

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

## **Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity**

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

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### **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- 6.1 The Council has withdrawn from civic twinning activities and will normally only support or be represented at significant Remembrance Events.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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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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