

CARLISLE LOCAL COMMITTEE	Paper No. 3(1)
Meeting date: 18 October 2004	
From: HEAD OF MEMBER SERVICES	

RHEINISCH-BERGISCHER KREIS

1.0 BACKGROUND NOTE

- 1.1 At the Local Committee's last meeting the Interim Chief Executive was asked to investigate the current status of the twinning arrangements between the County Council and the Rheinisch-Bergischer Kreis.
- 1.2 While the links between the County Council and the Kreis were reasonably active some years ago, in recent years there has been much less activity with the most recent visit to the Kreis having been by the former Chairman of the County Council, Mr Ralph Aldersey, on a personal basis. There have been no official visits from civic representatives of the Kreis to Cumbria in recent years. In July 2002 a choir from the Kreis visited Cumbria, and the Chairman of the County Council hosted a reception for them at The Courts.
- 1.3 Currently the County Council does not have a designated twinning officer in any department or a budget to fund exchange activities and visits. When the twinning was active the lead was taken by the Chief Executive, and then by the former County Secretary's Department and Education (particularly the Youth Service), but in recent years it has not been a high priority.
- 1.4 While there is no budget or dedicated officer support for more formal civic exchanges, members may feel that links between the County and the Kreis at school and youth levels should be encouraged through the Education department. The Education Department is happy to take this on, and will pass the request to the School Improvement Officer (Modern Languages).

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