

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 29 JANUARY 2003

REQUEST FROM JOUÉ-LÈS-TOURS FOR EXCHANGE VISITS

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to ask that the Sub-Committee consider requests from Joué-lès-Tours for two exchange visits to take place this year.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As Members will be aware, following a review of arrangements at re-organisation, East Ayrshire Council formed international partnerships with various towns, Joué-lès-Tours being one of them.
- 2.2 Correspondence has now been received from Officers from Joué-lès-Tours who have advised that they plan to put in place (a) an exchange of Officers between all of their twin towns; and (b) a celebration to mark the 30th anniversary of Joué's twinning with Hechingen, Germany.

3. PREVIOUS VISITS

- 3.1 In October 1997 the Provost, supported by appropriate Officers, attended a meeting in Joué-lès-Tours. The meeting was attended by Mayors from other authorities with links with Joué to discuss, at a general level, the development of partnership links in economic, humanitarian and training terms.
- 3.2 In July 1999, the Provost, Mrs Boyd and appropriate Officers attended the 25th anniversary of the town twinning with Kulmbach.
- 3.3 In May, June 2002 the Provost, Mrs Boyd and appropriate Officers attended the 5th annual "Joué Years" festival.

4. PROPOSED EVENTS

4.1 Exchange of Officers

- 4.1.1 It has been proposed, by Officers from Joué, that a visit to East Ayrshire be arranged by East Ayrshire Council and that arrangements would include accommodation and food etc. It has also been suggested that the Officers from Joué would visit some time next year, the exact dates still to be confirmed, and would be for 5-6 days.
- 4.1.2 It is also suggested, by the Officers from Joué, that the topics for discussion could be general administration, environment, parks and gardens, culture, social and youth.

4.1.3 The Council are being asked if they would be interested in this type of exchange and if so, how many people could be welcomed.

4.2 **Visit to Joué-lès-Tours**

4.2.1 Officers from Joué have also indicated that they have planned a celebration for the week 12-18 May 2003 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Joué's twinning with Hechingen, Germany. They would like to invite 5-6 members/officials from East Ayrshire to participate in the celebrations from Friday 16 May until the morning of Monday 19 May 2003. A detailed programme of events and activities will be organised and forwarded in February.

5. **CONCLUSION**

5.1 The Council would welcome any visits by the twin towns in order to further strengthen twinning links. However, further discussion is required with officers in Joué in order to explore their proposals further. Furthermore, the timing of both the Election on 1 May 2003 and the Statutory Council meeting on 8 May 2003 may make the visit to Joué difficult to accept at present.

5.2 Officers from Joué are looking for a quick response from the Council in relation to these matters as they intend to apply for European Funding.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 A fully costed financial package is being prepared which will include accommodation, food and gifts. The Council will seek to maximise any opportunity for external funding, including European Community monies. It is proposed that any remaining costs would be met by the visiting authority in each case.

6. **LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS - NIL**

7. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 The Sub-Committee is asked to:-

- (i) welcome the request for Officers from Joué-lès-Tours to visit East Ayrshire;
- (ii) consider the invite from Joué to take part in their celebrations to mark their 30th anniversary twinning with Hechingen.
- (iii) to remit to appropriate Officers to liaise with Officers from Joué-lès-Tours to progress arrangements; and
- (iv) that a further report on the outcome of the exchange be submitted to the Sub-Committee in due course

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/
Director of Corporate Resources

7 January 2003
CB/KC

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. E-mail correspondence from Joué-lès-Tours.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Julie Armstrong, Principal Administrative Officer on Tel No (01563) 576147. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager on Tel No (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Julie Armstrong, Principal Administrative Officer.