



Coventry City Council

**Public report**

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

**REPORT TO:** Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee  
**REPORT OF:** Lord Mayor 2018/19, Councillor John Blundell  
**TITLE:** Civic Visit to Cork  
**DATE:** 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
**VENUE:** Cork, Republic of Ireland

### **1. Recommendation**

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

### **2. Background**

2.1 Following the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning link between Coventry and Cork in 2018 and the visit of the Lord Mayor of Cork to the city in November, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress received a reciprocal invitation to Cork in March. The visit included an invitation to attend the Lord Mayor of Cork's Spring Charity Ball.

### **3. Cost of attending**

	Costs Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member	Total of Actual Costs
Conference Fees	Nil	Nil
Flights	Approx £103pp	£135pp
Accommodation	Nil	Nil
Subsistence	£100	£100.91

### **4. Benefits**

4.1 For 9 years there has been poetry exchange between Cork and Coventry. Over the years many poets from both cities have taken part and formed long-term friendships and meaningful collaborations at events hosted in both cities. Two poets from Cork held an audience during the Coventry Peace Festival in 2018.

The Lord Mayor met with Paul Casey of O’Bheal Poetry the leader of the project from Cork, who explained how important it was for Coventry to maintain and build upon international links through poetry and other forms of culture, particularly in the run up to UK City of Culture 2021.

4.2 The Lord Mayor met with Cork’s Learning City Co-ordinator who explained that Cork had hosted the UNESCO International Conference on Learning Cities 2017.

As one of the legacies from this, Cork is now hosting a Lifelong Learning Festival from 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April and a Coventry representative was invited to attend one of the key international events – ‘Learning City Conversations 2019 – International Ideas in Action’. Subsequent to the visit, details have been forwarded to the Director of Education and Skills.

4.3 Recently BBC Coventry & Warwickshire had sent the majority of Coventry’s twin cities the new Coventry flag. At their request both Lord Mayor of Coventry and Cork took opportunity to be photographed with the new Flag from promotional purposes only (it was a shame there was little breeze to help with the photograph!).



List of background papers

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Papers open to public inspection: None

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**Approved by Cabinet/Cabinet Member on: Cabinet, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019**