

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE		Subject: TWINNING: SCHWEINFURT UNTERFRANKENSCHAU
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION		
Date: 27 July 2004	Ref: JAF/IL	

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The report advises the Committee of an invitation to participate in the biennial Unterfrankenschau to be held in Schweinfurt in October 2004 and makes recommendations regarding participation.

2. Background

2.1 Correspondence has been received from the municipality of Schweinfurt inviting the Council to participate in the Unterfrankenschau 2004 which is a general trade fair held every second year in Schweinfurt.

2.2 It had been the practice of the previous authority to participate in this event: for the last two Unterfrankenschaus, however, the Council has not itself participated but has supported the Schweinfurt Twinning Association in doing so. The Schweinfurt Twinning Association have indicated that this year, again, they are willing to participate and seek a grant of £3,000 to enable them to do so.

3. Consideration

3.1 While it is accepted that the nature of this event is not such as would justify the Council in participating from an Economic Development perspective, there are undoubtedly economic benefits – in addition to the further consideration of support of the twinning link. For those reasons it is suggested that it would be appropriate that the Council support the Twinning Association in participation.

3.2 The Economic Regeneration Committee, at its meeting on 25 May 2004, agreed, *inter alia*, that a contribution of £500 towards the costs of the Twinning Association's participation be approved with the costs of transportation and products for sale being also borne by economic regeneration budgets. To enable participation, the Twinning Association require the further sum of £2,500 and, in view of the timescale, after consultation with the Vice Convener, this grant has been made from the Council's twinning budget.

4. **Recommendation**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Committee homologate the action taken in awarding the Schweinfurt Twinning Association a grant of £2,500 to support participation in the Schweinfurt Unterfrankenschau.

J. C. Fleming

Director of Administration

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on Extension 2228.