

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 29 MAY 2001

LINKS WITH GEORGIA, USA

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** To advise Members of a proposed East Ayrshire Schools Band and Choir concert tour to Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** A number of positive links, which are to the benefit of pupils and staff within East Ayrshire schools already exist with Atlanta, Georgia, USA. These links take the following pattern:

- Pupil exchanges between secondary school pupils.
- Staff exchanges and links.
- Video-conferencing links with primary aged pupils.
- Developments related to enterprise education.

Already a number of delegates from Atlanta have visited East Ayrshire Council offices and held discussions with the education authority and visited educational establishments. Pupils from the State have visited East Ayrshire and lived in pupil homes and our pupils have lived in the homes of pupils in Atlanta and visited local schools.

3. INVITATION

- 3.1** An invitation to the East Ayrshire Schools Band and Choir, the Chair of the Education Committee and the director to visit Atlanta, Georgia, USA has been received. Achievers International are hosting the visit which is planned for the period 27 June 2001 to 8 July 2001. They plan to meet all costs associated with the visit within the USA (accommodation, transport, performance venues).
- 3.2** 92 pupils from secondary schools across East Ayrshire would travel to the USA. They will perform in concert venues across Georgia - La Fayette Educational Centre, Middle College, East Georgia College, Lakeside Pavilion and the Centennial Hall in Georgia College. In addition, arrangements have been made to visit the State Capitol and Stone Mountain area.
- 3.3** The visit would be extremely beneficial to our pupils in that opportunities would be grasped to:
- Strengthen links between the educational establishments in East Ayrshire and Atlanta.
 - Establish links for teachers to share good educational practice.

- Provide East Ayrshire pupils with a significant opportunity to perform to American audiences.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All accommodation and transport costs in the USA are being met by the hosts in Atlanta. The only cost to the pupils would relate to travel costs to and from the USA and related insurance as required. Sources of external funding to reduce travel costs are being sought.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The visit would contribute to strategies to raise educational standards and strengthen links with staff, pupils, educational establishments and local communities in Atlanta.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Nil

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The Council's delivery of an effective education service would be enhanced by the visit which offers a wide range of educational opportunities and can be regarded as excellent value for money.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 The Education Committee is invited to:
- (i) endorse the arrangements for the proposed visit to Atlanta, Georgia; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

JM/DL
22 May 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members requiring further information should contact John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services (01563 576017).

Implementation Officer: John Mulgrew

AGENDA