

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

INVERNESS CITY COMMITTEE – 8 FEBRUARY 2010

Agenda Item	6
Report No	ICC 05/10

Inverness Town Twinning - Update

Report by David Hass, Inverness City Manager

Summary

This report updates Members on the progress made on developing our twinning links with an emphasis on education and economic development. Particular attention is drawn to the progress made with regard to schools and the forthcoming seminar.

1. Inverness Town Twinning Committee

Inverness Town Twinning Committee values the support of the Inverness City Committee and Highland Council in carrying out its duties and furthering its aims.

The aims of the Town Twinning Committee are to:

1. promote and foster friendship and understanding between the people of the Inverness area in Scotland and those of **Augsburg** and district in Bavaria, Germany; **La Baule** in Brittany, France; and **St Valery-en-Caux**, Normandy, France; and
2. actively encourage and co-ordinate visits by individuals and groups to and from the linked towns by both adults and young people and the development of personal contacts, and by so doing to broaden the mutual understanding of the cultural, recreational, educational and commercial activities of the linked towns.

Inverness Town Twinning Committee is keen to engage with young people to promote among them the benefits of town twinning.

2. Young People

2.1 e-Twinning

Primary Schools in the Inverness City area have been encouraged to e-Twin with schools in our twin towns, with the offer of a laptop computer as an incentive for any of the first three schools to twin with a school in each of our three twin towns.

Farr Primary School has now formally e-Twinning with Costes et Belonte, St Valery en Caux using the secure British Council e-Twinning portal. They have received their laptop computer, with the children now using it to communicate

with their counterparts in St Valery en Caux.

Central Primary School is now also arranging e-Twinning with a school in La Baule.

2.2 **International Project**

Children from Secondary Schools in the Inverness City area have been invited to collaborate with children from similar schools in Augsburg, La Baule and St Valery en Caux to cultivate an international community project in a developing country (Appendix 1).

Charleston Academy and Millburn Academy have indicated interest in this project and have contributed to the early planning and design stage of it.

A Secondary School in Augsburg has now indicated an interest in this project and been provided with more details. We await responses from schools in La Baule and St Valery en Caux.

3. **Cultural Collaboration**

The Union of Trades people and Artisans (UTA) in St Valery en Caux has created a photographic exhibition that highlights many of the trades people of St Valery en Caux in amusing situations.

They have invited the City of Inverness to display this exhibition in public as a means of promoting the twinning relationship between us and them.

The Ward Management Team will support the Inverness Town Twinning Committee to accommodate this request.

4. **Town Twinning Seminar**

Inverness Town Twinning Committee is currently organising a Town Twinning Seminar scheduled for Saturday 20th March 2010 at Highland Council Headquarters.

The theme of the Seminar will be **Twinning in the 21st Century** with Alyn Smith MEP as keynote speaker.

The Seminar will help to promote town twinning and encourage cultural, recreational, educational and commercial activities among the towns with the following objectives:

- Broaden interest about town twinning
- Share good practice from across Europe
- Promote international collaboration
- Promote commercial activity among and between twin towns

Representatives from our three Twin Towns have been invited. Inverness Town Twinning Committee has also invited other towns in Highland that have twinning

arrangements as well as towns in Argyle & Bute and in Moray that have twinning arrangements.

5. St Valery en Caux

The City of Inverness has been twinned with St Valery en Caux since 1987. However, Inverness has a much longer tradition with St Valery en Caux. Many Invernessians served in the 51st Highland Division that was captured at St Valery en Caux by the Germans in 1940.

This, then, is the 70th Anniversary of that historic event and is likely to be cause for a visit by the Provost to St Valery en Caux to commemorate it and to remember the brave soldiers of Scotland and France who served in that arena.

The 51st Division were, of course, instrumental in the liberation of St Valery en Caux in 1944.

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to note progress with town twinning between the City of Inverness and Augsburg, La Baule and St Valery en Caux as well as the developments to further promote town twinning.

Signature:

Designation: Inverness City Committee

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Background Papers: