

Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

Agenda

Date: Monday 16th April 2012
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Committee Suite 1 & 2, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests in any item on the agenda

3. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos.11 and 35 a period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to address the meeting on any matter relevant to the work of the meeting. Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes but the Chairman or person presiding will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned where there are a number of speakers. Members of the public are not required to give notice to use this facility. However, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours' notice is encouraged.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at the meeting should provide at least three clear working days' notice in writing and should include the question with that notice. This will enable an informed answer to be given.

For any apologies or requests for further information, or to give notice of a question to be asked by a member of the public

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4. **Twinning - Request for Grants by Crewe and Nantwich Twinning Association and the Twinning Association of Poynton** (Pages 1 - 4)

To consider requests from the Crewe and Nantwich Twinning Association and the Twinning Association of Poynton for grant funding, and to consider the introduction of a framework for dealing with any future applications

THERE ARE NO PART TWO ITEMS

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

Date of Meeting:	16 April 2012
Report of:	Democratic and Registration Services Manager
Subject/Title:	Twinning - Request for Grants by Crewe and Nantwich Twinning Association and the Twinning Association of Poynton

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report deals with two requests for grant funding.
- 1.2 The first is from by Crewe and Nantwich Twinning Association (CANTA) and the second is from the Twinning Association of Poynton (TAP).
- 1.3 The report also deals with the introduction of a framework for dealing with any future applications

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Portfolio Holder gives consideration to, and determine, CANTA's and TAP's request for grant funding.
- 2.2 That the Portfolio Holder gives consideration to agreeing that all future applications for grant funding be made to the Council's Community Grant Scheme and reserves the right to consider particular applications because of their significance to either the Council or the Borough.
- 2.3 That the Portfolio Holder gives consideration to allocating the revised Twinning budget to underpin work that might be undertaken to develop an International Strategy to support commercial and economic development links.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 In order to respond to the requests.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 CANTA was the twinning association for the former Borough of Crewe and Nantwich, its remit extends to the former Borough's Wards. The Twinning Association of Poynton covers the area of Poynton. The provision for Twinning can be applied across Cheshire East.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Crewe and Nantwich and Poynton Councillors are affected. Councillor R West has given his support to the application from the Twinning Association of Poynton.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The Council has withdrawn from civic twinning activities and will normally only support or be represented at significant Remembrance Events.
- 6.2 The Twinning Budget is used to provide community grants to achieve safer and stronger communities through cultural, sporting and academic based activities.
- 6.3 The Council is committed to undertaking a feasibility study into the development of an International Strategy focusing on commercial and economic development links.
- 6.4 The applications from CANTA and TAP seek to achieve Safer and Stronger Communities through cultural, sporting and academic based activities.

7.0 Financial Implications.

- 7.1 Provision of £17,000 has been made for twinning in the Council's Revenue Budget for 2011/12. It is held by Democratic Services. No spend has occurred from this budget during 2011/12.
- 7.2 Any grants awarded would come from this budget.
- 7.3 For 2012/13 the Council is proposing to reduce the twinning budget by £10,000 leaving a budget of £7,000.
- 7.4 It is prudent to consider the introduction of a framework for dealing with any future applications for 2012/13.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Portfolio Holder has powers to determine this grant application since Twinning matters form part of his portfolio of responsibility under the Council's Constitution. There appear to be no other legal implications.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 No risks can be identified which are associated with the determination of the grant applications.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 Cabinet considered a report on twinning on 14th July 2010 and asked the Portfolio Holder to advise it upon how twinning for the new authority should be taken forward.
- 10.2 Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council used to provide an annual grant to CANTA in the sum of £5000. CANTA received £5000 from Cheshire East Borough Council during the 2009/10 and 2010/11 financial years. This was aimed at support for activities/projects that would benefit local communities within Cheshire East. In awarding a grant in 2010/11 CANTA were advised that they ought to seek alternative forms of funding as the Council could not guarantee the

same level of funding in future financial years having regard to the financial constraints facing public services.

- 10.3 This is the first application that TAP has made to Cheshire East Council. TAP had some support from Macclesfield BC. It was not on a regular basis but for specific events. TAP currently makes funding applications to Poynton Town Council.
- 10.4 TAP are 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 are seeking support for the Poynton ATC for their visit to Erd in Hungary this year.
- 10.5 The Macclesfield Charter Trustees together with representatives from local community groups have indicated that they are interested in maintaining links with Eckernförde and have enquired about funding that might be available for community based activities. To date no application has been made.
- 10.6 In considering the requests the Portfolio Holder may wish to have regard to:-
- the financial constraints facing the Council
 - the Council's policy to support community based activities
 - the Council's policy to withdraw from civic and ceremonial twinning
- 10.7 On this basis the Portfolio Holder may wish to award a reduced grant to CANTA, a grant to TAP and a grant direct to Poynton ATC.
- 10.8 The award of a grant for events that appear civic or ceremonial in nature should be declined in the light of the policy to withdraw from civic and ceremonial twinning.
- 10.9 The budget reduction of £10,000 for 2012/13 will leave a budget of £7,000. The Portfolio Holder may wish to determine that all future applications be made to the Council's Community Grant Scheme. The purpose of a Community Grant is to strengthen small voluntary organisations and community groups within Cheshire East and to provide support for activities/projects that will benefit local communities within Cheshire East. In exceptional cases the Portfolio Holder may wish to reserve the right consider particular applications because of their significance to either the Council or the Borough.
- 10.10 The Council's review of twinning arrangements identified potential benefits that might arise from an International Strategy focusing on commercial and economic development links. In view of the budget reduction it might be appropriate to allocate the remaining twinning budget to underpin this activity.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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