



Coventry City Council

# 4.1

## Public report

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

**REPORT TO:** Scrutiny Coordination Committee

27<sup>th</sup> June, 2007

**REPORT OF:** Lord Mayor, Cllr Shabbir Ahmed

**TITLE:** Civic Visit to Kiel, Germany on 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Twinning Links

**DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2007

**VENUE:** Kiel, Germany

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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 Kiel and the outcomes of the visit.

#### **2 Background**

- 2.1 2007 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the friendship links between Coventry and the City of Kiel.
- 2.2 The purpose of the visit was for the Lord Mayor, Councillor Shabbir Ahmed, to attend and take part in a programme of commemorative events hosted by Kiel City Council to mark this historic occasion.
- 2.3 The Lord Mayor's attendance provided an opportunity to raise the profile and represent the City Council and Coventry at a European level.
- 2.4 As part of ongoing exchanges between the Criterion Theatre and the Kommödianten Theatre in Kiel, two performers, a Director and a member of the Criterion Theatre Board were invited by the City of Kiel to perform at the commemorative events. To assist the Theatre's participation, the City Council agreed to fund the delegates' airfares only.
- 2.5 Similarly, there were five members of the Coventry Association for International Friendship also in Kiel at the same time, at their own expense.
- 2.6 Jane Barlow, Civic Business Manager (CBM), who now has responsibility for international twinning as part of the Council's recent restructuring proposals, accompanied the Lord Mayor on the visit.

### 3 Cost of attending

3.1 The costs for attending were as follows:

Flights Birmingham to Kiel for LM and CBM:	£286.18
Flights for Criterion Theatre representatives:	£650.32
City Council's Travel Insurance:	£32.68
Refreshments:	£22.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 991.23</b>

3.2 All costs were covered by the Lord Mayor's Hospitality Budget. The costs of accommodation and meals were covered by the City of Kiel.

### 4 Benefits

- 4.1 To represent Coventry over a two-day programme of commemorative events to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the visit receiving extensive press coverage from Kiel's local media.
- 4.2 One significant event was that the Lord Mayor was invited to address a Special Meeting of Kiel City Council to mark the occasion, the first time anyone from Coventry has been invited to do so. Following the speech, the Lord Mayor received a standing ovation from the Elected Members of Kiel.
- 4.3 In order to promote Coventry's multi-cultural image and inter-faith relations, at Kiel's Nicolai Church (the Cathedral's first Community of Cross of Nails centre outside of Coventry) the Lord Mayor took part in a Christian/Muslim Peace Prayer to promote peace and reconciliation worldwide.
- 4.4 As a positive and lasting message for local people and visitors to Kiel of the relationship between the two cities, the Lord Mayor launched/named a public transport 'bendi' bus the 'City of Coventry' that will promote our city long term.
- 4.5 During the visit a meeting took place with officers from the Business Development Corporation in Kiel who are in the process of developing a bio-technical science park and are looking to attract European partners into their project. Their request has been forwarded to City Development to explore the possibilities further.
- 4.6 The visit provided Jane Barlow with the opportunity to discuss the possibility of a delegation from Kiel visiting Coventry in July 2007 for the Godiva Festival, as part of our celebrations of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- 4.7 Similarly, discussion took place on the potential Lord Mayor Elect's visit to Kiel for the annual Kieler Woche in June 2007.



The Lord Mayor addressing the Kieler Ratsversammlung (Kiel City Council)



The Lord Mayor and Stadtpräsident, Mr Rainer Tschorn, launching the 'Coventry' Bus

List of background papers

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Cllr Shabbir Ahmed, Lord Mayor

Papers open to public inspection

<b>Description of paper:</b>	<b>Location</b>
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