



Leicester  
City Council

Minute extract

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
OVERSEAS LINKS WORKING PARTY

Held: WEDNESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2007 at 5.00pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Bhatti  
Councillor Cooke  
Councillor Draycott

Councillor Johnson  
Councillor Willmott

Co-opted Members (non-voting)

Ed Brown     Leicester Masaya Link Group

Officers in Attendance

Hayley Elson  
Mike Keen  
Joanne Ives  
Mark Mizzen  
Sandra Rieger

Civic Administrative Assistant  
Committee Support Officer  
Team Leader-Regeneration Programmes  
Social Economic Development Officer  
International Development Officer

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**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Bhatti was confirmed as Chair of the Working Party for the remainder of the year 2007/08.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this time.

**10. TWINNING WITH HASKOVO, BULGARIA**

The Service Director, Regeneration, Highways and Transportation submitted a report that proposed a formal twinning between Leicester and Haskovo.

The Working Party was informed that the City Council had been in regular contact with Haskovo since 1998 and that there had been meetings at ambassadorial level, both at the British Embassy in Sofia and the Bulgarian Embassy in London regarding a formal twinning between Leicester and

Haskovo and it was now felt that the time was right to formalise the relationship by twinning. It was reported that the twinning would preferably be a 21<sup>st</sup> Century style twinning, time limited for 10 years, with specific targeted issues to be addressed within the link.

The Working Party noted that there would be local elections in Bulgaria on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and it was generally agreed that the outcome of these elections should be known before proceeding with the twinning.

Concerns were expressed that the work programme required further information to be included to reflect the sharing of good practice between Leicester and Haskovo, and requested that the amended work programme be cleared with members of the Working Party prior to it being presented to Cabinet.

The Working Party were of the opinion that the revised report should be submitted to Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> November, and Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007 and that the formal twinning proposed and outlined in the report be supported.

RESOLVED:

that the report be noted.

