



B O S T O N

B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

REPORT TO:	INTERNATIONAL LINKS COMMITTEE
DATE:	20 FEBRUARY 2017
SUBJECT:	BOSTON HANSE GROUP
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR PETER BEDFORD
REPORT AUTHOR:	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

SUMMARY

To consider whether the Boston Hanse Group should be invited to join the International Links Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to consider if it wishes to support the proposal for the Boston Hanse Group to be invited to join the International Links Committee and, if so, on what terms in respect of grant funding. Any recommendation would be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To recognise the work of the Boston Hanse Group in promoting Boston as a tourist destination and contributing to the Boston visitor economy.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

To not invite the Boston Hanse Group to join the International Links Committee.

REPORT

- 1.1 The current membership of the International Links Committee is four members of the Council and one representative from each international organisation formally recognised by the Council i.e. Boston International Committee (Laval); Hakusan Project and the Historic Bostons' Partnership.
- 1.2 The objectives of the Committee are
 - a) To enable representatives of the Boston International Committee, the Hakusan Project, the Historic Bostons' Partnership and Boston Borough Council to consult so that the Council's aims and objectives with regard to international twinnings and friendships may be fostered and improved.
 - b) To provide a forum under which all matters relating to the Council's current and any future international relationships can be dealt with on a fair and consistent basis.
 - c) To provide regular means of consultation on matters affecting international twinnings and friendship links.
- 1.3 A suggestion has been made that the Boston Hanse Group should also be invited to be part of the Committee to recongise its work in promoting Boston as a tourist destination and contribution to the town's visitor economy.
- 1.4 At the meeting of the Full Council on 2 March 2015 consideration was given to a report on a proposal for Boston to apply for membership of the Die Hanse (The New Hanseatic League).
- 1.5 The resolution of Council was:-

RESOLVED that an application be made for Boston to become a member of Die Hanse, with the Council to fund the initial two years' membership of the Hanse Business Sub Group, if the Boston Hanse Group so wishes, and for Council Officers to facilitate the initial series of meetings of the Boston Hanse Group to ensure membership proceeds well.
- 1.6 The application was successful and since that time the Boston Hanse Group has been involved in the promotion of Boston as a tourist destination and adding to the town's visitor economy by taking part in the International Hanseatic Day held in Bergen Norway in June 2016. The delegation included students from Boston College and Boston High School whose participation was partly funded by the Boston Big Local.
- 1.7 It is hoped a similar visit will be made to the International Hanseatic Day being held in Kampen, Netherlands in 2017.

- 1.8 Boston is the only town in Britain to have a Youth Hanse Group attending the international forum and links have been made with a town in Holland who are sending 10 students to Boston in March 2017.
- 1.9 It should be noted that in the resolution of the Council the only funding agreed was to support the initial two years membership of the Hanse Business Sub Group and officer support limited to the initial series of meetings. The intention was for volunteers and business connections to develop the Group without Council support.

Conclusion

The Committee is asked to consider if it wishes to support the proposal for the Boston Hanse Group to be invited to join the International Links Committee and, if so, on what terms in respect of grant funding. Any recommendation would be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Annual grant budget of £1,000 available for allocation to recognised international organisations.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATION

Chief Executive
Monitoring Officer

APPENDICES

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.