
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**Helensburgh and Lomond Area
Committee**

Legal and Regulatory Support

11 June 2024

**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 to help assist with the costs of hosting visitors from Thouars in 2025 and asks Members of the Area Committee to agree to utilise the Twinning Budget for 2024/25.

**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 2024/25 has been received from the Helensburgh and District Twinning Association which will assist with the costs of hosting visitors from Thouars in 2025.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to agree to grant the sum of £625 from the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Twinning Budget for 2024/25 to Helensburgh and District Twinning Association.

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 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.
- 4.3 The Association promotes the twinning links locally, with an increasing number of young people and young families participating in the twinning links.
- 4.4 A proposed visit to Helensburgh in 2022 was cancelled due to the Covid Pandemic and it has been agreed that the next visit to Helensburgh by a Thouars delegation will be held in 2025.
- 4.5 The Argyll and Bute Council budget available to financially support twinning initiatives across all 4 areas for 2024/25 is £2,500.

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 2025.

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 2024/25.
- 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 Climate Change – None
- 6.7 Risk – None
- 6.8 Customer Service – None
- 6.9 The Rights of the Child (UNCRC) – None

Douglas Hendry

Executive Director with Responsibility for Legal and Regulatory Support

Councillor Mark Irvine, Policy Lead for Community Planning and Corporate Services

May 2024

For further information contact: Stuart McLean, Committee Manager

Telephone 01436 658717– stuart.mclean@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Letter from Helensburgh and District Twinning Association