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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**Helensburgh and Lomond Area  
Committee**

**Customer Services**

**9 June 2015**

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

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides information on a request from the Helensburgh Twinning Committee for assistance towards the costs of a visit to Thouars in July 2015 and asks Members of the Area Committee to agree to utilise the Twinning Budget for 2015/16.

**REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HELENSBURGH – THOUARS  
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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 A request for financial assistance from the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee Twinning Budget 2015/16 has been received from the Helensburgh Twinning Committee towards the costs of a visit to Thouars in July 2015.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the request and agree to grant the sum of £833 from the Twinning Budget for 2015/16 towards the costs of this initiative.

**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 2015/16 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 The Twinning Association has organised a visit to Thouars which will take place from 12 to 19 July 2015, and will involve 39 adults and 12 children. They are seeking a grant to cover the costs of coach travel and possibly for the purchase of gifts to take on the trip.

## **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 2015.

## **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 2015/16.
- 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 May 2015

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