

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

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

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**Date of Meeting:** 24 November 2009  
**Report of:** Democratic Services Manager  
**Subject/Title:** Request for Grant by Crewe and Nantwich Twinning Association

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### **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 give 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 now undertaking a review of twinning activity for the whole of the Cheshire East Borough, which will have an impact in the future on the activities of CANTA.

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

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

### **6.0 Policy Implications including**

- 6.1 The Council's policy on twinning is being reviewed. This may take between 12-18 months. In the meantime, requests for grant funding must be dealt with, hence the need for this report.

### **7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs**

- 7.1 There are no such implications.

## **8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond**

- 8.1 The determination of this grant application has no such implications.

## **9.0 Legal Implications**

- 9.1 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.

## **10.0 Risk Management**

- 10.1 No risks can be identified which are associated with the determination of the grant application.

## **11.0 Background and Options**

- 11.1 Cabinet considered a report on twinning on 14<sup>th</sup> July and asked the Portfolio Holder to advise it upon how twinning for the new authority should be taken forward.
- 11.2 It was acknowledged that a review of twinning arrangements would take between 12-18 months to complete. In the meantime, the Council can be expected to receive requests for grants etc relating to twinning. These will need to be determined prior to implementation of the Council's review recommendation.
- 11.3 Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council used to provide an annual grant to CANTA in the sum of £5000. CANTA has received no such grant from Cheshire East Borough Council since the beginning of the current municipal year and has made a request for payment.
- 11.4 Whilst the Council only has a net budget of just over £17,000 for the whole of the Borough, this includes specific budget for the £5,000 previously paid to CANTA. The review of twinning arrangements may well result in alternative funding arrangements being considered for the future but, since we are already more than half way through the financial year without any of the budget having been spent, it would be appropriate for the Portfolio Holder to consider making a payment to CANTA in line with that which was paid last year by Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council.

## **12.0 Access to Information**

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

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