

ROCHFORD DISTRICT AND HALTERN TWINNING ASSOCIATION – MEMBERSHIP INVITATION

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' views in respect of an invitation for the Council to join the above organisation.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Rochford twinned with Haltern in Germany in 1984. From that time the Council was actively involved in organising twinning events.
- 2.2 In 1992, owing to budget constraints, the Council promoted the forming of an independent Twinning Association. The Rochford District and Haltern Twinning Association came into being in October 1992. From that time the Association has promoted twinning events with no financial input from the District Council.
- 2.3 The constitution of the Association provides for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council, during their time of office, to be ex-officio members.

3 CURRENT REQUEST

- 3.1 The new Chairman of the Association is endeavouring to increase the membership and has written to individual Councillors inviting them to join.
- 3.2 The formal request for the Council to join does not request any resource contribution other than the annual fee of £18. It is suggested that it would be beneficial to the aims of the Association if the Council were seen to be supportive.
- 3.3 The Chairman of the Association is currently trying to help a local boys football team arrange matches with Haltern later on this year.
- 3.4 The main aims of the Association, taken from its constitution are:-
1. To promote and foster friendship and understanding between the people of Rochford District and those of Haltern.
 2. To encourage visits by individuals and groups to and from those districts, particularly by children and young people, and the development of personal contacts, and by so doing to broaden the mutual understanding of the cultural, recreational, educational and commercial activities of these two districts.
 3. To organise fund raising activities to foster the aims of the association.

4 COMMENT

- 4.1 As stated in paragraph 3.2 above, the Chairman of the Association believes there would be benefit to the Twinning Association if the Council was to become a formal member.
- 4.2 Given the terms of the constitution, however, the Council could, if it wished, be represented at their meetings by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council.
- 4.3 The Council, therefore, needs to determine a view as to whether or not a more visible link with the Twinning Association would further the key objectives of the Council.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is minimal funding of £18 requested which can be met from existing budgets. There would be a Member resource in attending the General Meeting of the Association. There would also be resource implications in the future if the Council decided to take a more active role in twinning.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** whether or not to take up membership of the Rochford District and Haltern Twinning Association.

Graham Woolhouse

Corporate Director (External Services)

Background Papers:-

Letter from the Rochford District and Haltern Twinning Association.

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