

**REQUEST FOR TWINNING VISIT- GOREY TOWN COUNCIL**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 A request has been received in regards the potential for a twinning visit to be made to Oban by Gorey Town Council in late May 2014, and the Area Committee is therefore asked to consider use of their twinning budget to support the costs associated with provision of hospitality in hosting the visitors.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the request and agree to grant the sum of £833 from the Twinning Budget for 2014/15 towards the costs of this visit.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Oban has been twinned with Gorey Town Council for a number of years, and there have been a series of visits made both to Oban by Members of Gorey Town Council, and to Gorey by elected Members of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee. The most recent visit undertaken was in 2013, when representatives of Gorey visited Oban and were hosted by Oban Community Council.
- 3.2 Lorcan Allen TC recently wrote to the Council intimating that local government in Ireland is about to change, and that with effect 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014, Gorey Town Council will no longer exist, and that new, extended County Councils will come into effect. Mr Allen noted the long standing twinning arrangements which exist between Oban and Gorey, and indicated his desire to have a final visit to Oban in late May, the main objective of that visit being to put the twinning arrangements on a sound basis for the future
- 3.3 Members will be aware that the Council has a small budget available for twinning arrangements, and that the budget available to the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee for this purpose is £833.
- 3.4 Given the long standing links between Oban and Gorey, and the fact that the town Council will no longer exist after the beginning of June, Members may wish to consider allocating the available twinning budget

to supporting hospitably arrangements for the representatives from Gorey during their visit in late May. In addition, if Members were so minded, application could be made to the Provost for financial support from the civic budget to enhance that provision of hospitality.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Given the long standing twinning arrangements between Oban and Gorey, and the changing local government landscape in Ireland, Members may wish to make use of the available twinning budget to support the forthcoming visit to Oban.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

<b>5.1</b>	<b>Policy:</b>	Consistent with the Council's policy on twinning
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Financial:</b>	Can be provided within available budget
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Legal:</b>	None
<b>5.4</b>	<b>HR:</b>	None
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Equalities:</b>	None
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Risk:</b>	None
<b>5.7</b>	<b>Customer Service:</b>	None

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