
To: Education & Children Policy Board

On: 20 August, 2015

Report by: Director of Finance & Resources

Heading: Town Twinning Visit – Fürth - October 2015

1. Summary

- 1.1 A letter was received from Dr Thomas Jung, the Oberbürgermeister of the Council's twin town of Fürth in Germany in thanks for the exchange placement which took place from Fürth to Renfrewshire Council in 2014. The letter also extends an invitation to the Provost and a small delegation from Renfrewshire to visit Fürth, between 8th – 13th October 2015, to further strengthen the town twinning links.
- 1.2 After discussion with the Provost and the Director of Children's Services, the Board is asked to approve a delegation comprising the Provost, Convener of the Education & Children Policy Board and two senior Education Officers to visit Fürth to study their educational practices, in particular the steps being taken to tackle the adverse impact that living in poverty can have on educational attainment. The travel costs estimated at £3,000 would be met from the current International Links budget.
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2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Board approves the travel arrangements in respect of the Fürth educational visit and that the Director of Finance & Resources be authorised to make the necessary arrangements in consultation with the Provost.

3. **Background**

- 3.1 The Council has maintained formal twinning links with Fürth in Germany which have involved exchange visits by delegations of members/officers from the respective councils. There is a long history of links with Fürth including not only formal civic exchange visits but also school exchange visits, employment schemes for young people and exchange visits involving local groups independent of the Council.
- 3.2 In 2014 an officer from Fürth as part of her studies took part in a period of work experience in Renfrewshire Council when she was involved in, among other things, the Commission for Tackling Poverty, the election team and information governance.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – Costs can be met from the current budget.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning** – None
4. **Legal** - none.
5. **Property/Assets** - none.
6. **Information Technology** – none
7. **Equality & Human Rights**
 - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** – none
9. **Procurement** – none
10. **Risk** – none
11. **Privacy Impact** - none.

List of Background Papers

(a) Background Paper 1 – letter dated 17th December 2014

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Finance & Resources for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Donna Gallagher, Member Services Officer (Telephone – 0141 618 6794, e-mail – donna.gallagher-pt@renfrewshire.gov.uk

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