

Agenda item 10

For decision – Approve the updated partnership agreement between Frome Twinning Association and Frome Town Council

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Summary

The partnership agreement between FTA and FTC is reviewed every four years and was last reviewed in February 2018. FTA have proposed two amendments to the wording in the agreement to be approved by FTC.

Background

Frome was officially twinned with Château-Gontier, France in 1975; Murrhardt, Germany in 1983; and Rabka-Zdrój, Poland in 2009. The Frome Twinning Association (FTA) was set up by the amalgamation of two associations that served twinning arrangements with Château-Gontier and Murrhardt, and today exists to promote twinning between the four partner towns.

FTA arranges and organises the official visits to and from the partner towns, helps and advises organisations and individuals with twinning matters, seeks to help find accommodation in Frome for visitors from the twin towns, and liaises with those towns to arrange accommodation for visitors from Frome. A Quadripartite event is hosted in one of the towns every year, which each town takes turn to host. The event is run over a long weekend with each of the visiting towns bringing 30 guests, including the town's mayor and young people from the town.

In the last year, FTA and FTC have worked together on the Quadripartite visit to Frome, an international work placement with BOSCH in Murrhardt, and the Capturing the Town Hall event to engage young people with the Town Hall.

Suggested amendments to the partnership agreement

A copy of the full agreement with the two suggested amendments from FTA highlighted in the track changes at [Appendix 6](#). Below is a summary of the two amendments put forward.

Amendment 1

Pages 2 & 3 to the agreement. Clause 1 for the Twinning Association and Clause 1 for the Council require adherence to the Twinning Charter of July 17 2009. FTA felt there was some ambiguity as to whether this was referring to the Charter between the towns or the Agreement between FTC and FTA. To make it clear that it refers to the Charter between the towns, FTA suggest the following wording for clarification in both Clause 1's, along with attaching an English version of the Annex to the agreement.

“Adhere to the Twinning Charter of 17 July 2009 **signed by the four twin towns. The English language wording of the Charter is shown in the Annex to this Agreement**”.

Amendment 2

Page 3, Clause 4, before the word “budget” insert the following text “financial contribution of each party to the”

“In the case of the Quadripartite and other official meetings in Frome, FTC and FTA will discuss details of the event, including but not exclusively such items as date of event, programme, **financial contribution of each party to the** budget, hosting and accommodation of visitors, publicity for the event, recruitment of hosts, speeches and presentations, attendance at the four towns’ business meeting, press reports etc.”

Recommendation

Agree proposed amendments to FTA and FTC partnership agreement and for the Mayor to sign it on behalf of FTC.