

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	CABINET
Date:	17 TH February 2004
Subject:	Twinning Arrangements
Key decision:	No
Responsible Chief Officer:	Chief Executive
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Partnership and Property
Status:	Part I
Ward:	N/A
Enclosures:	To be circulated separately

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This report explores the procedure for entering into a new twinning arrangement with the town of Bhuj in the Gujerat.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 To note the report and to encourage co-operation between the Council and the organisation being established by the signatories to the letter reported to your last meeting to further the necessary preliminary arrangements for twinning.

REASON: Working with a local voluntary organisation is considered the best means of achieving a successful twinning arrangement

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors**

- 3.1 None

4. **Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)**

- 4.1 At your previous meeting a letter from the President of the Shree Satsang Swarminaryan Temple was circulated. The letter sent on behalf of four signatories representing local organisations asked that the Council consider twinning with Bhuj in the state of Gujerat. The decision was made to consider this opportunity and a further report on the issues and processes was requested

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

5.1 The promotion of good community relations and support for local communities.

6. **Background Information and options considered**

6.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with more information on the procedure for making an effective twinning arrangement. The report has had to be written in advance of the return from the Gujerat of the Deputy Leader. A further paper with details of the interest of our potential partners will be tabled at the meeting.

6.2 Information has been obtained from the Local Government International Bureau and from other Councils who have entered into twinning arrangements with towns in the Subcontinent.

6.3 The advice stresses the need to take a fairly long-term approach to the process. It is recommended that the Authority discuss the development of the arrangements with the organisation being established by the signatories to the letter.

6.4 There will need to be clear objectives established which set out the benefit of twinning for both partners. This will need involvement and support from a range of organisations. To be successful the advice is that it is necessary to have

- a good quality programme of relevant activities
- clarity of objectives
- clear information on activities made widely available
- a means of measuring success
- participation from all sectors of the local community

6.5 Only when both parties are ready to twin should formal links be established. This would then require special resolutions of the Council

6.6 Timescale

This should be as long as is needed for the preparatory work to be completed. It is though likely that it take at least a year. Formal twinning should therefore possible from the middle of 2005.

6.7 Information from Bhuj will be tabled at the meeting.

6.8 Costs

The intention is to achieve self-funding for this project. It is believed that EU Funding is likely to be available to support an initial programme of activities.

7. **Finance Observations**

Cabinet expressed the wish that the twinning arrangements should be self-supporting.

8. **Legal Observations**

8.1 The Council has statutory powers to enter into twinning arrangements.

9. **Background Papers**

9.1 Letter from the President of the SKSS Temple dated 29th December 2003

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers should telephone 020 8424 7649

10. **Author**

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