

## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

### **FINANCE & BEST VALUE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22 SEPTEMBER 2008**

#### **REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE/DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

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## **OVERSEAS TRAVEL**

### **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report details the approved Overseas Travel for the period 1 January 2007-31 December 2007. Members are asked to note this report.

### **2 BACKGROUND & PROPOSED POLICY**

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Members are advised that there were 9 visits in total at a total cost of £8,514.61. Cllr Rennie and Cllr Hackett attended one visit to Lisbon with officers from Corporate Services.
- 2.4 Full details of the overseas visits are attached as Appendix 1

### **3 STAFFING & FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 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**

- 4.1 Activities undertaken on these visits can help the Council's Officers better understand diverse cultures and hence better enable the Council to embrace diversity and promote equal opportunities.
- 4.2 The twinning links present opportunities for the exchanges of experiences at various levels including civic, officer, young people and community to meet and share experiences.
- 4.3 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**

5.1 There are no specific implications arising out of this report.

**6 AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 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**

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

**8 RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 That this report is noted

**J WILKIE**

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

	DEPARTMENT	OFFICER	LOCATION	DATE	PURPOSE	BUDGET	COST
	Corporate Services	Brian Knott	San Sebastian	28-30 March 2007	BRISE Project Steering Group	75% BRISE budget/25%Wirral	£698.90
	Finance	Andrea Bruffell/ Joanne Rosser	Dublin	25/4/07	Contact Centre Planning Conference 2007	Departmental budget	£200
	Corporate Services	Brian Knott	Treviso	21-24 May 2007	BRISE Conference and Inter-Regional Management Meeting	75% BRISE Budget/25% Wirral	£630.27
	Finance - Merseyside Pension Fund	Peter Wallach	Amsterdam	30/5/07 – 1/6/07	IPE Property Conference	Accommodation and travel paid by conference organisers, travel and subsistence allowances	£16
	Finance – Merseyside Pension Fund	Peter Wallach	Copenhagen	12 – 14 June 07	Annual European Summit on Corporate Governance and Responsible Investment conference	Departmental training budget	£20
	Corporate Services	Brian Knott, Kevin Adderley, Cllr Rennie, Cllr Hackett	Lisbon	19-21 September 2007	Inter-Regional Management Meeting	ERNACT /Councillors budgets	£2,182.68
	Finance – Merseyside Pension Fund	Peter Moore	Dublin	15 – 17 Oct 07	12 <sup>th</sup> Annual European Beneficial Owners Securities Lending and Global Custody Summit	Pension Fund Conferences Budget, travelling and subsistence budget	£399
	Finance – Merseyside Pension Fund	Peter Wallach	Monaco	23 – 25 Oct 07	European Alternative and Institutional Investing Summit	Existing travel and training budget	£125
	Corporate Services	Jim Wilkie Kevin Adderley Emma Degg	Cannes	14-16 March 2007	MPiM	Existing budgets	£4,242.76