

Members' Library Service Request Form

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Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	Fête Franco Ecossaise - Scottish Market, Aubigny sur Nère, France – 14th & 15th July 2012

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Date	04/07/12

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REPORT TO: Members' Library Service

DATE:

BY: Executive Director (Support Services)

SUBJECT: Fête Franco Ecosaise – Scottish Market, Aubigny sur Nère, France – 14 & 15 July 2012

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise on arrangements for the Haddington Farmers' Market and Council officials attending the Fête Franco Ecosaise, Aubigny sur Nère, France, on 14 and 15 July 2012.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the above visit.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The link between Haddington and Aubigny has been in place since 1965 and a wide range of activities take place between the residents of both areas, such as the co-operation between both pipe bands, school exchanges and civic visits.

- 3.2 Representatives from the Haddington Farmers' Market visited Aubigny in 2009, initial links were made and producers were able to market and sell their products to a new foreign market. The Market attended the event again in 2010 when they met with the local Chamber of Commerce to discuss creating new export links and opening new markets for produce.

3.3 Proposal

- 3.3.1 Due to the success of this venture, the Mayor of Aubigny has invited the Haddington Farmers' Market to Aubigny to participate in the biennial Fête Franco-Ecosais which will be held over the weekend of 14 and 15 July 2012. The event will feature a combination of music, dancers, parades, highland games and traditional markets.

- 3.3.2 This visit will build on previous experience. Producers will also have the opportunity to network with French producers and share best practice.
- 3.3.3 This alliance has existed since 1965 and the visit will re-enforce and provide the opportunity for positive new links in trade and export between the rural communities.
- 3.3.4 Many French people will be unaware of what East Lothian has to offer and this visit provides an opportunity to promote the county as a tourist destination for foreign tourists to visit. This will have an indirect impact on a wide variety of local attractions and businesses in East Lothian.
- 3.3.5 The Provost and the Chief Executive have also been invited and will be representing East Lothian Council at this event.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy implications arising from this report.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 This report is not directly applicable to the wellbeing of equalities groups and an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 **Financial** – The cost of return flights for the Provost and Chief Executive is £605.96. Accommodation and subsistence costs will be met by the French local authority. Economic Development has awarded a grant of £1,500 from the Council’s Twinning budget to the Haddington Farmers’ Market to help meet the cost of the transportation of produce to Aubigny.
- 6.2 **Personnel** – None.
- 6.3 **Other** – None.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Official letter of invitation.

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