
POTENTIAL TWINNING VISIT BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM KORCULA.

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report gives Members updated information regarding the potential twinning visit of officials from Korcula to Bute and Cowal in August 2010.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the information provided in relation to ongoing consideration of the possibility of a return twinning visit by officials from Korcula to Bute and Cowal in August 2010.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 Members will recall that in May 2009 a visit was made to Korcula, Croatia for the purpose of re-invigorating the twinning link between Korcula and the Bute and Cowal area which was put in place by Sir Fitzroy MacLean. At the conclusion of that visit it was agreed that a return visit by the Croatians to Bute and Cowal would take place, potentially during 2010.
- 3.2 The Area Chair has subsequently suggested that the return visit should take place during August, at the time of the Cowal Highland Gathering, in order to provide a high spectacle visit and experience for the Croatian visitors.
- 3.3 Provisional information regarding potential itineraries etc was provided at the November Business Meeting, at which time Members asked for detailed costings associated with the potential visit to be provided.
- 3.4 It is anticipated that the travel costs for the Croatians between Korcula and Glasgow airport will be borne by themselves.

3.5 Other costs associated with the visit, which will require to be met by the Council, can be summarised as follows:

- i) Provision of a car and driver to transport the visitors around the area. It is hoped that use could be made of the Council car, driven by a Council Officer, for the 5 day duration of the visit. Agreement for this will require to be sought in the first instance from the Provost, who has always shown willingness for this vehicle to be used on corporate occasions when possible, but it must be borne in mind that the Provost may have need of the vehicle himself during the time of the visit. If the vehicle is able to be used there will be a cost associated with this use in terms of overtime payments to be made to the driver, which is likely to amount to an absolute maximum of **£300**.
- ii) Hotel accommodation for three guests from Croatia for 4 nights in the Creggans Inn, Strachur. Included in the estimate for this is the cost of provision of a late night supper on the night of arrival (26th August), leading to an estimated total cost of **£1150** (12 nights at £75, plus £250 allowance for evening meals for 5 persons).
- iii) Lunch costs for lunch to be provided on visits to Bute (Friday 27th August) and Mid Argyll areas (Sunday 29th August) and at Cowal Highland Gathering (Saturday 28th) for three visitors plus three representatives from Argyll and Bute - **£450** (18 meals @ £25).
- iv) Cost of reception dinner to be hosted at Chatters Restaurant, Dunoon, on the evening of Sunday 29th August for a maximum of 15 people including community representatives - **£750**
- v) Cost of Gifts for Croatians- total **£250**

3.6 Total costs of visit- **£2,900**

3.7 It is understood that early discussions in regard to the potential for funding for the visit to be made available from the Provost's fund have taken place and been generally positive.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Members are asked to consider the cost implications of the proposed visit and the potential for these to be met through use of the Provosts Fund.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None
Financial: Costs to be covered are detailed above.
Personnel: None
Equal Opportunities: None

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