

**REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE – 26 NOVEMBER 2008**

**PORTFOLIO: OVERALL POLICY & STRATEGY DIRECTION**

**REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**SUBJECT: TOWN TWINNING – 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 To suggest to Haltern and the respective twinning associations that we could incorporate 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary themes into the planned events around the Rayleigh Arts Festival at the end of October 2009 and invite Haltern to a specific event around the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rayleigh Windmill.
- 1.2 To notify the four secondary schools in the District of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to see whether they would wish to reflect the event in any of their activities in 2009.
- 1.3 To notify the local Chambers and Federation of Small Businesses of the anniversary and see whether they would wish to use the anniversary to promote linkages with businesses in and around Haltern and district.

**2 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To acknowledge the anniversary but in a way that utilises existing resource commitments rather than create additional expenditure at a time when budgetary circumstances are tight.

**3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 Not to suggest any events around which to celebrate the anniversary and not to participate whatsoever.

**4 OTHER SALIENT INFORMATION**

- 4.1 This report advises Members that next year (2009) represents the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning relationship with Haltern in Germany. The two twinning associations are already in contact planning a series of events and the Council has been asked for its views as to what it thinks should happen and whether there are any events that it would like to promote/action.
- 4.2 At the time of writing this report, the Rochford Twinning Association is planning to host its counterparts from Haltern over the weekend of 21 – 23 May. A number of activities are planned.
- 4.3 Haltern is looking to promote the anniversary around its Schutzenfest in June and food festival in August. It is likely the Chairman may receive an invitation to one or more of these events.

- 4.4 We are already starting to plan a series of events around the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rayleigh Windmill, following receipt of a grant of £32,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and it is anticipated that, within the context of those events, there can be some acknowledgement of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary through inviting Haltern to one of the main events. Within the planning of Rayleigh Arts Festival next October there could also be reference to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For example, we could look to promote and display art from the Haltern area, look at German literature and music, etc. These activities could be built into the festival for which there is already some funding available.
- 4.5 We could also take the opportunity to contact the four local secondary schools, the local Chambers and Federation of Small Businesses, with a view to bringing the anniversary to their attention and encouraging links with their German counterparts.

## **5 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are risks associated with our reputation and our relationship with Haltern if nothing is suggested. Similarly, utilising existing events for which resources have been allocated and taking on board this anniversary from the outset minimises any requirements for additional resources.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 It is anticipated that no additional funding will be required. It is more about including anniversary-related events into the initiatives already budgeted for which are now being planned.

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.

SMT Lead Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Executive**

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### **Background Papers:-**

None.

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