



Leicester
City Council

Extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of the
OVERSEAS LINKS WORKING PARTY

Held: Wednesday, 15 March 2006 at 12.30pm.

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Johnson - Chair
Councillor Garrity – Vice-Chair

Councillor Bhatti

Councillor Green

Co-opted Members (non-voting)

Colin Cook
Peter Lee

City of Leicester European Twinning Association
City of Leicester European Twinning Association

Officers in Attendance

Mike Keen
Sandra Rieger
Alexandra Kowalczyk
Andy Thomas

Committee Services
International Development Officer
Lord Mayor's Secretariat Manager
Head of City Centre Development,
Regeneration and Culture Dept.
Regeneration Policy, Regeneration and
Culture Dept.

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Willmott, Maghanbhai Patel and Hitesh Tanna (Leicester Rajkot Twinning Association) and Clare Plumb (Leicester Masaya Link Group).

The Chair announced that Maghanbhai Patel was collecting his O.B.E. at Buckingham Palace, the Working Party expressed their congratulations.

The Chair announced that Stan Kacher, City of Leicester European Twinning Association, had recently died. It was stated that Stan had played a valuable part in twinning activities both within the City and the County and the Working Party expressed their sadness at his loss.

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 Green disclosed a personal and non-prejudicial interest as a member of the Combined Fire Authority, a body that had had a number of dealings with Haskovo.

5. TWINNING WITH HASKOVO (BULGARIA)

The Service Director, Regeneration submitted a report that proposed a formal twinning between Leicester City Council and the Municipality of Haskovo (Bulgaria) in September 2006.

Discussion took place regarding the proposals outlined in the report and of the feedback received from the political groups at the City Council regarding the proposed formal twinning. From subsequent discussions that had taken place, and on the basis that all work relating to the links with Chongqing (China) having been referred to the County Council as lead authority, general political agreement had now been reached. It was stated that the County Council were handling trading links with China and this work also involved input from the Leicester Shire Economic Partnership.

Concerns were expressed by representatives of the City of Leicester European Twinning Association that they would experience administrative difficulties in handling the work of an additional European link and questioned whether additional part-time support might be forthcoming. It was stated that officers would look to fund additional part-time support from within existing budgets.

The Working Party, having considered the proposals outlined, supported the proposal that Leicester City Council should formally twin with Haskovo.

RESOLVED:

that the report of the Service Director, Regeneration, be referred to the full Council with the recommendation that the Overseas Links Working Party support the formal twinning between Leicester City Council and the Municipality of Haskovo in September 2006.

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.58pm.