



Coventry City Council

Public report

REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee **6th September, 2017**
REPORT OF: Lord Mayor 2016/17, Councillor Lindsley Harvard
TITLE: Civic Visit to Dresden
DATE: 27th – 29th April 2017
VENUE: Dresden, Germany

1. Recommendation

1.1 The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to endorse the report of the Lord Mayor's civic visit to Dresden, accompanied by the Principal Private Secretary to the Lord Mayoralty, and the positive outcomes of the visit.

2. Background

2.1 Coventry has been twinned with Dresden since 1958 – a long and very established twinning link. For many years there have been exchange visits between the two cities.

2.2 The Lord Mayor was invited by the Mayor of Dresden to represent the City of Coventry at the reopening The Kulturpalast Civic Centre 'Palace of Culture'.

2.3 Dresden invited the Mayors of all 13 of their twin towns.

Cost of attending

	Costs Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member	Total of Actual Costs
Conference Fees	Nil	Nil
Flights	Approx £500	£468.46
Accommodation	Nil	Nil
Subsistence	£200	£33.50

3. Benefits

3.1 The itinerary for the visit was aimed at representing the City of Coventry at the significant cultural events. The most notable were:

- Lunch with the Mayor of Dresden where the Lord Mayor signed the Golden Guest Book of the City of Dresden
- Formal reopening of the Dresden Kulturpalast and the inaugural performance of the Dresden Philamonic Orchestra concert. The Kulturpalast has been the home of the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra since 1969 and was reopened after a closure of almost 5 years and a €88 million comprehensive redevelopment programme.
- The opening of a new 5,463sqm 'state of the art' central municipal library and cabaret hall inside the Kulturpalast.
- Launch of the tram 'Sister City Brazzaville' which recognises the twinning link with Dresden's other twin city Brazzaville. (The Coventry tram was launched in February 2009 in Dresden on the 50th anniversary of the twinning link.)

3.2 Our international cultural links with Dresden needs to be strongly maintained and documented as the city embarks on the Coventry City of Culture 2021 bid. There is some synergy as Dresden is a potential city to bid for the European Capital of Culture 2025.

List of background papers

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Other contributors: None

Papers open to public inspection: None

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Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member on: CM (Policy & Equalities) 9th March 2017