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee Twinning Budget 2021/22 has been received from the Helensburgh and District Twinning Association which will assist with the costs of a visit from residents of Thouars to Helensburgh scheduled to take place in 2022.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to agree to grant the sum of £833 from the Twinning Budget for 2021/22 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 2021/22 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 promotes the twinning links locally, with an increasing number of young people and young families participating in the twinning links.
- 4.5 The global impact of Covid-19 has affected the level of fundraising

activity which can be carried out in advance of the visit in 2022.

- 4.6 After a very successful visit to Thouars in July 2019, the Association are now focussed on the trip from residents of Thouars to Helensburgh in 2022 which had originally been scheduled to take place in 2021 but was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Association propose to use the funds to cover some of the costs of excursions for those who are participating in the trip. The Association also hope to plan a trip to Thouars in 2023 to celebrate the Twinning Association's 40th anniversary. A letter outlining the request and further details of the requirement for funding 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 visits planned for 2022 and 2023.

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 2021/22.
- 6.3 Legal - None
- 6.4 HR - None
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:
- 6.5.1 Equalities – protected characteristics - None
- 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - None
- 6.5.3 Islands - None
- 6.6 Risk - None
- 6.7 Customer Service - None

Executive Director with Responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support –
Douglas Hendry

Policy Lead – Councillor Mary-Jean Devon

27 April 2021

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Appendix 1 – Letter from Helensburgh and District Twinning Association