

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 2 MARCH 2010

SUBJECT: TWINNING

BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To consider an application for grant support from the Moray Twinning Association.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section A (31) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to making arrangements for ceremonial matters and hospitality

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Committee is asked to consider:-

- (i) the application for grant aid submitted by the Moray Twinning Association and;**
- (ii) if minded to approve consider the level of award.**

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 A Liaison Councillor, Jeff Hamilton is a member of the Committee together with three delegates from each Twinning Association.
- 3.3 The Council has reduced administration by providing an annual global grant that the Moray Twinning Association distributes to its member twinning.
- 3.4 There are six Twinning Associations in Moray: -

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

- 3.5 The Twinning Association has made it clear that this year they are applying on behalf of five member twinning. The Fochabers and District / Magnac-sur-

Touvre is dormant while the Banffshire/Kronach Committee mentioned in previous reports went into abeyance in September 2009.

- 3.6 Individual Twinning Associations were requested to submit an annual report, details of their programme for the coming year together with financial statements. These have been placed in the member's lounge for information.
- 3.7 It should be noted that the practice of these groups is to host visitors every second year so funds may accumulate during alternate years. Nearly all twinings give financial support to young people to take part in exchanges.
- 3.8 All member-twinning associations raise money by their own effort – from coffee mornings, concerts, social events etc.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 Funds in the bank for each association are as follows :-

Name	Balance now and in previous financial year	Date
Dufftown-Mortlach/Saskatchewan	£3339.60/1551.68	Mar. 2009
Elgin/Landshut	£9599.32/9973.60	Oct 2009
Forres/Vienenburg	£6094.05/6971.67	May 2009
Forres/Mount Dora	£1638.95/1664.79	April 2009
Lossiemouth/Hersbruck	£3667.80/3702.54	Sept. 2009
Moray Twinning Association	£319.76	Apr 2009

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

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

None

(b) Policy and Legal

None

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

The information from the various twinning associations has been examined. The accounts illustrate the positive nature of the organisations' work.

The Council has previously awarded a grant of £6000. The budget for 2010/2011 made an allowance of £3000.

(d) Consultations

The liaison Councillor, Jeff Hamilton has been consulted. He is fully in support of a similar grant being awarded.

The Chief Financial Officer has confirmed that an allowance of £3000 has been made in the current budget.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 That the Council should continue its support for twinning and consider the grant level to be awarded to Twinning Associations within Moray.**

Author of Report: Mr R Stewart, Director of Environmental Services
Background Papers: Copy in Members Lounge
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