

**Report to** Twinning committee

13 June 2019

**Item**

9

**Report of** Director of business services

**Subject** Twinning Fund – Grant applications

---

### **Purpose**

To consider grant applications received from the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link and the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

### **Recommendation**

That the committee considers awarding twinning grants as follows:

- (1) £550 to the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link to reimburse the chair's flight expenses to Nicaragua for a ten day visit in June 2019 and the purchase of a gift for the association's representative;
- (2) £250 towards the Paul Cross Memorial Concert, an annual concert that promotes the friendship between the Novi Sad and Norwich.

### **Corporate and service priorities**

The report helps to meet the corporate priority for people living well. The twinning associations contribute to the council's service plan priority by promoting and fostering links and exchanges of all kinds between people of Norwich and the twin cities.

### **Financial implications**

There are sufficient funds within the twinning account to cover these requests.

**Ward/s:** Not applicable

**Cabinet member:** Councillor Packer, health and wellbeing

### **Contact officers**

Stuart Guthrie, democratic and elections manager

01603 212055

### **Background documents**

None

## **Report**

1. The committee has received two applications for grants from the twinning funding in respect of Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link and Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.
2. Associations and groups are requested to make formal applications for grants from the twinning fund for consideration at committee.

### **Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link – visit to Nicaragua**

3. An application has been received from the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link for the sum of £500 as a contribution to the costs of flights for its current chair, David Raby, for a 10 day visit (8 to 18 June 2019). The application form is attached to this report as Appendix A, together with a supporting letter. The application also seeks £50 for a gift for Carmela Hernandez, the link's representative in El Viejo.
4. The purpose of the visit is to promote cultural exchange and education. This will include meetings with the Link's representative and the Mayor, and developing a project in conjunction with the Slow Theatre Company in Norwich and the Mayor of El Viejo to set up virtual exchanges with young people and adults, and subject to funding, cultural exchanges between the two cities in the future. Further details of this project are set out in the supporting letter.
5. Given its location it is difficult for the link's members to visit El Viejo and the chair's private visit, with his wife, to Cuba and Mexico this summer provides the opportunity to fly from Mexico City to Managua at a cost of £500 per person. The flights have already been purchased on line to keep costs down. The application is therefore only seeking reimbursement of the chair's flight, noting that his wife's flights and other costs associated during the visit will be borne by the couple.
6. Our records show that the last time the twinning committee supported a representative of the link to travel to El Viejo was in 2014. At its meeting on 26 February 2014, this committee approved a grant of £500 towards the travel costs for Ralph Gayton to visit El Viejo in order to inspect the scholarship project and discuss it with the local municipal council, and also, to look into health and education issues.
7. As members are aware the link funds the work of its representative, Carmela Hernandez, who oversees the link's financial support of schools in El Viejo. The request for £50 for a gift is in recognition of her contribution.
8. The chair's visit to El Viejo fulfils the aims of the twinning associations in that it promotes a better understanding of a shared culture and helps to promote informal links between people and organisations in the city of Norwich and the county of Norfolk and is dedicated to furthering friendship between the two cities. The granting of £550 towards the travel costs of the link's current chair is therefore within the aims of the committee.
9. Ralph Gayton, the link's representative on the twinning committee, will be present at your meeting to answer any questions.

## **Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association – Paul Cross Memorial Concert**

10. An application form for a twinning committee grant has been received from the chair of the concert committee of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association. A copy of the grant application form, supporting letter from the chair of the organising committee and budget estimate are appended to this report at Appendix B. The association is seeking a grant from the twinning fund for £250.
11. The Paul Cross Memorial Concert is an annual concert which has been held each year since 2000. The concert promotes the friendship between Novi Sad and Norwich and celebrates the music and culture of Novi Sad.
12. The concert will be held on 18 January 2020 at The Assembly House. The guest performer is Rita Kinka, an international pianist.
13. The organising committee aims to cover the costs of the concert. An estimated budget has been attached to the application. This provides information about the estimated costs for putting on the concert. This includes the hire of the room, refreshments, printing of flyers and programmes and other sundries. The bulk of the cost (£900) is for the travel expenses for the guests from Novi Sad and their visas. The association relies on the goodwill of its members to host the performer and her accompaniment.
14. The concert is held at the Norwich Assembly House. The estimated audience is 80 to 100 people. Ticket sales are sold through the association at £17 or £18 if purchased through the Theatre Royal box office. There is a concessionary price of £7 for students. The association increased the price of tickets by £1 in 2019. Members of the association also fundraise for through coffee morning and raffles to support the event.
15. The committee has made an annual grant to the association for the concert each year since 2004.
16. The concert fulfils the aims of the twinning associations in that it promotes a better understanding of a shared culture and helps to promote informal links between people and organisations in the city of Norwich and the county of Norfolk and is dedicated to furthering friendship between the two cities. The granting of £250 towards the costs incurred on the performers' behalf is therefore within the aims of the committee.