

REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Coordination Committee

REPORT OF: Lord Mayor, Cllr Dave Batten

TITLE: Civic Visit to Kiel, Germany on 125th Kielewoche celebrations

DATE: 15th - 18th June 2007

VENUE: Kiel, Germany

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 associated Kielewoche celebrations and the outcomes of the visit.

2 Background

- 2.1 2007 marks the 60th 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 Dave Batten, to attend and take part in a programme of opening events hosted by Kiel City Council to mark the formal opening of the Kielwoche.
- 2.3 The Coventry delegation was invited to attend the International City Forum and the opening of Kiel Week because Kiel is a twin city of Coventry. This is an annual invitation.
- 2.4 The visit and participation in the forum allows for exchange of information and best practise in the fields of culture and business, with practitioners from approximately 13 European cities and other institutions. The conference is a learning opportunity in the field of culture and business and this year had a focus on attracting external funding.
- 2.5 The visit to Kiel also formed part of an itinerary of events throughout the year to commemorate 2007's sixtieth anniversary of the twinning links between Coventry & Kiel.
- 2.6 The Lord Mayor's attendance provided an opportunity to raise the profile and represent the City Council and Coventry at a European and International level.
- 2.7 Kiele Woche or Kiel Week is the biggest summer festival in northern Europe and the largest sailing-sports event in the world. It takes place from 16th - 24th June. This year

there was a full nine-day programme with over 1000 events for more than 3.5 million visitors from all over the world. Now in its 122nd year, the sailing regatta continues to grow. Over 6000 competitors, from over 50 countries will participate in the sailing classes. The competitors are based at Schliksee, the Olympic sailing village.

- 2.8 The city centre also plays host to numerous events such as the International City Forum, Kiel Week opening ceremony and the International Market. The vibrant market is held in and around the main square, offers stalls, food and music from all over the world.
- 2.9 A very special event is the Kiele Woche opening ceremony which takes place in the Town Hall Square on Saturday. During the traditional Holstenbummel that follows, the whole city centre becomes a party zone, with lots of music, international food specialities, there is something for everyone.
- 2.10 Paula Deas, Regeneration Strategy & resources Manager, who now has responsibility for international strategy 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 PD:	£ 387.92
City Council's Travel Insurance:	£ 32.68
Refreshments/ expenses for 4 day trip	£ 141.84
Total	£ 562.44

- 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 The city and Kiel were able to reinforce the twinning links and noted that Kiel was the first city to respond to the Coventry Cross of Nails concept.
- 4.2 The trip provided an opportunity to maintain relations with Kiel and to continue to promote peace reconciliation in modern world.
- 4.3 There were a range of civic events at which the City Council were an important guest amongst Kiel's other twin cities. Coventry attended civic functions on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This resulted in the Lord Mayor meeting Rainer Tschorn, the president of Kiel, and Angelika Volquartz, the Mayor of Kiel to discuss the importance of the cultural and business links between Kiel and Coventry. In July 2007 Rainer Tschorn visited Coventry as part of the Godiva Festival celebrations.
- 4.4 Peter Schaede, who is the official interpreter for our delegation, hosted Coventry throughout the visit. He imparted extensive economic, cultural, business and local knowledge about Kiel which can be disseminated for use by officers and organisations undertaking future trips to Kiel.
- 4.5 In addition, Coventry were assigned Councillor Erika Diehr, a member of Kiel City Council. There were several beneficial discussions about the political and executive arrangements in Kiel and Coventry. Further introductions were made to Christian Diehr who works directly for the German Chancellors office, Angela Merkel, with a responsibility for

European relations. There was information exchange about European Policy with Christian who had had the opportunity to work in the UK Government Cabinet Office in 2005 through a German/UK civil servant exchange programme.

- 4.6 A key presentation at the International city forum by Folker Hellmund, deputy head of Hanse- office Brussels outlined his perspective of European Structural Policy after 2013. The key messages of this presentation have been analysed and will assist with the formulation of Coventry's European policy development.
- 4.7 The Kiel programme provided an opportunity for the Lord Mayor and Officer to learn from best practice in terms of event management and ideas for hospitality. The programme had extensive private sector investment. Specific ideas and concepts such as ideas for venues and project management have been forwarded to relevant officers.
- 4.8 Further links by work undertaken by other associations such as the Anglo-German Society. The Lord Mayor's office has been asked to facilitate invitations of Lady Godiva and Pru Poretta to further official Kiel/Coventry events organised by the Anglo German Society.

List of background papers	
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Papers open to public inspection	
Description of paper:	Location