

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE, 1ST FEBRUARY 2006**

**SUBJECT: ELGIN-LANDSHUT TWINNING, 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 To remind the Council of this important anniversary and determine how to mark the celebration.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section A (30) of the Council's administrative scheme in relation to ceremonial matters and hospitality.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Twinning between the City of Elgin and Landshut, in Bavaria was established in 1956.
- 2.2 Apart from a short period in the 1970's and early 1980's there have been active twinning links between shools, sports groups, professions, musicians, special interest groups and association members.
- 2.3 There have been few civic visits but in recognition of the strong twinning links the Convener has been invited twice and has been awarded the "Landshut Medallion" – the highest honour that the town can bestow.
- 2.4 This year visitors from Landshut will be in Elgin at the end of August.

**3. The Proposals**

- 3.1 It is considered appropriate to mark this anniversary by inviting the Oberbuergermeister, Herr Rampf and a small civic delegation to visit Elgin and Moray. A party of 5 in total.
- 3.2 This could take place at the end of August allowing the civic representatives to join members of the Twinning Associations at their "welcome dinner" during their stay.
- 3.3 There would also be an exchange of Civic gifts during the visit.

**4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Early indications are that a 5 day programme for the visitors would cost in the region of £3500 (plus VAT)

4.2 This amount would require to be met from the Twin Town Revenue Budget which is £5,500 for 2006/07 so reducing the grant given to Twinning Associations or, the Civic Ceremonies Budget for 2006/07.

**5. Staffing Implications**

5.1 Staff would be involved during the visitations.

**6. Environmental Implications**

6.1 None

**7. Consultations**

7.1 Councillor Bisset has been appointed the Council's representative on the Moray Twinning Association. He considers that the proposal should be supported.

7.2 The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Executive have been consulted. Comments have been taken into account in this report.

**8. Corporate Plan**

8.1 The fostering of international links is an aspect of community development.

**9. Recommendations**

**9.1 The Committee is asked to consider what measures should be taken to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town Twinning between Elgin and Landshut.**

**9.2 The Committee is asked to determine that the budget should be allocated from the Civic Ceremonies budget.**

Author of Report:

Background Papers:

Ref: