



Coventry City Council

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Public report

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

**REPORT TO:** Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee      **Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2005  
**REPORT OF:** Lord Mayor  
Councillor Ram Lakha  
**TITLE:** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Europe Prize  
**DATE:** 30<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2005  
**VENUE:** Santiago de Compostela ~ Spain

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### **1. Recommendation**

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Coordination Committee is recommended to note the report on the Lord Mayor's civic visit to Santiago de Compostela and the outcomes of the visit.

### **2. Background**

Created by the Council of Europe in 1955, the Europe Prize is the highest distinction awarded to local authorities for their activities for European co-operation and solidarity.

The decision to award the Europe Prize is made by the Committee of Environment, Regional Planning and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly.

The event held in Santiago de Compostela was to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Europe Prize, together with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Santiago de Compostela receiving their Prize in 1985.

All 56 European local governments were invited to be represented – but particularly Coventry as the first city awarded the Prize in 1955.

The purpose of the visit was to raise the profile and represent the City Council and the City of Coventry at a European level.

### **3. Cost of attending**

Both the Lord Mayor and the Civic Business Manager attended the event, with all costs being funded by the Lord Mayor's Hospitality budget.

	£
Return Airfare	358.20
Hotel Accommodation	257.97
Travel Insurance	32.68
Refreshments, taxi fares etc.	51.93*
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>£706.28</b>

\* Based on the exchange rate of €1.48 to £1. There may be variations of a few pence when exchange back to sterling occurs.

#### 4. Benefits

4.1 To represent Coventry, as the first ever recipient of the Prize, at the ceremony to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Europe Prize.

4.2 Putting Coventry's ideas forward during the debate on how the Council of Europe should continue in the future.

4.2 On behalf of the city to receive the Commemorative Trophy and Book to the winning towns presented by (reading from left to right):

- Mr Walter Schmied, Chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly
- Mr Yavuz Mildon, Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- Mr Xose Sanchez Bugallo, Mayor of Santiago de Compostela
- Mr Claudio Azzolini, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly



4.3 To discuss Coventry's International Strategy: how Coventry has worked with international parties in the past and how we intend to in the future.

4.3 To be receptive to the techniques employed by the other participants, which may be of benefit to Coventry.

List of background papers:

Proper Officer: Chris Hinde, Director of Legal & Democratic Services

Author: Mrs Jane Barlow, Civic Business Manager

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(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors: Nil

Papers open to public inspection

**Description of paper:** Civic Visit to Santiago de Compostela File

**Location** CH36, Council House