

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Provost's Sub Committee – 17 September 2008****INVITATION TO MAYOR OF COGNAC****Report by Head of Democratic Services****ABSTRACT**

This report relates to a proposal to invite the Mayor of Cognac and a delegation to visit Perth in May 2009.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that:

- 1.1 An invitation be extended to the Mayor of Cognac and a delegation to visit Perth in May 2009.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Perth & Kinross has been twinned with Cognac in the Charente region of France since 1991. This has been a successful link with a wide range of exchanges taking place since its inception.
- 2.2 Crieff High School has a link with the École St Joseph in Cognac and numerous fruitful schools exchanges have taken place.

3. PROPOSAL TO INVITE THE MAYOR TO VISIT PERTH IN MAY 2009

- 3.1 A new Mayor was appointed in Cognac in March of this year. He is Michel Gourinchas, who is a member of the socialist party. Monsieur Gourinchas has been a member of the twinning committee in Cognac for many years and he is eager to liaise with our own Provost on matters associated with the twinning.
- 3.2 The Friends of Cognac Association (a party of 25) will visit Cognac from 8 – 15 October 2008. They will meet with the new Mayor and will extend greetings on behalf of the Provost.
- 3.3 It is not possible for the Provost to visit Cognac at this time. However, Provost Hulbert wishes to invite the new Mayor to Perth & Kinross in May 2009, to coincide with Perth Festival of the Arts.
- 3.4 It would be opportune for the office bearers of the Friends of Cognac to meet the Mayor during their visit in October and to present this invitation.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Chief Executive has been consulted on this report

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The cost of hosting the Mayor along with 2 other representatives from Cognac is estimated as follows:

Airport Transport from Edinburgh to Perth return	£150
Civic Gifts	£200
Hotel Accommodation for 3 nights stay for 3 people	£540
Meals	£400
Entertainment (possibly a ceilidh)	<u>£800</u>
	<u>£2,090</u>

Subject to the availability of resources this sum will be met by the 2009/2010 twinning budget.

6. COUNCIL PRIORITIES AND PRINCIPLES

- 6.1 This report supports the Council priority “working towards ensuring Perth & Kinross has a prosperous, sustainable and inclusive economy”

7. COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES 2006-2010

- 7.1 The Council’s Corporate Plan 2006-2010 lays out five Objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. The proposal in this report relates to all aspects of the Corporate Plan.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The proposal contained in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Assessment Framework and assessed in relation to the Race/Disability/Gender Equalities Assessment. Consequently, it was determined there were no further actions needed at this time.

9. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS).

The information presented in this report was considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 – Perth & Kinross Council has determined that the implementation of the proposal will not have significant environmental effect on any of the areas defined in the SEA Guidance.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The Perth & Kinross – Cognac twinning continues to be active. An invitation extended to the Mayor of Cognac will reinforce the council's commitment to this link and will offer an opportunity for the Mayor of Cognac and the Provost of Perth & Kinross to discuss the future of the link as part of a wider international strategy.

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