

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 19.06.2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Corporate & Policy

SUBJECT: Application for Twinning Grant

WARD(S): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to give details of 1 application being made to the Twinning Grant Fund.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the following grant be awarded to:

(a) £1,850 Widnes Football Development Forum

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In April 1996, Halton Borough Council set up a Grant Fund to assist in enabling all members of the community to access and gain benefit from the Council's International Links.

3.2 Since 1996, a number of groups have accessed the fund to undertake exchange visits to Marzahn-Hellersdorf in Germany; Leiria in Portugal; Usti-nad-Labem in the Czech Republic; and Tongling City in China, including the Halton Swimming Team; Halton Youth Service; PHAB; St. Chad's School, and Fairfield High School who have hosted teachers and pupils from Tongling previously. These links have resulted in a number of reciprocal visits from each town.

3.3 Participants in previous exchanges have found that the benefits of learning about another culture and language are immense. A wide range of activity in the Borough has been facilitated by the provision of grant aid and has given an opportunity to those who would not otherwise be able to participate.

3.4 The application received from Widnes Football Development Forum, requests support for a visit to Marzahn-Hellersdorf during 27th-29th June 2008. They have been asked to attend a football competition,

hosted by Berlin Football team. They will take 22 people over to Marzahn-Hellersdorf.

- 3.5 The visit will provide an opportunity for players to represent Halton in the Twin Town. They also expect to forge a partnership for future exchanges and a condition of the grant is a return trip to take place in 2009.
- 3.6 The applicant has identified total costs of £4,775.60. This is broken down into Travel £2925.60, Accommodation £1,250 and Insurance £600. (Match funding declared £1,850)
- 3.7 The team will be using club funds £350, contributions from participants £1,000 and has been fundraising for the visit totalling £500

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The application is in line with the borough's European Strategy, in particular the promotion of international links, which seeks to offer the opportunity to participate to the whole population of Halton.
- 4.2 The application will also make a major contribution to the Local Strategic Partnership Key Priorities Healthy Halton and Employment, learning and skills

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In reaching a decision concerning the level of grant to be awarded, Members are requested to note that the twinning grant budget is frequently oversubscribed. Also, in preparation for a reduction in European funding after 2006, the Council is also placing emphasis on developing economic (transnational), as well as cultural and social twinning links, and as a result, there will be added pressure on the budget in this financial year.
- 5.2 Members are also advised that the guidance given to applicants is that any grant awarded will not usually exceed £3,000. Grants normally support up to a maximum 75% of the total costs of the project.
- 5.3 The group has declared no past funding from the Town Twinning Funding programme,

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1 Measures are in place to minimise risks to the delivery of the project. For example, the as part of the terms and conditions of grant applicants are required to complete a risk assessment proforma.

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 The project focuses on promoting the Council's priority 'Healthy Halton' for people in Halton; encouraging, cooperation between people in Halton and Germany

8.0 REASONS FOR DECISION

- 8.1 The maximum funding that the Town Twinning programme is 50%. Therefore it is proposed to match the £1,850 that the group have raised through their own funds

9.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 n/a.

10.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

- 10.1 27th-29th June 2008.

11.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 n/a