

**BOROUGH OF POOLE**

**COUNCIL**

**8 APRIL 2008**

**PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP CLOSER LINKS BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF POOLE AND THE GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY OF GIBRALTAR: REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LOCAL ECONOMY**

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To consider the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Borough of Poole and the Government of Gibraltar which will form work to strengthen links and partnership between the two locations.

**2. DECISION REQUIRED**

- 2.1 That Council approves the pursuit of closer links between the Borough of Poole and the Government and Community of Gibraltar through a Memorandum of Understanding to be finalised, at the request of Gibraltar in 2009.

**3. BACKGROUND/INFORMATION**

- 3.1 As I reported to Cabinet at its Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008 a number of links had been developed between Gibraltar and Poole over past years. Following on from the island participation in the European Elections as part of the South West region, the Government of Gibraltar had visited Poole in 2005 with a return visit by the then Mayor and Mayoress of Poole, Councillor Lou Knight and Mrs Knight with the Borough's Returning Officer, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and myself.
- 3.2 The Gibraltarian economy was based strongly on shipping, marine and port industry, tourism and financial services and whilst there were some differences in scale these were some of the main drivers of the Poole economy.
- 3.3 The Mayor of Gibraltar has expressed his strong support for strengthening the ties between Poole and Gibraltar and it is proposed that a Memorandum of Understanding be entered into between the Borough of Poole and the Government of Gibraltar. I attach a copy of his proposed Memorandum for Council's consideration and approval.
- 3.4 I would point out to Members that the Memorandum of Understanding is not about providing civic hospitality and trips abroad but about opportunities for the people of our two communities to experience different ways of life, learn

from others and strengthen the ties between the UK and the unique piece of Britain's overseas heritage.

- 3.5 Following Cabinet's unanimous approval of the recommendation to Council of such a Memorandum of Understanding the Mayor of Gibraltar has been approached and advised that the Island would be very interested in strengthening its ties with Poole but requested that this be undertaken in 2009 as during 2008 Gibraltar is twinning with the Portugese Island of Madeira and this will entail a great deal of work.

**Councillor Ron Parker**  
**Portfolio Holder for Local Economy**



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

To establish, maintain and honour friendly relations with each other.

To foster and develop mutual understanding and respect between the people of Gibraltar and the people of Poole.

To encourage and assist youth and adult organisations, clubs, companies, groups and all classes of people (regardless of sex, age, ethnic background, ability or creed) to communicate and exchange information and visits with each other, thereby developing human and cultural relations and establishing a firm foundation for future understandings, respect and friendship between the people of Gibraltar and the people of Poole for all times.

To stimulate economic development between both communities.

To promote local community development and volunteer actions by motivating and empowering private citizens, municipal officials and business leaders to conduct long-term programmes of mutual benefit.

To create a network of citizens from both communities for the exchange of ideas, experiences, issues of common interests, inter-cultural relations and understandings and the development of joint projects of mutual interests.

To strengthen and maintain social, economic and historical links and connections for future generations in both communities.