

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MEMBERS SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 26 MARCH 2003

EAST AYRSHIRE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to ask the Sub-Committee to consider a request for civic hospitality and financial assistance from the East Ayrshire Twinning Association in respect of a visit by families from Joué lès Tours from 22-26 May 2003.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 East Ayrshire Twinning Association is an amalgamation of the two twinning Associations which operated in the former Cumnock and Doon Valley and Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council areas. The Association was formed in 1996.

- 2.1.2 East Ayrshire are twinned with Kulmbach (Germany), Santa Colma de Gramenet (Spain), Alès (France), Herstal (Belgium), and Joué lès Tours (France).

2.2 Proposed Visit

- 2.2.1 The East Ayrshire Twinning Association are organising an exchange visit between families from Joué lès Tours and East Ayrshire.

- 2.2.2 A group of approximately 30 people will visit between 22-26 May this year and will be hosted by families in the area.

3. ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

3.1 Civic Hospitality

- 3.1.1 The Twinning Association propose to hold an evening Civic Reception with a traditional Scottish menu and ceilidh, provisionally envisaged to be held in the Ellerslie Inn, Kilmarnock, on 24 May 2003.

- 3.1.2 There will be approximately 90 people attending the Reception comprising of families from Joué lès Tours and their host families, members of East Ayrshire Twinning Association and representatives from the Council.

3.2 Financial Assistance

3.2.1 The Twinning Association estimates that the total cost of the visit will amount to approximately £2,330 in order to meet the cost of transport, excursions, food and the expense of the meal, ceilidh band and hire of the hall for the planned reception. The group has requested a contribution of £1,550 from East Ayrshire Council to help meet their aforementioned costs.

3.3 Previous Support

3.3.1 The Twinning Association received financial support from the Council in the past. This has included a grant of £1,000 awarded by the Civic Ceremonial Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee on 13 May 1997 (Item 1, page 2228), for administrative and related expenses. At the same meeting, it was agreed that the Association could apply for further funds for use in connection with specific events organised in conjunction with the Council.

3.3.2 The Twinning Forum visit in May 1998 was also awarded £1,675.10 for civic hospitality, financial assistance and assistance in kind which was approved by the Members Services and Civic Ceremonial Sub-Committee on 20 April 1998 (Item 1, page 3453).

3.3.3 The Twinning Association also hosted a similar event to the one outlined in this report, in May 2001 and were awarded £1,000 towards the cost of all activities (Item 3.7, Page 1607, 99/03).

3.3.4 The Twinning Association also received a grant of £250 from the Sub-Committee on 19 March 2002 to cover administration costs for the year (Item 4.4, Page 2534, 99/03).

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of the civic reception planned for 24 May 2003 would be approximately £1,000.

4.2 The further financial assistance requested by the Twinning Association is to cover transport, excursions, etc is £550.

4.3 The overall cost of meeting the Twinning Association's request for assistance would be approximately £1,550.

4.4 Having regard to budgeting provisions and the level of support provided to the group in the past, it is suggested that the Sub-Committee give consideration to supporting the civic reception element of the group's proposal.

5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS - Nil

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Sub-Committee is asked to consider:-

- (i) that the request for a civic reception be approved;
- (ii) that the Council provide a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of all activities; and
- (iii) in the event that a civic reception is held to remit the necessary arrangements to the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Chair.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/
Director of Corporate Resources

CB/JW
20 February 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Application for civic hospitality from East Ayrshire Twinning Association.
2. Application for financial assistance from East Ayrshire Twinning Association.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer, on telephone number (01563) 576129. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on telephone number (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer.