



Coventry City Council

Public report

REPORT BACK ON CONFERENCE/SEMINAR

REPORT TO: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee **18th October 2017**
REPORT OF: Lord Mayor 2017/18, Councillor Tony Skipper
TITLE: Civic Visit to Kiel
DATE: 8th – 11th September 2017
VENUE: Kiel, Germany

1. Recommendation

1.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to endorse the feedback report of the Lord Mayor's civic visit to Kiel, accompanied by the Deputy Leader of the Council and Principal Private Secretary to the Lord Mayoralty and the positive way the relationship with Coventry was reflected.

2. Background

2.1 Coventry has been 'friends' with Kiel since 1947 and formally twinned since 1967. This is a long and very well established twinning link and for many years there has been exchange visits between the two cities.

2.2 The Lord Mayor and a delegation from the city were invited by the Stadtpresident of Kiel to represent the City of Coventry at a special weekend of events dedicated to 70th anniversary of friendship and 50th anniversary of twinning links.

2.3 There have already been multiple exchanges during the past 12 months dedicated to the anniversary – band exchange performing at Kieler Woche and Godiva Festival, staff intern opportunities with both City Councils and a visiting rugby team to Coventry.

2.4 St Nikolai Church in Kiel were the first recipients ever to receive a Cross of Nails 70 years ago and as a result there exists a very strong link between Coventry Cathedral and the Church. The Bishop, the Dean and a living descendant of Provost Howard, William Howard, also visited alongside the Lord Mayor to take part in the commemorate events.

Cost of attending

	Costs Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member	Total of Actual Costs
Conference Fees	Nil	Nil
Flights for 3 persons	£648.09	£667.79
Accommodation	Nil	Nil
Subsistence	£200	£29.24

3. Benefits

3.1 The itinerary for the visit was focussed on commemorative events to mark the 70th anniversary of friendship/50 years of twinning between the city of Coventry and Kiel. The most notable were:

- A special meeting of Kiel City Council was convened specifically for this visit where the Lord Mayor addressed the Council and invited dignitaries and included a commemorative gift exchange.



- Following the City Council's Resolution on 5th September 2017, here is the Message that was presented to the City of Kiel in English and German.



- At the rising of the Special Council meeting a joint cutting of the celebration cake which was shared amongst guests.



- The Coventry Corps of Drums first visited Kiel in 1962 and were presented with a ceremonial trumpet. They were given opportunity to parade through the streets of Kiel to help celebrate the 70 years of friendship.



- As part of the celebrations they performed a joint concert with Jazzline and took opportunity to play the ceremonial trumpet which carries the Kiel Standard.



- A Remembrance Service was held in St Nikolai Church where the Cross of Nails has been displayed for 70 years



- Laying the wreath at the honorary graves of fallen British soldiers and German victims of the second world war



- The signing of The Guest Book, photographed with Mr Hans Wernar-Tovar the President of the City Council and Dr Ulf Kämpfer, the Mayor of Kiel.



3.2 Coventry is expecting a return visit of a delegation of up to 8 persons including the President and Mayor from Kiel in November for the Coventry Peace Festival. They will be involved in the city's Remembrance Sunday service. The City Council needs to ensure the hospitality extended to them complements the high standards received in Kiel.

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: Cabinet on 29th August 2017