

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MEMBERS' SERVICES AND CIVIC CEREMONIAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 10 SEPTEMBER 2003

INVITATION TO VISIT BARLAD, ROMANIA

Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise the Sub-Committee of an invitation from the Mayor of Barlad, Romania to visit their town in 2003/2004.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Representatives from Barlad, Romania visited East Ayrshire in July of this year. The representatives consisted of the Chief of Hospital Services, the Chief Fire Officer and the Ambulance Service Co-ordinator.
- 2.2 Whilst visiting East Ayrshire the group made a point of visiting our own Emergency Services provided by Strathclyde Police, Ayrshire and Arran Community Health Care Trust, Strathclyde Fire Brigade etc.
- 2.3 Mr Paul Docherty, (Project Manager, South West Ambulance Services and Project Co-ordinator of Global Medical Projects limited) our local contact, was invited to meet with the Provost and the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources in late July 2003 when he handed over gifts received from the Mayor of Barlad. Mr Docherty has since returned to Romania for approximately 4-6 weeks to carry out volunteer work.
- 2.4 As members are aware East Ayrshire is twinned with Kulmbach (Germany), Santa Colma De Gramenet (Spain), Alés (France), Herstal (Belgium) and Joué Lès Tours (France). The Council also has friendships links with Sukhum, Abkazia (Georgia) which provides for the mutual exchange of information and correspondence as required.
- 2.5 The Civic Ceremonial Sub-Committee at its meeting held on 30 June 1997 agreed that no further international partnerships be established in order to ascertain the success of existing partnerships. This decision has also been endorsed by the Town Twinning Association.
- 2.6 The Department of Educational and Social Service has also established and maintained positive partnership links with the State of Georgia in the USA and Sandefjord Norway and has developed an interchange of ideas, education strategies and pupil and staff development opportunities.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1** The total cost of any visit would require to be quantified but would include travel, accommodation, food and gifts etc and would be dependent on the size of the delegation. It should be noted that, if agreed, any associated costs would require to be met from the Civic Ceremonial budget.

4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATION - Nil

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1** In conclusion, at present, the Council has agreed not to establish any further international partnerships in order to assess the success of existing partnerships. East Ayrshire Twinning Association has also concentrated on existing links, primarily Joué Lès Tours and Kulmbach. Any unsolicited enquires in regard to other town twinning links have been dealt with in terms of the above decision. However, the Sub-Committee may wish to consider the specific invitation from Barlad, Romania on its individual merits merely as a courtesy response to the earlier visit of representatives from Barlad. It is not proposed that a formal Twinning Link be established however, it may be that the Sub-Committee, subject to hearing from Officers, agree to establish a friendship link or partnership similar to those being developed with Georgia and Sandefjord.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1** The Sub-Committee is asked to:-

- (i) Consider in principle the request to visit Barlad, Romania;
- (ii) remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to submit a further report giving details of the proposed arrangements following the outcome of further consultation.

Fiona Lees
Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources
CB/KC
20 August 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1.** Letter from the Mayor of Barlad, Romania

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer on telephone number (01563) 576129. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager on telephone number (01563) 576135.

Implementation Officer: Christine Baillie, Administrative Officer