

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 23 APRIL 2008

EAST AYRSHIRE MALAWI LINK

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the development of links between East Ayrshire schools and educational establishments in Malawi.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Government wishes to encourage the development of educational links with Malawi. A range of links is currently offered through the Scotland-Malawi Partnership, a registered charity, and the Global Gateway, a British Council initiative.
- 2.2 Following on a private visit to Malawi by an East Ayrshire headteacher, a small group of interested teachers has met to discuss possible links for schools.

3. LINKS WITH MALAWI

- 3.1 The Schools' Malawi Group proposes to explore the possibility of several kinds of links.
- 3.2 **Awareness-raising:** a priority for the group will be to make children and young people aware of the poverty faced by many children in Malawi. A small group of teachers will meet to develop materials for use in early years, primary and secondary establishments. Fair Trade issues will feature strongly in the materials. The group will investigate the possibility of inviting the head of the Malawian charity Chisomo Children's Club, who visited Scotland in March, to identify further ways links might be strengthened. As part of the awareness-raising process, opportunities will be sought for school personnel to join one of the twice-yearly study visits to Malawi organised by the British Council in Scotland.
- 3.3 **Charitable project:** all East Ayrshire educational establishments currently support local and international charities and will be invited to donate a proportion of the funds raised in this school session to charities operating in Malawi, such as Tear Fund and Mary's Meals. In cooperation with charities such as these, East Ayrshire schools have gathered a container of gifts of school materials to ship to Malawian schools.

3.4 Educational projects between schools and clusters of schools

Such projects will be developed with the help of the Scotland-Malawi Partnership and Global Gateway and will focus on global citizenship, through curricular areas such as enterprise, ecology, art, music, history and geography, etc.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** Materials will be developed by schools using existing resources. Any study visit will be fully-funded.

5 POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Nil

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** These activities contribute to the themes of “Improving Opportunities” and “Promoting Community Learning.”

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1** Nil

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** It is recommended that Members:
- (i) approve the development of links between East Ayrshire educational establishments and schools in Malawi; and
 - (ii) otherwise, note the contents of this report

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

JN/MR
11.02.08

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Jean Nisbet, Quality Improvement Officer, Tel: (01563) 555650 or Kenneth McKinlay, Acting Head of Service: Schools, Tel (01563) 676126.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: Kenneth McKinlay, Acting Head of Service: Schools