

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 8 SEPTEMBER 2004

INVITATION TO VISIT SANTA COLOMA DE GRAMENET

Report by the Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to advise the Sub-Committee of an invitation received from the Municipal Authority Town Hall of Santa Coloma De Gramenet inviting the Provost to visit Santa Coloma from 29 to 30 October 2004.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** East Ayrshire is twinned with 5 towns, the formal twinning with Santa Coloma de Gramenet, Spain being in 1994.
- 2.2** There has been limited contact with Santa Coloma over the years and, since the inception of East Ayrshire Council no official visits either to or from Santa Coloma have taken place.
- 2.3** The North West Youth Project had a link with Santa Coloma prior to reorganisation and visits took place on a regular basis. However, no contact or visits have taken place over the past few years.

3. INVITATION TO VISIT SANTA COLOMA DE GRAMENET

- 3.1** Snr Carles Vinas i Sierra, President of the new Municipal Group of CIU (Convergència i Unió) wrote to Provost Darnborough this year informing her of his recent appointment. The President also advised the Provost that Snr Manel Olives i Juanola is now the person responsible for the Seventh Council of the Institutional Relations and Twinning and that he is also the main speaker of CIU.
- 3.2** Following a congratulatory letter sent by the Provost to Snr Juanola on his appointment, correspondence has been received inviting the Provost to attend a celebration of solidarity and co-operation which the town hall of Santa Coloma is organising which involves various activities and a day devoted to friendly cities. This celebration is to take place 29 to 30 October 2004.

4. TWINNING ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR

- 4.1** This year, the Council have been involved with various exchanges with the twin towns of Joue-les-Tours and Kulmbach and indeed an invitation has

been extended to Provost Darnborough and Mr Darnborough to visit Joue in December 2004.

4.2 For information, East Ayrshire Town Twinning Association have decided to concentrate on twinning links with Joue and Kulmbach at present.

5. **FINANCIAL, POLICY AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS** – Nil.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 That the invitation to visit Santa Coloma De Gramenet on this occasion be declined; and

6.2 that Officers in consultation with the Provost continue to correspond with Santa Coloma De Gramenet to further strengthen the twinning link.

Fiona Lees
Chief Executive

23 July 2004

JA/KM

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter dated 5 July 2004 from Snr Juanola, Santa Coloma De Gramenet

Any person wishing to inspect the background paper relative to this report should contact Julie Armstrong, Assistant Administration Manager, on telephone number 01563 576147. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on telephone number 01563 576135.

Implementation Officer: Julie Armstrong, Assistant Administration Manager.