

- Chief Executive
- Legal I Marriott – comments incorporated.
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers Education – M Gore – for information.
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** (*If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps*)

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Cabinet - 28th April 2005

Development Partnership with Sierra Leone

Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy

Recommendation

That Warwickshire County Council (WCC) participates in the bid to be made by the consortium of local authorities for resources from the World Bank (and any other bid made by the consortium to any other suitable funding source) to support a development partnership with Sierra Leone.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) and UK Government are trying to encourage local authorities to help build better systems of government in the developing world. This year is seen as pivotal for Britain's involvement, given the British Presidency of the G8 and our hosting of the United Nations Special Summit on the Millennium Development Goals.
- 1.2 Councils from six parts of Britain are in discussion with the World Bank about establishing development partnerships with six councils in Sierra Leone in the form of a "UK Local Government Taskforce for Collaboration with Sierra Leone", to be managed by the Local Government International Bureau (LGIB) and Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF).
- 1.3 Local government is just being re-established in that country after having been abolished for over 30 years, and is being based on the British model of local government. The World Bank is looking for local authorities from Britain who will assist the councils in Sierra Leone to develop their capacity to deliver improved services, through mutual exchange of skills and experience, with the aim of improving quality of life in that country. The County Council has the power under Section 1 of the Local Government (Overseas Assistance) Act 1993 to provide advice and assistance to local government abroad on any matters in the which they have skill and experience. The consent of the Secretary of State is required but the assistance proposed in this report can be provided within the terms of a general consent issued by the Secretary of State. The Bank is looking to provide grant towards technical assistance under their Institutional Reform and Capacity Building project. In addition, there are opportunities for funding such a Partnership from the EU, Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations and others.

2. Sierra Leone

- 2.1 Already there are well-established links between many Warwickshire schools and Sierra Leone, especially between schools in Warwick and those in the Bo District of Sierra Leone, encouraged through One World Link. The proposed Development Partnership would build upon existing networks. It would seek to support fledgling local government in Bo through capacity building and helping to tackle pressing infrastructure and related issues. Major issues for them include waste disposal, highways and schools – all matters that WCC is well placed to share experience. Other key issues include water supply and sanitation, where many of our staff and those of strategic partners such as Arups have appropriate engineering skills to share. More details of what such a Development Partnership could cover are given in **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 The Mayor of Bo District was a guest at Warwick Area Committee on 22nd March, where it was resolved:-
- (i) “That the Warwick Area Committee fully support initiatives for the County Council in conjunction with others to become involved in schemes to improve services and infrastructure in Bo through capacity building.”
- 2.3 The Committee also recognised that the County Council would also gain through staff development, as the staff going to assist Bo Town Council would be placed in situations that they had never faced in their current positions giving them experience in decision making and direct responsibility for actions above and beyond the normal range of their experience in Warwickshire.
- 2.4 At this stage we are looking for support from Cabinet to be part of the bid being put forward by the Consortium of the World Bank for funding to support a Development Partnership. A decision on such an application should be known around August. If successful, the Council will implement the development partnership through, firstly, experience, exchange visits, advisory support and joint working on the theme of governance and organisational development. At a later stage, the programme could be extended to include implementation of specific physical projects, which will be identified early in the Partnership as a local priority. The resource requirement at this stage from the County Council will be part of an existing graduate officer’s time. The Partnership would run for a period of three years in the first instance.

JOHN DEEGAN
Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy
Shire Hall
Warwick

13th April 2005

Cabinet - 28th April 2005

Development Partnership with Sierra Leone

**Warwickshire County Council
Development Partnership with Bo Town Council**

Project Aims

- 1. A scheme based on the principle of mutual exchange of skills and experience and joint learning**
 - Bringing together two councils to work collaboratively on a specific project/area.
- 2. Institutional Reform and Capacity Building**
 - Assisting Sierra Leone to face the major challenges in dealing with decentralisation and participatory governance, and therefore increasing local government's capacity to respond to the needs of their constituents.
- 3. Restore Trust and Confidence in Local Government**
 - By delivering quality public services at a local level for the benefit of the Sierra Leonean to improve the quality of life and living standards.
- 4. Supporting Bo in achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals with an overall aim to halve the proportion of people living in poverty by 2015:**
 - Clearly local government is the sphere of government that touches on peoples' lives most frequently in fundamental ways, therefore the quality of services delivered is critical to poverty reduction and development.

Potential Development Projects

Short Term - 2005/2006

- Building Bo Town Council's administrative and infrastructural capacity.
- Assist the council with recruitment and training of staff.
- Councillor Mentoring Programmes.
- Financial Management and Revenue Generation Training.
- Waste Management programmes.

Medium Term – 2006/2008

- Provision of educational materials for schools, curriculum development, and extend the school links and teacher exchanges.
- Improvement of the Healthcare System.
- Rehabilitation of the Water Supply and Treatment Plant.
- Reconstruction of the feeder roads, bridges, culverts and drainage systems.

Long Term – 2008/2010

- Offer assistance to farmers and SMEs to raise productivity and employment.
- Economic Development and Strategic Planning.

How will the Development Partnership work?

- Through the Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme.
- Developing this approach by working as part of a '*UK Local Government taskforce for collaboration with Sierra Leone*' managed by the CLGF and its partners in the UK Local Government Alliance for International Development which includes the LGIB, to jointly apply for project funding.
- Projects will be jointly designed by the partners and focused around the specific theme of '*Governance and Organisational Development.*'
- WCC contributing staff time in-kind within the conditions stipulated by the Local Government (Overseas Assistance) Act 1993.
- Get assistance from other organisations outside the authority such as the NHS, Computer Aid, LINK, HRI and private organisations to give their support to possible projects.
- Collaborate with Voluntary Service Overseas that is also working up proposals for placements for local government specialists to complement this programme.

Funding

EU:

- Grant for Decentralisation and Capacity Building of the local councils under the 9th EDF.
- ACP-EU Water Facility (Technical support for water provision and management).

DFID:

- Good Practise Scheme managed by CLGF.
- Development Awareness Grants.
- C3 City Community Challenge Fund.

Worldbank:

- Grant for International Technical Assistance under the Institutional Reform and Capacity Building project.

Comic Relief

- Africa Grants programme for people affected by conflict.

Community Fund:

- International Grants programme for UK organisations working in partnership with overseas organisations.

British Council

- The Education and Training Group provides funding for a number of European and international activities such as curriculum related projects, school linking and colleges.

UNDP

- Fund projects that are focused on promoting prudence in financial management, accountability and transparency within the Councils.

Benefits

For Bo Town Council:

- Strengthening the local council's capacity to delivery services.
- Improved service delivery.
- Change of strategy towards development.
- A new culture of transparency and accountability at a local level.
- Local government is a training platform for future political leaders.

For Warwickshire County Council:

- Increasing staff's global and European awareness.
- Accessing EU funding.
- Solving problems through sharing experience and good practice.
- Low cost staff and member development and training.

General benefits for Bo and Warwickshire:

- Promoting global learning and tolerance by raising public awareness.
- Increased awareness and understanding of local governance internationally.
- Promoting community cohesion, partnerships and civil society.
- Economic and business links.
- Enhancing youth activities and cultural exchanges.
- Youth engagement as project work will create job opportunities especially for ex-combatant child soldiers.
- Promoting local enterprise by using locally produced materials wherever possible.

Why Now?

The LGIB and CLGF are currently in the process of putting forward project proposals to the Donors on behalf of the Taskforce.

2005 has been marked as the MAKE POVERTY HISTORY year as the British Government has an amazing opportunity to radically change the face of world poverty by:

- Its presidency and hosting of the G8 summit in July
- Hosting the UN General Assembly Special Summit on the Millennium Development Goals.
- Holding the chair of the EU in the second half of 2006.
- The completion of the Commission for Africa report that was launched by Tony Blair last year.
- Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Live Aid drawing the public's attention back to issues of poverty.

The LGA and the UK Government are trying to encourage councils to help build better systems of government in the developing world.