

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

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 hosting the 30th Anniversary visit to Helensburgh in July 2013.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the request and agree to grant the sum of £833 from the Twinning Budget for 2013/14 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 2013/14 is £833 to financially support twinning initiatives.

4. DETAILS

4.1 Over the last 30 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 for the anniversary visit include visits to Cruachan, Inveraray, Loch Lomond, Stirling, Bo'ness and Edinburgh, and a visit to the Rosneath Highland Games. The climax of the visit will be an official dinner in the Victoria Halls, followed by a street party the day after. It is assistance towards the cost of these activities which is being sought by the Committee in this request.

5. IMPLICATIONS

Policy:	Consistent with Council's policy to support twinning links between Helensburgh and Thouars
Financial:	Utilising the Twinning Budget 2013/14
Personnel:	None
Equal Opportunities:	None

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