

Grant Applications - general

It was suggested by Councillor Peter Eddis that the purpose of any visit should be detailed as early as possible, including benefits to the City. It was noted that some benefits are not always immediately apparent and most are likely to deliver benefits in the longer term. Whilst it was agreed that the benefits might be difficult to report after a trip, it was considered the visit itself and the activities should be reported, in writing as soon as practical afterwards.

Concerns were raised about the general funding for twinning related activities, with strong emphasis being given to alternative funding streams, such as the Office of the Lord Mayor and possible external sponsorship. When the Council makes official invitations, members of TAG considered that the funding should be identified and these activities should be funded by the service making the invitation.

RESOLVED that

- (1) Councillor Hugh Mason will bring forward to the next meeting some wording for agreement of the proposed ethos for granting monies when officers (of the council), elected members and link committee members are asking for whole support or a subsidy for trips abroad and;**
- (2) the concept of sponsorship from external organisations be looked into for twinning activities.**

5 Sister City Links update

Zhuhai, China

It was reported that the Portsmouth Chinese Association has progressed making contact with officials of Zhuhai in order to develop a sister-link with Portsmouth. Although Portsmouth receives approximately four link requests a year, it was considered that given the support by the Lord Mayor and the Portsmouth Chinese Association, on this occasion, consideration should be given to establishing this link. The group were encouraged by early indications that the Portsmouth Chinese Association planned to take the lead with the link with little input or resources required from the Council. It was further suggested that given there are strong links with the University of Portsmouth, there may be potential for promoting economic development. Councillor Hugh Mason with the Strategic Director, would investigate this and with the University of Portsmouth's International Office.

Both Councillor Terry Hall and Honorary Alderman Robin Sparshatt agreed that Portsmouth ought to be cautious in establishing this link. They both commented that they had had similar experiences at being let down with cancelled visits and delegations during their respective terms of office as the Lord Mayor.

RESOLVED that

- (1) Portsmouth will proceed with caution with establishing a link with Zhuhai and that this will be brought back to the Twinning Advisory Group for further consideration and;**
- (2) Councillor Hugh Mason with the Strategic Director would investigate the economic potential and liaise with University of Portsmouth's International Office.**

6 Updates from the Twinning Representatives and grant proposals

Caen Committee

Councillor Peter Eddis said that it would be helpful if the Council departments and services shared knowledge of their activities with members of the twinning committees, particularly matters connected with Caen. He reported that he found out that work had been taking place without the Committee's knowledge. The Committee needed to be kept informed so that they could help if appropriate or at least not confuse matters unintentionally.

Honorary Alderman Robin Sparshatt reported that he had submitted a number of grant requests for activities coming up in 2013 to be considered.

The first of the Caen Committee grant requests is for £500 to support the Portsmouth City Council's team, competing against the Caen City Council's team in the Les Courants de la Liberté on the 16 June 2013.

The second Caen Committee grant request for £600 is to support the French summer work experience opportunity here in Portsmouth. A reciprocal arrangement with Caen exists.

The third Caen Committee grant request £700 is to support the Portsmouth's Great South Run 2013 competition between Portsmouth City Council and Caen City Council. This was a reciprocal event to the earlier Les Courants de la Liberté in Caen.

It was agreed that these requests would be taken to Resources portfolio for consideration at its next meeting.

The fourth Caen Committee grant request for £400 is to support Portsmouth's inclusion in Caen's "Caen à l'International" in November 2013. This request was withdrawn, pending more work from the Caen Committee to investigate what activities and support will be needed later in the year. Further, it was identified that as there are limited funds available for the remaining 2012/13 financial year, it would be more realistic to grant remaining monies to those activities taking place sooner. A revised grant application for this is therefore expected later in the year.

Haifa Committee

Reverend David Stephen Butler put forward on behalf of the Haifa Committee a grant request for £1400 to continue its work in promoting Portsmouth's port and tourism. Following confirmation of the remaining budget it was agreed that half of the grant of £700 be proposed to Resources.

Duisburg Committee

Reverend David Stephen Butler said that there was nothing that had to be reported on behalf of the Duisburg Committee at present.

RESOLVED that the following requests be made to the next Resources Decision meeting

- (1) a grant of £600 to Caen Committee to support the summer job placement in Portsmouth (grant for accommodation – a reciprocal arrangement) and;**
- (2) a grant of £500 to Caen Committee to support the Caen Les Courants de la Liberte - by assisting with the cost of Medical Certificates required for participants under French Law and;**
- (3) a grant of £700 to Caen Committee to support the Great South Run - hosting competitors and providing tee shirts for Portsmouth runners and;**
- (4) a grant of £700 to Haifa Committee to support the official Haifa delegation to Portsmouth in May 2013.**

7 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 July 2013 at 11am.

The meeting concluded at 12:20pm.

Chair

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