

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 27 AUGUST 2008

PROPOSED VISIT TO JOUÉ-LÈS-TOURS, FRANCE

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of details of a proposed visit to the Council's twin town of Joué-lès-Tours, France.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** East Ayrshire is twinned with five towns, the formal twinning with Joué-Lès-Tours, France being in 1990.
- 2.2** The twinning link with Joué has remained strong since 1990 with the last civic visit to Joué being in June 2002 by past Provost Boyd and appropriate officers who attended the fifth annual "Joué Years" festival. Various school exchanges have also taken place over the years.

3. VISIT TO JOUE-LES TOURS, FRANCE

- 3.1** Recently East Ayrshire Council has received an invitation to attend a seminar for disadvantaged young people which is taking place from 1 to 4 October 2008. Officers from the Department of Educational and Social Services have also been invited to attend by their officer equivalent in Joué. This invitation had been accepted and arrangements are now being made for this visit, which will be a party of five to include appropriate officers and a young person.
- 3.2** It is also proposed that a Civic Delegation will visit Joué at this time to coincide with this event which would provide a focal point for the civic visit and the Civic Delegation will have the opportunity to engage in the young people's seminar.
- 3.3** It is proposed that the civic visit take place between Tuesday 30 September and Thursday 2 October and that the delegation comprise of Provost Young, one Member from the Administration (Councillor McDill), one Member from the Main Opposition Group (Councillor Dinwoodie), one representative from the Town Twinning Association (Mr Andy Pearson, President), the Chief Executive, the Council Officer and a Representative from the Department of Educational and Social Services to act as translator during the visit.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** It is anticipated that Joué will meet the costs for all accommodation, transport and excursions during the visit and the costs attributable to the Council will be the travel to and from Joué and appropriate subsistence costs. It is anticipated that total costs will be approximately £1700. The costs will be met from within the Civic Ceremonial and respective Educational and Social Services budgets.

5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS - NIL

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Maintaining strong twinning links and supporting and participating in the seminar for young people compliment the theme of Improving Opportunities within the Community Plan.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Cabinet is asked to:-

- (i) agree to the Civic Delegation to Joué in September/October this year and to remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to make the appropriate travel arrangements for the civic party with the costs being kept to a minimum where appropriate; and
- (ii) to note that the Officer visit will be arranged by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/
Executive Director of Corporate Support

15 August 2008
JMcG/KS

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (i) Correspondence from the Mayor of Joué-lès-Tours, France during April to June 2008.

Any person wishing to inspect the background paper relative to this report should contact Julie McGarry, Administration Manager on Tel (01563) 576147. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Service on Tel (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Julie McGarry, Administration Manager.