

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Provost's Sub-Committee of Strategic Policy & Resources Committee****20 April 2016****PROPOSED TWINNING VISIT TO COGNAC, FRANCE – SEPTEMBER 2016****Report by Head of Democratic Services****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report advises of an invitation extended to the Provost to visit Cognac, France from 2 to 4 September 2016, to celebrate the 1,000th anniversary of Cognac and the 25th anniversary of the twinning arrangements between Perth and Cognac.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 Perth's twinning link with Cognac, France dates back to 1991.
- 1.2 The Mayor of Cognac, Michel Gourinchas, has extended an invitation to the Provost to visit Cognac from 2 to 4 September 2016 to celebrate Cognac's 1,000th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the twinning arrangements between Perth and Cognac.
- 1.3 The twinning link is active with numerous reciprocal visits taking place each year between the Friends Organisations in Perth and Kinross and Cognac.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 It is proposed to accept the invitation to visit Cognac from 2 to 4 September 2016, with the Council being represented by the Provost, Depute Provost and Chief Executive, supported by the Council Officer.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Perth – Cognac twinning link continues to be very active, with reciprocal visits taking place each year. Accepting the invitation to visit Cognac demonstrates the depth of the twinning relationship that has developed over the last 25 years and our commitment to sustaining the twinning relationship through the younger generation of both Perth and Kinross and Cognac.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Provost's Sub-Committee:
 - i. agrees that the invitation to the Provost to visit Cognac, France from 2 to 4 September 2016 be accepted;
 - ii. agrees that the Council is represented by the Provost, Depute Provost and Chief Executive, supported by the Council Officer.

Author

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
John Walker	Depute Chief Executive, HCC (Corporate and Community Development Services)	13 April 2016

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	No
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	No
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	No
Strategic Environmental Assessment	No
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	No
Legal and Governance	No
Risk	No
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	No
Communication	
Communications Plan	No

1. Strategic Implications

1.1 Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

The draft Perth and Kinross Community Plan 2013-2023 sets out five strategic objectives. The proposals in this report support the achievement of these objectives.

1.2 Corporate Plan

Perth and Kinross Council Corporate Plan 2013-2018 sets out five strategic objectives. The proposals in this report support the achievement of these objectives.

2. Resource Implications - Financial

2.1 Cognac will meet the costs of accommodation during the twinning visit for the Provost and Council Officer.

2.2 The Depute Provost and the Chief Executive will travel to Cognac as part of the official delegation and will meet the costs of their own travel and accommodation.

2.3 The civic costs associated with the visit are anticipated to be :

Flights for Provost and Council Officer	£ 530
Airport transfers (Council vehicle, fuel only)	£ 30
Civic Gifts to mark 25 th anniversary	<u>£ 400</u>
Total Civic costs	<u>£ 960</u>

2.4 This sum will be met from the 2016/2017 civic budget.

2.5 The Head of Finance has been consulted on the financial implications for the proposals and has indicated his agreement.

3. Consultation

3.1 Internal

The Provost and the Chief Executive have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

4.1 Letter of invitation from the Mayor of Cognac, France.