

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the
Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity
held on Monday, 16th April, 2012 at Committee Suite 1 & 2, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor D Brown, Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

In attendance

Councillor L Smetham, Cabinet Support Member

Officers

Martin Smith, Manager, Executive Office
Paul Mountford, Democratic Services Officer

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

Mr Trevor Lightfoot of the Crewe and Nantwich Twinning Association sought clarification of the process for allocating grant funding for twinning. The Cabinet Member responded.

3 TWINNING - REQUEST FOR GRANTS BY CREWE AND NANTWICH TWINNING ASSOCIATION AND THE TWINNING ASSOCIATION OF POYNTON

The Cabinet Member considered a number of applications for grant funding in connection with twinning and associated events.

The Crewe and Nantwich Twinning Association (CANTA) received £5,000 from Cheshire East Borough Council in 2009/10 and 2010/11 respectively. This was aimed at supporting activities/projects that would benefit local communities within Cheshire East. CANTA were advised at the time that they should be seeking alternative forms of funding as the Council could not guarantee the same level of funding in future years, having regard to the financial constraints facing public services.

The Twinning Association of Poynton (TAP) were applying for a grant to support their work, including a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Twinning Association by inviting young people from Hungary next year. In addition, TAP were seeking support for the Poynton Air Training Corps for

their visit to Erd in Hungary this year. TAP had received some support from the former Macclesfield Borough Council, but not on a regular basis.

The Macclesfield Charter Trustees, together with representatives from local community groups, had indicated that they were interested in maintaining links with Eckernförde and had enquired about funding that might be available for community-based activities. Further details of the grant application by the Trustees were circulated at the meeting. The Trustees had requested a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of a visit to Macclesfield by the Eckernförde Male Voice Choir in October 2012. The Trustees were also requesting additional grant to support reciprocal school trips, as well as events being planned for 2013 to celebrate the shared history within the silk industry of Macclesfield and Xi'an, China.

In considering the requests the Portfolio Holder had regard to:

- the financial constraints facing the Council;
- the Council's policy to support community-based activities; and
- the Council's policy to withdraw from civic and ceremonial twinning

Provision of £17,000 had been made for twinning in the Council's Revenue Budget for 2011/12. For 2012/13 the Council was proposing to reduce the twinning budget by £10,000, leaving a budget of £7,000. It was prudent to consider the introduction of a framework for dealing with any future applications for 2012/13. Such a framework would provide that all future applications would be made to the Council's Community Grant Scheme. The Portfolio Holder would reserve the right consider particular applications because of their significance to either the Council or the Borough.

The Council's review of twinning arrangements had identified potential benefits from developing an international strategy focusing on commercial and economic development links. The remaining twinning budget would be used to underpin this activity.

RESOLVED

That

- (1) a grant of £2,500 be awarded to the Crewe and Nantwich Twinning Association (CANTA);
- (2) a grant of £2,500 be awarded to the Twinning Association of Poynton (TAP);
- (3) a grant of £2,500 be awarded to the Macclesfield Charter Trustees;
- (4) a grant of £500 be awarded to Poynton ATC;
- (5) in the light of reductions to the Twinning Budget for 2012/13, all future applications for grant funding be made to the Council's

Community Grant Scheme, although the Portfolio Holder reserves the right to consider particular applications because of their significance to either the Council or the Borough; and

- (6) the remaining twinning budget be used to underpin work that might be undertaken to support commercial and economic development links and develop an International Strategy to support these objectives.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 10.25 am

Councillor D Brown (presiding)