

Coventry City Council

7a

Public report

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

**REPORT TO:** Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

8<sup>th</sup> December 2010

**REPORT OF:** Natalie Heidaripour

**TITLE:** International Conference: Remembrance as a commitment for peace, democracy and human rights.

**DATE:** 8-11 February 2008

**VENUE:** Dresden

### **1. Recommendation**

To note the benefits to the City Council of attending the above conference.

### **2. Background**

#### **Background**

A new gallery at The Herbert will explore Coventry's links to peace and reconciliation through the history of the city and its communities. This will include a focus on international links made during and after the Second World War which aimed to start a process of reconciliation and prevent future conflict. In order to develop this section of the gallery we have been working with relevant partners in some of Coventry's twin cities such as Dresden. Part of the gallery development includes an accompanying education programme and we hope to work with these international partners in this area.

As part of this development and through a previous visit to Dresden we have developed a link with the Dresden based education group, the '13<sup>th</sup> February 1945' Association. We hope to work with this group and other partners on an education project linked to the new Peace and Reconciliation Gallery, supported by the Education Service and the Citizenship Advisor. The project would be based around the key gallery themes of peace, reconciliation and remembrance. Schools have a duty to address community cohesion and they also deliver citizenship as a subject. Citizenship addresses issues relating to social justice, human rights and community cohesion. This project would include linking schools in Coventry with schools and survivors in cities around the world through video conferencing and other digital communications and media.

The '13<sup>th</sup> February 1945' Association was one of the organisers of the above conference entitled 'Remembrance as a commitment for peace, democracy and human rights'. Other organisers included Kulturbüro Sachsen e.V. which is an independent organisation working against right-wing extremism in Germany, the Jewish community in Dresden and the City of Dresden.

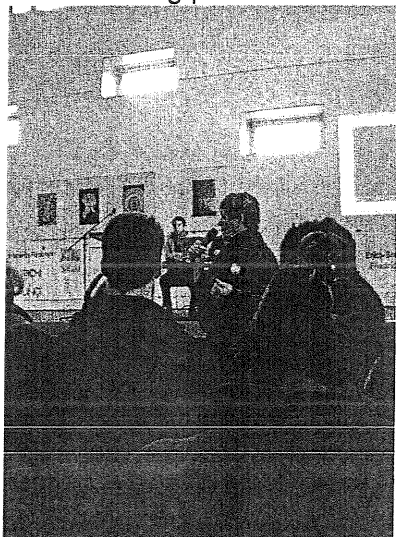
The conference follows on from a series of conferences in Dresden which aim to create a framework of remembrance around the bombing. This includes ways to counteract the use of remembrance of the bombing by far right groups. It focused on themes of remembrance, peace and human rights within an educational context, using the experience of Dresden as the starting point. Participants came from a range of countries across Europe and included most of Dresden's twin cities. Participants included teachers, academics, survivors and youth/education groups. The speakers were a mix of academics and educators working for memorial sites and NGOs.

### 3. Cost of attending

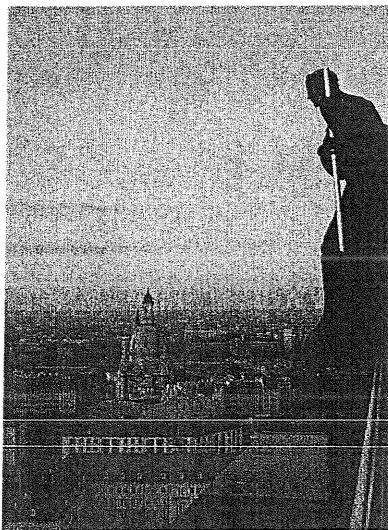
£230.90 for flight. All accommodation and expenses were paid for by the conference organisers.  
Note: This was funded by the West Midlands Museum Hub and was at no cost to the City Council

### 4. Benefits

- The opportunity to meet with a range of educationalists, academics and NGOs involved in education work around the themes of peace, reconciliation and remembrance.
- To further develop our link with partners in Dresden including the Association 13<sup>th</sup> February 1945 and the Stadtmuseum from whom we hope to borrow objects for the new gallery. Meeting face to face provided the opportunity to discuss joint working in more detail and on a practical level.
- Developing knowledge and new ideas about the ways peace and remembrance can be explored in an educational context with a focus on human rights and citizenship.
- Making contacts with potential international partners such as the European Reminiscence Network and the 'Association of March 11<sup>th</sup> Affected by Terrorism' who are exploring similar themes and who we may be able to work with in the future.
- To promote Coventry and the city's involvement in peace and reconciliation represented by the City Council, Coventry University and Coventry Cathedral. Coventry was mentioned by various speakers in relation to Dresden and how remembrance can be used. It was therefore extremely valuable to have representatives from Coventry to discuss this and present our own experience.
- To promote the 'Peace Partners' manual, a resource developed by Coventry education service and Coventry University.
- The opportunity to promote the new gallery in an international arena.
- An opportunity to learn from the ways different organisations in Dresden have come together to explore and debate these themes. This includes the city authority, historical groups, educational groups, religious groups, the Jewish community, teachers, survivors and young people. This is a useful example to explore in the context of Coventry and offers some interesting possibilities for future working.



Survivors of the bombing talking about their experiences



The reconstructed city.



Meeting with the '13<sup>th</sup> February 1945' Association.

List of background papers

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(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors: Balbir Sohal

Papers open to public inspection

Description of paper:	Location
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Approved by Cabinet on: Report:
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## Part 5.7- Protocol for Cabinet Approval of Best Value Service Improvement Action Plans


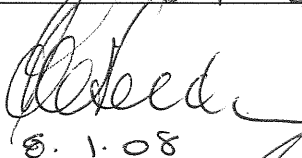
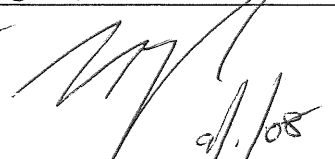
## CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

## AUTHORITY FOR ATTENDANCE

THIS FORM TO BE USED FOR COUNCILLORS (FOR ATTENDANCE BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE U.K.) AND FOR EMPLOYEES (OUTSIDE THE U.K. ONLY OR, IF ACCOMPANYING A COUNCILLOR, INSIDE THE UK)

1. Title of Conference	Remembrance as a commitment for peace, democracy and human rights
2. Organising Body	City of Dresden, cultural office Saxony and partners
3. Location	Dresden, Germany
4. Date(s)	8 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2008
5. Councillor(s) recommended to attend	N/A
6. Employee(s) recommended to attend	Natalie Heidaripour, Peace and Reconciliation Gallery Project Officer,
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost per person, including travel, etc (Note: If total cost is less than £100.00, formal Cabinet/Cabinet Member approval is not required)</li> </ul>	Accommodation and expenses are paid for. There is also the possibility that travel expenses (£230) will be reimbursed otherwise these will be a cost. However, this would be paid for from the Museum Hub budget for the Redisplay of the Herbert and therefore there will be no cost to the City Council. The member of staff attending is also externally funded by the Museum Hub.
8. Is participation at this event as part of a group	YES/NO— Balbir Sohal Advisory Teacher Citizenship, PSHE & Equalities is also attending this conference.
9. If so, how many people IN TOTAL will be attending the event as part of that group	Number 2
10. Is there anyone travelling with the Member, officer or group in relation to whom any of the costs of travel, accommodation or any other expense will be paid for by a Member or officer. If "YES" please state number.	NO
11. Source of Funding (FIS Code)	LR36122 341330 This is a Museum Hub budget and there is no cost to City Council.
12. What are the reasons for attendance and what benefits to the City Council are expected from attendance	This conference provides the opportunity to build on links made in Dresden through developing the new Peace and Reconciliation Gallery at The Herbert. This included a visit to Coventry in April 2007 of a group from Dresden focusing on educational work around the themes of peace, reconciliation and remembrance. It will provide the opportunity to share good

**Part 5.7- Protocol for Cabinet Approval of Best Value Service Improvement Action Plans**

	<p>practice in this area with a focus on Citizenship and Community Cohesion. The conference will facilitate important international partnerships which we hope will result in projects linked to the education programme for the new Peace and Reconciliation Gallery at The Herbert supported by the Education Service and the Citizenship Advisor. This could include video conferences linking schools in Coventry with schools and survivors in cities around the world.</p> <p>This conference will also provide the opportunity to promote the new Peace and Reconciliation Gallery at The Herbert, the Peace and Reconciliation garden at the War Memorial Park and the city of Coventry in general in an international arena.</p> <p>Completed By/Signed: N. Heidaripour Date: 4/1/08</p>
<p><b>13. Is this conference part of an overall project involving further visits in the future?</b></p>	<p><del>YES</del>/NO Although it provides the opportunity for possible future projects.</p>
<p><b>14. Recommendation of Cabinet Member/ Cabinet/Chair of any other City Council Committee</b></p> <p>(a) Are you satisfied that there is a genuine reason for attendance and genuine benefit for the Council?</p>	<p>YES/<del>NO</del></p> <p>YES/<del>NO</del></p>
<p>(b) Will Councillor attendance affect the decision-making processes of the Council?</p> <p>(c) Is attendance recommended?</p>	<p><del>YES</del>/NO</p> <p><del>YES</del>/NO</p> <p>Signed:  Date: 8.1.08</p>
<p><b>15. Cabinet Member's recommendation</b></p>	<p>YES/<del>NO</del></p> <p>Signed:  Date: 8.1.08</p>
<p><b>16. Leader's recommendation</b></p>	<p>YES/NO</p> <p>Signed:  Date: 4/1/08</p>
<p><b>17. Person responsible for booking conference following approval of attendance</b></p>	<p>Name: Natalie Heidaripour Department: The Herbert Telephone No: 024 7678 5320</p>

