

REPORT TO: THE MORAY COUNCIL ON 30TH JANUARY 2008

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE BY MORAY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To consider an application for grant support from the Moray Twinning Association.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Committee consider the application for grant aid made by the Moray Twinning Association.

2.2 That the Committee, if favourable, determine the level of grant.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Moray Twinning Association was formed in 1992 with the encouragement of Moray District Council to be a co-ordinating body for Twinning Associations in Moray, and to liaise with the Council.

3.2 The late Councillor Alastair Bisset was a member of the Committee together with three delegates from each Twinning Association.

3.3 Instead of ad-hoc receptions, the Council has reduced administration by providing an annual global grant, which the Moray Twinning Association distributes to its member's twinings.

3.4 There are seven Twinning Associations in Moray:-

The Banffshire/Kronach Twinning Association

The Dufftown-Mortlach Saskatchewan Twinning Association

The Elgin/Landshut Twinning Association

The Fochabers and District/Magnac sur Touvre Twinning Association

The Forres/Vienenburg Twinning Association

The Royal Burgh of Forres/Mount Dora Twinning Association

The Lossiemouth/Hersbruck Twinning Association

The Twinning Association have made it clear that they are applying on behalf of six member Twinning Associations. The Fochabers and District/Magnac sur Touvre still appears to be dormant.

3.5 Individual Twinning Associations were requested to submit an annual report, details of their programmes for the coming year together with financial statements. These have been placed in the Members lounge for information.

It should be noted that the practice of these groups are to host visitors every second year so funds may accumulate during alternate years. Nearly all Twinning give financial support to young people to take part in exchanges.

- 3.6 It is understood that the Burgermeister from Vienenburg may join the party visiting Forres in 2008.
- 3.7 All member twinning associations raise money by their own effort –from coffee mornings, concerts, social events, etc.
- 3.8 In the past host Twinning Associations were eligible to apply for an EU grant for one visit per year. Changes in structural funds have now adversely affected grant availability and availability is the exception rather than the rule.

Funds in the bank for each association are as follows:-

Banffshire/Kronach	£3,314.85	December 2004
Dufftown-Mortlach/Saskatchewan	£3,054.69	July 2007
Elgin/Landshut	£12,317.21	October 2006
Forres/Vienenburg	£6,039.88	July 2007
Forres/Mount Dora	£2,299.06	April 2007
Lossiemouth/Hersbruck	£6,348.11	November 2006
Moray Twinning Association	£483.52	April 2007

- 3.9 In 2006/07 the Authority awarded a grant of £5,500. It should be noted that this contribution has remained unchanged for a number of years.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The information from the various Twinning Associations have been examined. The accounts illustrate the positive nature of the organisations work.

(b) Policy and Legal

None.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The Chief Financial Officer has confirmed that an allowance of £5,500 was made when compiling the budget for 2006/07.

(d) Consultations

The late Councillor Bisset had been consulted and had been fully in support of the Moray Twinning Association, which does much to foster Moray's Twinning Links.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 That the Committee are asked to consider the request for grant aid and if favourably disposed, determine the level of grant.**

Author of Report: Bob Stewart, Director of Environmental Services

Background Papers:

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