



Standards Committee

11 October 2005

Report from the Borough Solicitor

For Information

Wards Affected:
ALL

Report Title: Twinning Update

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a brief update regarding twinning and the Twinning Protocol. Members may recall that at its February 2006 meeting, the Committee endorsed the protocol (governing the twinning arrangement with South Dublin County Council) subject to further discussion with South Dublin. The committee also requested a report regarding the resources available to support twinning activity.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the report.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Officers have sought to establish a dialogue with their counterparts at South Dublin County Council. As previously reported to the Committee, South Dublin gave an initial indication that they were in agreement with the protocol.
- 3.2 Since then officers have continued to seek further information from South Dublin, in particular, information about resources for twinning within their budget and any further feedback regarding their view of the protocol. To date this information has not been forthcoming.

3.3 We can however provide information regarding the resources available for twinning within the Brent budget. There is currently a budget of £4,500 in the Mayor's Office budget, which has been allocated to meet the costs of any future twinning visits that may be undertaken with South Dublin during the course of the 2006/07 municipal year.

3.4 The last twinning visit took place in May 2006, at which time representatives from the London Borough of Brent visited South Dublin following an earlier visit to Brent by an Irish delegation that took place in April 2006. The visit to South Dublin took place between 8th and 10th May 2006 when the then Mayor, Councillor Moloney, visited with Councillors Ruth Moher and James Moher. A formal meal and reception took place on 9th May to receive the Brent delegation. A visit was arranged for the delegation to highlight some of the new developments and new amenities in South Dublin including a new transport system and a number of industrial projects. The delegation met with representatives from the Council's Social Services Department to discuss new projects and initiatives within South Dublin. The delegation also met the South Dublin County Manager and other senior officers to discuss common issues affecting both Brent and South Dublin. The visit was concluded following a formal luncheon.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 There are no specific diversity implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

London Borough of Brent Budget 2006/07

Contact Officer

Any person wishing to inspect the papers in connection with this report should contact Graham Beever at the Town Hall Annexe, Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 9HD, telephone 020 8937 1368.

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