

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity

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| Date of Meeting: | 20 th December 2010 |
| Report of: | Democratic Services Manager |
| Subject/Title: | Request for Grant by Crewe and Nantwich Twinning Association |

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report deals with a request by Crewe and Nantwich Twinning Association (CANTA) for grant funding.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Portfolio Holder gives consideration to, and determine, CANTA's request for grant funding.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 In order to respond to the request.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 As CANTA was the twinning association for the former Borough of Crewe and Nantwich, its remit extends to the former Borough's Wards. However, the Council is undertaking a review of twinning activity for the whole of the Cheshire East Borough, which will have an impact in the future on its relationship with CANTA.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Councillors are affected.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The Council's policy on twinning is being reviewed and a report will be considered by Cabinet in due course. The emerging policy is for the Council to withdraw from civic and ceremonial twinning and encourage and support local groups to continue with the historical links from the demised authorities. In the meantime, requests for grant funding must be dealt with, hence the need for this report.

7.0 Financial Implications.

7.1 Provision of £17,000 has been made for twinning in the Council's Revenue Budget for 2010/11. It is held by Democratic Services. No spend has occurred from this budget during 2010/11.

7.2 Any grant awarded would come from this budget.

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 application.

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 It was acknowledged that a review of twinning arrangements would take between 12-18 months to complete. In the meantime, the Council expected to receive requests for grants etc relating to twinning and it was accepted that these would need to be determined prior to implementation of the Council's review recommendations.

10.3 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 financial year.

10.4 CANTA has made a response to the Council's review of twinning arrangements and included in this submission was a further request for funding. Details are attached at Appendix 1.

10.5 The Macclesfield Charter Trustees together with representatives from local community groups have also made a response to the Council's review and in partnership with local community groups has indicated that they are interested in maintaining links with Eckernförde and have enquired about funding that might be available for community based activities.

10.6 The Council's review of twinning arrangements has identified potential benefits that might arise from an International Strategy and that it might be appropriate to allocate some of the Twinning budget to underpin this activity.

- 10.7 To date no spend has occurred from this budget during 2010/1. It would therefore be appropriate for the Portfolio Holder to consider making a grant to CANTA.
- 10.8 In making a grant it might be appropriate to identify what outcomes the Council would like to see achieved and to invite CANTA to explore alternative funding options having regard to the financial constraints facing public services.

11.0 Access to Information

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

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