



Coventry City Council

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Public report

## **REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR**

**REPORT TO:** Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2005

**REPORT OF:** Councillor John Gazey, Lord Mayor

**TITLE:** Official Opening Celebrations of Cork 2005  
European Capital of Culture

**DATE:** 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2005

**VENUE:** Cork, Ireland

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### **1. Recommendation**

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is asked to note this report.

### **2. Background**

- The Lord Mayor of Coventry received a civic invitation from the Lord Mayor of Cork to attend the Cork– European Capital of Culture 2005 Opening Ceremony Celebrations.
- Cork and Coventry have been officially twinned since 1960. The reason for twinning with Cork was obvious, as so many Cork people had moved to Coventry to find work. Given such a strong local base with immediate connections to Cork, it was felt that the twinning idea would be readily acceptable.
- The link has developed over the years and each year the Lord Mayor of Cork is invited to visit Coventry and attend the Coventry Cork Association Annual Dinner.
- Each year Coventry receives many visitors from Cork. Recent co-operation between Coventry and Cork has included collaboration in the URBAN (EU programme) Trans-national Partnership which received both national and European recognition.
- In 2002 then Leader, Cllr Nolan, led a short study visit to Cork with representatives from a number of Coventry Credit Unions. The group met with representatives of a number of Cork Credit Unions and teaching staff from University College Cork, which offers course in co-operative studies and credit union development.

### 3. Cost of attending

Total Cost of return flights from Coventry to Cork for Lord Mayor and Civic Business Manager **\*£66.86**

\*Lord Mayor's flight funded from Hospitality Budget and Civic Business Manager's from Legal and Democratic Services budget.

Accommodation and transport costs hosted by the City of Cork.

### 4. Benefits

The Lord Mayor's attendance at the 2005 European Capital of Culture opening celebrations in Cork, strengthened and promoted the twinning links between the cities of Coventry and Cork.

#### List of background papers

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(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors: None

Papers open to public inspection

<b>Description of paper:</b>	<b>Location</b>
Civic Visit to Cork 2005	CH36, Lord Mayor's Office