

WIRRAL COUNCIL

FINANCE & BEST VALUE COMMITTEE - 4 APRIL 2007

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE/DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the approved Overseas Travel for the period 1 January 2006- 31 December 2006. Members are asked to note this report.

2 BACKGROUND & PROPOSED POLICY

On the 29 September 1997 the Council agreed a Code of Practice for overseas travel. This code was based on advice received from the District Auditor. One of the requirements of the Code was that an Annual report should be presented to Committee listing visits abroad. The Audit Regularity Memorandum on the subject of overseas travel also required more information on the costs and benefits of overseas travel.

The programme of visits supported the objective of putting Wirral on the map whilst increasing the understanding of different cultures and traditions, and learning best practice in a variety of areas.

Members are advised that there were six visits in total at a total cost of £7,248.60 all of which were undertaken by officer's, with one visit being attended by two councillors..

Full details of the overseas visits are attached as Appendix 1

3 STAFFING & FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific staffing or financial implications arising out of this report. All expenditure involved has been contained within existing budgets or funded from specific budgets.

4 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

Activities undertaken on these can help the Council's Officers better understand diverse cultures and hence better enable the Council to embrace diversity and promote equal opportunities.

The twinning links present opportunities for the exchanges of experiences at civic, officer, young people and community groups to meet and share experiences.

The European Commission and the Council of Europe encourage local authorities to take a positive lead in international links.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS, COMMUNITY SAFETY, PLANNING, LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific implications arising out of this report.

6 AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

This is an international issue and exchange of information and best practice helps develop a better understanding of the issue and possible solutions to some of the problems.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

8 RECOMMENDATION

That this report is noted

**JIM WILKIE
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE/DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

Appendix 1

No	DEPARTMENT	OFFICER	LOCATION	DATE	PURPOSE	BUDGET	COST
1	Children's YP	Gail Webb/Lisa Finegan	Kyotanabe, Japan	18/2/6-25/2/6	Develop School Links	British Council	Nil
2	Corporate Services	Brian Knott Kevin Adderley Cllr Hackett Cllr Rennie	Brussels	21/3/6-24/3/6	Attend Steering Group Meeting of ERNACT	ERNACT project Budget	£3026.60
3	Finance	Gerald Moore	Amsterdam	25/4/6-27/4/6	European Custody Forum-Pension Fund attended in 2005, this year offered a free place. Forum attended by banks, pension funds etc	Within existing Merseyside Pension Fund resources	£325
4	Corporate Services	Lyndsey McKinnon Paula Basnett	Derry	3/5/6-6/5/6	Look at different ways organisations deal with both inward investment and business enquiries. ERNACT BRISE Project-Staff Exchange	ERNACT Budget	£433
5	Finance	Greg Campbell Leyland Otter	Dusseldorf	18/5/6-19/5/6	Learn more about the German Utilities sector for European Investment of Pension funds.	Within existing Merseyside Pension Fund resources	£500
6	Corporate Services	Lyndsey McKinnon Phil Smith Paula Basnett Kevin Adderley	Vienna Olomouc, Czech Republic	24/9/6-28/9-6	Attend ERNACT Conference and inward investments workshops.	ERNACT/BRISE Budget	£2,964