



REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee
REPORT OF: Lord Mayor of the City of Coventry 2011/12
Councillor Keiran Mulhall
TITLE: Civic Visit to Dresden
DATE: 9th – 11th November 2011
VENUE: Dresden, Germany

Recommendation

1.1 The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to endorse the report of the Lord Mayor's civic visit to Dresden and the positive outcomes of the visit.

2. Background

- 2.1 I was invited to attend an Exhibition called "Under Attack-London, Coventry, Dresden" which the previous Lord Mayor, Brian Kelsey attended at the London Transport Museum in September 2010. I was invited by the Oberbürgermeisterin (Mayor) Ms Helma Orosz and her Deputy Mayor, Mr Dirk Hilbert to represent the City of Coventry at the opening of the exhibition.
- 2.2 The link between the two cities is based on civic links of the two administrations and relationships between the Frauenkirche (Dresden Cathedral) and Coventry Cathedral. 2009 saw the 50th anniversary of this relationship. The presence of a Civic Representative from our City would only enhance Coventry's image at the Exhibition as it will eventually be displayed in Coventry.
- 2.3 It was most regrettable that Mayor Helma Orosz, Mayor of Dresden had been taken ill and was in hospital. A number of her Deputies represented her at the official events during our visit.

3. Cost of attending

	Costs Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member	Total of Actual Costs
Conference Fees	Nil	Nil
Flights	£320	£392.38

Additional Travel Expenses	£35 Travel Insurance	£32.68 Travel Insurance
Accommodation	Nil	Nil
Subsistence	Unquantified	£184.09

(NOTE: IF TOTALS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY.)

4. Benefits

4.1 The itinerary for the visit was aimed at strengthening connections between the cities of Dresden and Coventry, with a range of meetings, visits and the Exhibition itself.

- **Wednesday 9th November 2011.**
Meeting with Deputy Mayor Dirk Hilbert on arrival in Dresden at a local restaurant called “Henricus” with an exchange of civic gifts.
- **Thursday 10th November 2011.**
At 9am Dresden’s International Officer, Karin Mitzscherlich transferred myself and the Lord Mayor’s Support Officer, Kip Bhandal to the Bundeswehr Military History Museum. We were given a tour of this brand new Museum by Captain Dr Matthias Rogg who is the Director of the Museum.



Bundeswehr Military History Museum

- After the tour we were transferred to Theaterplatz which is the historical city centre with Karin. Upon arriving at Dresden Transport Museum later we received a VIP tour of the Museum by Joachim Breuninger, Director of the Museum prior to the opening ceremony. At 7pm the “Under Attack” exhibition was formally opened by Deputy Mayor for Culture, Ralf Lunau. After the opening speech Sam Mullins the Director of The London Transport Museum gave a brief description of the exhibition. This is when I delivered my speech



explaining how Coventry was also devastated during the Blitz and how our cities all suffered the same fate. At the culmination of the opening ceremony I was invited along with the Deputy Mayor Dr Ralf Lunau, Deputy Ambassador for Great Britain Andrew Noble, Sam Mullins, Director of the London Transport Museum and Joachim Breuninger, Director of Dresden Transport Museum to sign the VIP visitors book at the Museum.



- At 9pm the Deputy Mayor Dr Ralf Lunau hosted a meal with the VIP guests which included Andrew Noble the Deputy Ambassador for Great Britain, Sam Mullins the Director of the London Transport Museum, Joachim Breuninger the Director of Dresden Transport Museum and myself and Kip.
- **Friday 11th November 2011**
Return trip to London Heathrow.

List of background papers

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Papers open to public inspection
None

Description of paper: Report Back on Conference/Seminar

Location: CH36

Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member on: 19th October 2011