



Leicester
City Council

(i)

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the OVERSEAS LINKS WORKING PARTY

Held: 17 December at 9.00 am

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Johnson - Chair
Councillor Coles - Vice-Chair

Councillor Green

Councillor Willmott

Officers in Attendance

Sandra Rieger
Joanne Ives
Rebecca Owen

International Development Officer
Acting Head of Europe and The Regions
Committee Administrator

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2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they might have in the business to be discussed, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Councillor Johnson stated that he was Chair of the City of Leicester European Twinning Association (CLETA). As he had been appointed to CLETA by the Council he did not have a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct and did not represent CLETA at the meeting.

4. FUNDING ALLOCATION TO LEICESTER'S TWINNING ASSOCIATIONS, APRIL 2004 – MARCH 2005

The Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture submitted a report which informed Members of the applications for grant funding made by the three Twinning Organisations. It also set out funding options and sought recommendations on the use of the Overseas Links budget in respect of the Twinning Organisations' grant funding applications for the financial year 2004/05.

It was noted that the total indicative budget for the Twinning Organisations for the financial year 2004/05 had potentially been cut to £12,200 (a potential cut of £20,000), however decisions would not be confirmed until the Council's

Cabinet meeting on 16 February 2004. Attention was drawn to the 4 options (A, B, C and D) contained within the report.

It was suggested that Option D (in line with the table below) was the most appropriate option, although this would result in completely withdrawing funding from the Leicester Masaya Link Group. It was recognised that the link with Masaya was different to those of the Leicester Rajkot Twinning Association and CLETA, who had established formal links with local authorities in the countries involved.

The good work undertaken in Masaya with the help of City Council funding was mentioned, and it was suggested that there were very few cities which had associations with South American countries, and that it would be unfortunate to sever the link and to bring to an end the valuable work undertaken in Nicaragua.

It was also confirmed that despite previously granting funding for the development of the link with Chongqing, Members were not keen to continue the funding due to human rights issues in the country.

Councillor Willmott moved the following recommendation:

"That the Overseas Links Working Party make representations to the Cabinet to reject the indicative budget allocation and keep the budget at the 2003/04 level".

In the absence of a seconder, the motion was not put to the vote.

Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Coles, moved that Option D be recommended. On being put to the vote, the motion was declared CARRIED.

Councillor Willmott requested that it be recorded that he voted against the above motion.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) To grant funding of £0 to the Leicester Masaya Link Group;
- 2) To grant funding of £10,000 to the City of Leicester European Twinning Association;
- 3) To grant funding of £4,690 to the Leicester Rajkot Twinning Association;
- 4) That the European Office writes to the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning asking him to provide the Overseas Links Working Party with a grant of £3,600 to develop educational links.

6. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.30am.