

## Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	25/06/13
Originator	Head Of Policy & Partnerships
Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	Twinning Visit to Spree Neisse, Germany

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Additional information:

Authorised By	Tom Shearer
Designation	Head of Policy & Partnerships
Date	25/06/13

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**REPORT TO:** Members' Library Service

**DATE:**

**BY:** Executive Director (Support Services)

**SUBJECT:** Twinning Visit to Spree Neisse, Germany

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To advise Members on arrangements for an official twinning visit to Spree-Neisse, Germany, from Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note and approve above visit.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The link between East Lothian and Spree-Neisse, Brandenburg, Germany, has been active since 1998, initially as an education link and then developed as a 'county to county' link. A number of visits have taken place over the years in each direction and a regular 2-way work experience programme continues to take place between Dunbar Grammar School and North Berwick High School and their partner schools, offering students an opportunity to improve their English/German skills and gain experience working within Council Departments.

Only recently in May this year, East Lothian Council welcomed a group of 14 senior officials from various parts of the Spree Neisse district. The visit was mainly funded by themselves through European resources. During their stay, a programme was developed to gain an insight into Council's services and to share experience and build relations between both partners on the tourism theme.

- 3.2 An invitation has been received by the Provost from the Chairman of the Landkreis Spree Neisse inviting two guests to represent East Lothian Council at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Folklore Avalanche, an annual cultural festival featuring musicians and performers from participating countries.

3.3 Provost Ludovic Broun Lindsay and Councillor John McMillan, Economic Development and Tourism spokesperson, will be representing East Lothian Council at this event. Attending the event would be a great opportunity to continue existing links and open discussions to any new potential projects.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy implications.

#### **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 This report is not applicable to the wellbeing of equalities groups and, therefore, an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 **Financial** – The cost of return flights will be £455.80. Accommodation costs will be met by the Pardubice local authority.

6.1 **Personnel** - None.

6.2 **Other** – None.

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 Official letter of invitation.

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