

**LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL**  
**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

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## 1. **INTRODUCTION**

The City Council's International Development Strategy has been developed primarily for and on behalf of the corporate International Development Committee to support Leicester's sustainable community strategy as set out in **One Leicester** and ensure that the opportunities and benefits of international engagement are maximised in all areas of the Council.

The Strategy has been developed within the context of Leicester's 25-year vision 'One Leicester, Britain's Sustainable City: Confident people, new prosperity, a beautiful place'<sup>1</sup> and reflects key recommendations and policy directions of international institutions (such as the UN and the EU), UK government departments and civil society organisations.

Effective engagement with the wider world will be essential to achieving our vision for the city's future. A sustainable, confident and prosperous Leicester in the twenty first century will by necessity be an internationally-engaged and outward-looking Leicester. As the LGA puts it international engagement is "a matter of self-interest in a world that is increasingly interconnected and interdependent."

Enhanced international engagement over the next 25 years will enable Leicester to:

- attract inward investment to the city and raise its profile
- build cohesive and tolerant communities that are able to grasp their place in a dynamic and changing world
- increase opportunities for its residents to learn new skills and broaden experience
- build our profile and prominence on the international (and national) stage
- improve performance and service delivery through opportunities for exchange of ideas and experiences and training of its staff and councillors
- take greater advantage of European and other international funding opportunities
- contribute towards the meeting of the millennium development goals

The Strategy will be implemented within legal powers available e.g. the Local Government (Overseas Assistance) Act, 1993 and Well-Being powers available under Section 2 of the Local Government Act, 2000.

## 1. **WHY DOES LEICESTER NEED AN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY?**

No city operates in a vacuum. If cities of the scale and complexity of Leicester are to be successful they have to understand their place within a rapidly changing global economy. Globalisation and European integration mean that we live in an increasingly connected and interdependent world in which we both compete and co-operate with each other. In this fast-changing environment, local government has a crucial role to play in actively working with European and international partners for mutual learning and benefit.

International co-operation is a flexible concept that covers a wide range of activities, involving all members of the community and covering a diverse range of local government services. This section outlines some of the major elements of the broader context within which our commitment in international engagement must be placed and some of the key policy frameworks with which we should seek to engage at global, national and local levels.

### 2.1 **International context**

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<sup>1</sup> [www.oneleicester.com](http://www.oneleicester.com)

Companies increasingly need to compete in international markets in order to survive and to grow, sourcing suppliers and marketing their services to consumers within a global context. Economies such as China and India are growing rapidly and, coupled with the growth of economies in the new EU Members States, will continue to increase competition. Cities and businesses within more established economies will need to respond to this challenge. Attracting and retaining international investment, and enabling local businesses and people to compete effectively in international markets are major challenges for Leicester within this context.

Individual cities do not operate in isolation but are increasingly inter-connected and inter-dependant. Investment decisions that may create jobs, or result in job losses, are often taken thousands of miles away from the place of work. It is clear that the challenges that local authorities face in developing communities that are safe, sustainable, economically viable and inclusive are often global challenges that cannot be dealt with by local authorities in isolation but require partnerships at the local, regional and global level.

Responding to this context, over recent years local authorities have set up networks of partnerships and links that represent a new form of international co-operation. From formal town twinning, to technical and project based partnerships and capacity building - all of these links give us the opportunity to exchange experience and learn from each other, to find effective solutions to serious problems and to strive for peace and stability.

Alongside the need for increased economic productivity and equitable trade to improve the quality of life, stability and security are increasingly a priority at the international level. Increased awareness of international issues, experience and understanding of other cultures, and specific initiatives to encourage fair trade, reduce poverty, and promote local democracy and civic engagement within an international context can contribute significantly to raising the quality of life for all.

Recognising that a set of priorities was needed to improve the lives of the poorest people, world leaders signed the Millennium Declaration in September 2000 under the auspices of the United Nations (UN). Ambitious targets then were agreed to tackle poverty, improve environmental sustainability, public health, gender inequality and access to education, as well as to form global partnerships for this purpose. The UN, moreover, has recognised that the required progress will not be achieved without local action across the world and in recent years has developed a whole series of initiatives promoting the role of city-to-city cooperation in meeting international targets. UN-HABITAT's Partnership for Local Capacity Development report in 2003, for example, talks of how recent international agreements "emphasize the importance of local capacity development for such fundamental development objectives as poverty alleviation, as well as social, economic and environmental sustainability. It goes on to argue that "city-to-city cooperation, peer-to-peer learning and other forms of decentralised cooperation" are amongst the most effective means of helping to achieve that local capacity development.

Similar conclusions about the importance of local action were reached at the Earth summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, where a range of objectives were agreed in relation to the environment and sustainable development, with the aim of integrating environmental considerations into economic development and reducing negative environmental impacts. These covered areas such as the planning and management of land resources, waste management, energy development, resource efficiency and consumption, and transport. The principles established at the Earth Summit are also reflected in, for example, the Kyoto Protocol, which sets targets for industrialised countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions. International co-operation, through activities such as the

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEs) Cities for Climate Change Programme can make a significant contribution.

## 2.2 European Union

Globalisation means that local authorities are operating in an increasingly international environment and dealing with European and international businesses on a regular basis. Local government is being increasingly influenced in its activities by European law and is becoming increasingly involved within the European Union institutions. No European local authority can afford to under-estimate the importance of its relationship with European institutions or with partner European cities. Most EU initiatives require local authorities to work with partners from at least two other member states if they are to be eligible to apply for grant funding. The significant enlargement of the European Union that took place in 2004, making the EU the largest multi-country single market with a population of 450 million across its 25 Member States (Romania and Bulgaria also joined the European Union in January 2007), has provided even more opportunities for accessing European funds for cooperation projects with Central and Eastern European partners.

European and UK government funding also supports the implementation of key EU policies such as the Lisbon Agenda, for example, by supporting skills development activity, encouraging co-operation between universities and businesses in research and development, and financing initiatives to enable people to become economically active. For the period 2007 to 2013 European funding is available to support such initiatives through the EU's Competitiveness and Employment Objective. The East Midlands is eligible for more than £180 million under the ERDF Competitiveness Programme between 2007-2013.

Transnational programmes will continue to support co-operation between European partners across a wide range of EU policy areas including research and development, culture, the environment, education, lifelong learning and citizenship. These programmes offer a valuable opportunity to develop and exchange good practice with European partners and are developed within the overall policy context set by the Lisbon Agenda.

EU legislation also impacts directly on the city. For example, EU regulations govern the level of support that can be provided from public funds to encourage private investments to ensure that competition is not distorted across the EU as a whole. Similarly, EU environmental legislation sets targets for the percentage of waste that must be recycled, and for the cleanliness of our beaches.

## 2.3 National policies

International agreements on the environment or trade are generally implemented at EU and UK level. The outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg are reflected in the EU's Lisbon Agenda and environmental initiatives, the UK Sustainable Development Strategy and Climate Change Strategy (revised in 2006), and the Government's Sustainable Communities agenda. Similarly, much of EU policy and legislation is implemented by the government at national and regional level. In terms of policy, the EU's Lisbon Agenda is reflected in the National Lisbon Reform Programme, which sets out how the UK will work towards achieving the Lisbon targets and increasing competitiveness. In turn this is reflected within the UK in the revised Regional Economic Strategy, which seeks to increase competitiveness through the region's businesses and its people, as well as in national and regional programmes for EU funding.

The UK's Local Government Association and previously the Local Government International Bureau (LGIB) have a long history of promoting the international engagement of UK local authorities. They have been a major player within the UK's Alliance for International Development whose principal message, "Think Global, Act Local", reflects the

need for local action to address global challenges. The Alliance was set up in 2004 to “promote local government and local community participation in international development through providing tools and resources to help local authorities become more actively involved”. Membership of the Alliance includes the Local Government Forum (CLGF) and the Improvement and Development Agency (IDA).

The LGA also published its draft International Policy in 2006, building on previous policies covering European Enlargement and International Development. While this policy is a general guide for local authorities, it is relevant for assisting individual local authorities in the development of a city-wide strategy within the context of the Local Government Act 2000 and the community leadership role it sets out for local authorities, including powers to act where this is likely to promote or improve the economic, social and/or environmental well-being of its people.

The LGA policy aims to:

- Increase the involvement of UK local government in international cooperation
- Help UK local government maximise the domestic benefits of international co-operation in relation to service delivery and community well-being
- Raise awareness of the role that UK local government can play in promoting the development of local democracy overseas and the important contribution they can make to international development activities
- Emphasise that all forms of international cooperation are valid and equal, and can contribute positively to the reputation of UK local government. It welcomes the involvement of local authorities in international partnerships and asks that each local authority:
  1. Becomes more actively involved in all forms of international partnership;
  2. Adopts an international policy and develops a strategy for engagement and activities, and;
  3. Appoints an elected member to promote the international dimension.

There is also a wide range of government initiatives across a wide range of sectors (economy, trade, tourism, education, community cohesion, environment, energy etc) where an international dimension could add value to existing strategies (examples are referred to in later sections of this document). In sport, for example, London’s successful Olympic bid for 2012 included a strong international dimension, particularly in relation to young people, reflecting the potential this has to enhance the Olympic Programme. In addition, the requirement for public organisations, including local authorities, to pursue continuous improvement goals, and achieve value for money, indirectly forms part of the national context for encouraging international engagement. Development and sharing good practice within international projects and networks can be an effective tool in achieving such goals.

## 2.4 Local agenda

As well as responding to the wider context outlined in the preceding sections, Leicester’s International Development Strategy must also be integrated into local and regional agendas and build upon and extend existing international work rather than try to supplant it. The Council’s International Development Strategy should thus contribute to the delivery of Leicester’s Vision and address the region’s economic, social and environmental priorities as set out in the ‘Leicester Local Area Agreement’, the East Midlands Regional Assembly’s ‘Integrated Regional Strategy Framework’ and the East Midlands Development Agency’s ‘Regional Economic Strategy for the East Midlands 2006-2020’.

Leicester has a thriving and dynamic set of existing city-to-city links and is currently twinned with Strasbourg (France), Krefeld (Germany), Haskovo (Bulgaria), Masaya (Nicaragua), Rajkot (India) and Chongqing (China). The City Council has also established good working connections with Az Zubayr (Iraq). There is an emphasis from some of Leicester's twinned cities to develop technical rather than civic links, supported by a range of voluntary organisations that have re-focused their approach to international work over the past few years and have helped to enhance Leicester's reputation within this field.

Since 2002, Leicester has been designated a Fair Trade City, reflecting its commitment to social justice within international trade. This status is reviewed annually ensuring that new targets are met regularly.

Having a clear strategy for international co-operation is crucial to the success of the City Council's activities. This strategy must dovetail with and be an important element within the city's vision for its future. Accordingly the following section of this paper outlines the key international engagements, which should support and strengthen some of the major components of Leicester's 25-year vision 'One Leicester, Britain's Sustainable City'.

### **3. THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - internationalising Leicester's 25-year vision**

The intention is for the Council's International Development Strategy to reflect the vision set out in **One Leicester**, which aims to:

***transform Leicester into Britain's sustainable city over the next quarter century, improving economic, social and environmental wellbeing across Leicester***” and contribute to ***“sustainable development locally, regionally, nationally and globally.”***

Throughout the strategy, reference is made to the key themes, which underpin **One Leicester**, including skills and enterprise, community cohesion, investing in children and reducing the city's carbon footprint. Alongside this, the strategy highlights the work that is already being done by the city's town-twinning links to illustrate the value and further potential of these relationships in helping to deliver the International Development Strategy.

#### **3.1 Aims of the International Development Strategy**

- To work with Leicester's international links to support sustainable development, cultural diversity and social justice for both Leicester and Leicester's international partners
- To engage in international co-operation to bring about important benefits in increasing understanding of the world and help to combat insularity, racism and prejudice
- To raise public awareness of global issues to promote tolerance

#### **3.2 Objectives**

The strategy focuses on 6 areas, where international activity can bring about positive outcomes. In order to realise the Council's aspirations for local people and its partners in the wider world the strategy proposes to:

1. Invest in and learn from international partnerships to support economic development, inward investment, enhance skills and improve performance
2. Embrace Leicester's diverse communities to build social cohesion and celebrate local identity alongside the city's links with the wider world
3. Increase international understanding and global learning to improve educational standards, broaden experiences and promote active citizenship
4. Respond to a shared agenda for environmental sustainability, carbon footprint reduction and increasing support for sustainable development to benefit future generations
5. Liaise with and work alongside developing economies to meet social justice objectives and challenge global inequalities
6. Develop and implement a coherent approach to Leicester's town-twinning links to maximise the impact of these relationships at local and international level

#### 4. **MEETING THE OBJECTIVES – Action and Impact**

This section sets the objectives in context of **One Leicester**. It highlights the benefits of international activity within each objective and makes reference to what is already being done. It also makes recommendations about how the objectives can be taken forward, identifying key activities and outlining the potential impact of implementing the objectives. Appendix B4 provides a Synopsis Table showing how the International Development Strategy links to One Leicester. Appendix B5 provides a summary of the International Development Strategy.

##### **OBJECTIVE 1**

**Invest in and learn from international partnerships to support economic development, inward investment, enhance skills and improve performance**

***One Leicester - Giving Leicester a louder voice  
Through regional, national and international partnerships we will play a much more active role in developing new structures that place Leicester at the heart of regional policy and ensure Leicester's voice is heard in the key areas that affect its citizens.***

***We must also be willing and prepared to compete in an increasingly global marketplace.***

One Leicester emphasises the need to invest in skills and enterprise in order to succeed in a global economy. International partnerships, including the city's twinning links, play an important role in building this capacity.

##### What are the benefits?

##### ***Improving service delivery and solving problems through shared experience***

Decentralisation means that more and more local solutions are being sought to local problems. Transnational partnerships provide local authorities with the opportunity to work collaboratively and to learn from each other, to find real solutions to common problems. Practitioner to practitioner exchange of experience is a cheap and effective way of delivering technical assistance and can be more sustainable than one-off projects, enabling local authorities to compare problem solving and to exchange skills. There is potential for shared learning around issues of sustainable development, particularly in relation to the links with emerging economies.

##### ***Encouraging economic and business development***

International partnerships allow small and large organisations, in both the public and private sectors, to explore potential economic benefits of cooperation. Many business partnerships have come about as a result of local twinning links, with companies finding it easier to trade with people they know and understand.

##### ***Opportunities for low cost staff development and training***

Transnational partnerships can provide innovative training possibilities with management development and practical training opportunities for local authority staff through the challenges of resolving technical issues in a new environment. Better understanding of another culture can also help local authority officers and other professionals to work more effectively within their own community and can unlock sources of experience previously unknown.

##### ***Educational opportunities***

Educating Leicester pupils/students and workforce for working and living in a global world and building on their existing intercultural competences.

### ***Increasing global and European awareness***

Globalisation means that local authorities are operating in an increasingly international environment and dealing with European and international businesses on a regular basis. Local government is being increasingly influenced in its activities by European law and is becoming more involved in the European Union institutions. Transnational partnerships can increase awareness of European and international issues and help local authorities to be outward looking and to learn from their partners.

### ***Attracting people and inward investment to Leicester***

Tourism is recognised as a key component to the economy of many cities and international partnerships are an important vehicle for encouraging overseas visitors to the city. The City Council's international relationships help raise Leicester's profile on the international stage, as well as attract tourism and inward investment. Exchanges between cultural practitioners, educational bodies and young people help to promote tourism and trade.

### ***Accessing external funding***

International partnerships are an effective way for local authorities to access funding. There are a number of funding streams, which support transnational collaboration and twinning links, and provide excellent mechanisms to find potential partners. The European town twinning grant, part of the wider Europe for Citizens programme, covers exchange activities between the 27 EU Member States. An important source of funding for local authorities and community led twinning associations, this provides funding for new and established twinning links and for activities that raise awareness of the European Union. Many authorities have seen the benefits of international linking. Partners have been able to bid for funding from other European schemes, such as the Socrates education programme, and to develop useful trade links involving local businesses.

European funding also provides a major opportunity to support economic development, enhance skills, stimulate investment and help create new jobs.

### What is already happening?

#### ***- Leicester Shire India Trade Bureau***

Cultural, language differences and the sheer scale of the potential India market can be intimidating to smaller companies trying to establish an initial 'foot hold'. The India Trade Bureau was set up to assist businesses in developing trade with India. As India is a diverse market, the India Trade Bureau has concentrated its efforts in Gujarat to begin with as Leicester already has a successful and vibrant business community from Gujarat and is twinned with Rajkot, a major city in west Gujarat.

#### ***- East Midlands China Business Bureau***

Since 1988 Leicestershire County Council has been actively developing its friendship links with the province of Sichuan, China. This partnership has over the years enhanced the cultural, educational and business relations between Sichuan and Leicestershire. To capitalise on Leicestershire's links with Sichuan and use this experience to promote business links with other areas of China, the Leicester Shire - Sichuan Trade Bureau was set up in March 2004. The objective of the China Trade Bureau (as it is now known) is to assist small and medium sized companies (SMEs) in developing all aspects of trade with China, with focus on the Sichuan Province. It works together with partners like UKTI, China Britain Business Council (CBBC) and government departments and organisations in China.

In addition, the Sichuan-based Trade Bureau has been set up in Chengdu to provide extra support in Sichuan/China.

- ***European Asia-Urbs Programme - Links with Rajkot***

Leicester City Council worked with the Indian city of Rajkot on a project looking at the environmental impacts of the textile industry, funded by the European Commission Asia-Urbs Programme. Leicester has strong links with the Gujarat state with over a quarter of its population of Gujarati origin. As well as a formal twinning agreement between the two cities, there are also strong ties through family, business and social contacts. Building on Leicester's success in working with its own local textile dyeing companies to improve environmental performance under an Article 10 European Commission, the project partners developed a two-year scheme aimed at adopting a more holistic approach to water and waste management in Rajkot with the involvement of local business, the community and NGOs (See Appendix B1).

- ***Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) - Links with Rajkot***

The goal of the CLGF scheme is to promote the effective, responsive and accountable delivery of local authority services, particularly to poor and disadvantaged people. The scheme promotes and enables the exchange of experience and expertise between local authorities across the Commonwealth (See Appendix B1).

How will this objective be taken forward?

- a. Developing practitioner to practitioner exchanges with other countries to share learning and support staff development and training
- b. Encouraging opportunities for local businesses to develop trading links beyond the UK.
- c. Raise the profile of Leicester as a tourist destination for visitors from overseas.
- d. Keeping abreast of European agendas to ensure the city is outward looking.
- e. Maximising opportunities to make collaborative funding bids from the European Union, the Department for International Development and other streams.

## OBJECTIVE 2

**Embrace Leicester's diverse communities to build social cohesion and celebrate local identity alongside the city's links with the wider world**

### **One Leicester - People**

**We have one of the most diverse communities in the country, bringing to the city a wealth of cultural festivals and places of worship. We have over 240 faith groups from at least 14 different religions. Leicester is a place where multiculturalism works and we all benefit from the diversity of our community.**

**We welcome new communities and make people feel at home. And we are better placed than many cities to benefit economically and culturally from increased migration to the city in the future. People who know Leicester well see it as a cultural centre of excellence.**

As one of Europe's most successfully integrated multi-cultural cities, Leicester is widely respected for its excellent and stable race relations. The city is proud of the Council's progressive measures to combat social exclusion and through its international links can continue to improve community cohesion.

### What are the benefits?

#### ***Creating thriving, safe communities***

Partnerships that bring people from different countries and cultures together help to increase their understanding of the world and thus broaden their horizons. Importantly, it can help promote tolerance and respect for others, thereby combating racism and xenophobia.

#### ***Improving community well-being***

Bringing together counterpart organisations, experts and interest groups in health and social welfare can lead to improvements in community services and facilities. Sharing expertise and experience on issues such as unemployment and drug and alcohol dependency, and comparing facilities for the young and elderly can bring about changes at a local level that can make a real difference to people's lives.

#### ***Valuing local identity and global diversity***

International partnerships and twinning in particular provide an opportunity to bring together all members of a community, regardless of age, ethnic or religious background, gender, disability or social or economic status. Finding out about other communities often encourages people to look more closely at their own locality and social structures. It can help people get to know others within their own community, thereby increasing understanding of other people locally, as well as between two communities in different countries. This, in turn, can boost civic pride, self-esteem and confidence.

#### ***Developing Cultural Partnerships***

In addition to celebrating the wide and rich customs and traditions within and across the various communities of Leicester, there are positive outcomes to be gained from sharing other cultural experiences. Cultural partnerships within twinning and international activities are well recognised as mechanisms for promoting social inclusion and community cohesion but these are most meaningful when they challenge perceptions, misconceptions and stereotypes, not only in context of the wider world but within our own communities.

### What is already happening?

- ***Leicester City Council Community Cohesion Strategy (2004-09)<sup>2</sup>***

One of the key themes in the strategy is to tackle inequalities, prejudices and discrimination by improving communication and information activities, which raise understanding of different cultures. Equally important is the emphasis on supporting cultural festivals and intercultural activities, which value shared and distinct cultures. All the twin town organisations hold regular events, which provide opportunities for local residents to find out about and enjoy a range of traditional activities appertaining to Leicester's twin towns around the world.

- ***Local Area Agreement priority target on community cohesion***

Leicester has one of the most diverse communities in the country, bringing to the city a wealth of cultural festivals and places of worship. With over 240 faith groups from at least 14 different religions, Leicester is a place where multiculturalism works and we all benefit from the diversity of our community. People who know Leicester well see it as, potentially, a cultural centre of excellence. The Stronger Community Partnership aims to encourage the development of strategies, practices and interventions, within the Leicester Partnership and in implementation of Leicester's Local Area Agreement, that give meaning to Leicester Partnership's commitment to fostering stronger and empowered communities where life opportunities are not restricted on grounds of age, disability, faith or belief, gender, race or sexual orientation.

- ***Duty to promote community cohesion***

All schools now have (from September 2007) a duty to promote Community Cohesion. Promoting the principles of community cohesion is implicit in all the educational and exchange activities of the town twinning groups. The main recommendations made in the Department for Children, Schools and Families' 'Guidance on the duty to promote community cohesion'<sup>3</sup> resonate with the fundamental principles of development education and the Leicester Masaya Link Group, in particular, works with other local and regional organisations to support schools in delivering this statutory requirement.

- ***Institute of Community Cohesion (iCoCo)<sup>4</sup>***

The institute was established in 2005 to provide a new approach to race, diversity and multiculturalism. The institute represents a unique partnership of academic, statutory and non-governmental bodies, including De Montfort and Leicester universities and practitioners from a range of diverse backgrounds and professions. Their work focuses on building positive and harmonious community relations and there are several case studies of educational projects in Leicester involving the Schools Development Support Agency and other local partners.

How will this objective be taken forward?

- a. Liaising with local authority partners in other countries to share experience and expertise on well-being and social cohesion.
- b. Working with relevant Leicester City Council departments such as Libraries and Museums, to ensure that the cultures of Leicester and those of its twin towns are enjoyed as part of the city's rich and diverse heritage.

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<sup>2</sup> Leicester City Council Community Cohesion Strategy - <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/index.asp?pgid=7293>

<sup>3</sup> Guidance on Duty to Promote Community Cohesion 2007, Published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families - <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/communitycohesion/>

<sup>4</sup> Institute of Community Cohesion - <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/researchnet/icoco>

- c. Identifying opportunities for international partnerships and the town-twinning groups to contribute to Leicester City Council's Local Area Agreement priority target for Community Cohesion (NI 1).
- d. Working with other local agencies (Schools Development Support Agency, the East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools, Leicester Council of Faiths and Diversity Hub) to support schools in their duty to promote community cohesion.
- e. Developing innovative approaches and building capacity to promote positive and harmonious community relations with the support of the Institute of Community Cohesion and its local partners, the University of Leicester and de Montfort University.

### OBJECTIVE 3

Increase international understanding and global learning to improve educational standards, broaden experiences and promote active citizenship

***One Leicester - Investing in our children***

***We are committed to creating a culture of high expectation and aspiration amongst young people in the city – We will improve the standards of education provision, school leadership and performance management in all schools and colleges, for all ages.***

***One Leicester - Supporting young people***

***We will improve the city's youth service so that young people are both listened to and supported through the transition from youth to adulthood. We will invest in activities that support and challenge young people to achieve their potential, offering them a wider range of services that encourage their personal and social development. For those at risk of social exclusion, we will take a more proactive role in identifying potential problems and providing suitable support***

Providing appropriate learning and experiential opportunities for people living in a global and interconnected world is the duty of any responsible Council. Technology and the media just as travel and immigration, as well as economic and environmental changes mean that the connections between our local lives and the wider world are more evident than ever. By including a global perspective in their approach, the services supporting learners in both the formal and informal sectors, can help to make learning more relevant. This in turn can have a positive impact on engagement and achievement in a number of ways:

What are the benefits?

***Responding to National Education Agendas***

The importance of international links as a vehicle for delivering global education is well documented in a number of strategic reports and publications produced by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the British Council and the Department for International Development.

There is a wide range of policy areas where an international dimension adds value to existing educational strategies. For example, a significant contribution can be made to achieving the five outcomes for children within "Every Child Matters"<sup>5</sup> - being safe; being healthy; enjoying and achieving; making a positive contribution; making an economic contribution.

The Government's "National Strategy for Languages"<sup>6</sup> (2002) promotes foreign language learning as an important part of equipping young people with the skills and cultural understanding needed for the world of work. This develops the standards set out in the Common European Framework through the UK Language Ladder, which offers an accreditation framework through for linguistic competence for people of all ages.

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<sup>5</sup> Every Child Matters - [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

<sup>6</sup> National Strategy for Languages - [http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/languages/DSP\\_nationallanguages.cfm](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/languages/DSP_nationallanguages.cfm)

The Government's "Putting the World into World Class Education"<sup>7</sup> initiative, which was launched by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) as part of its International Strategy in 2004, focuses on the importance of young people being taught within an international context. This induces developing an understanding among all young people of what it means to be a global citizen in the widest sense, as well as equipping them to be able to take part in a global economy. The message is that, if the UK is to remain a stable society, our children will need to know about other cultures, systems and practices and will require the skills to acknowledge similarities and differences.

Citizenship, as set out in the National Strategies for schools (in the primary and secondary phases), is supported and underpinned through the international dimension. The international dimension also promotes, and can enrich, learning across the curriculum. The DCSF Strategy therefore sets targets for all schools to have at least one overseas link, and to achieve the International School Award's<sup>8</sup> Foundation level, by 2010.

In sport, London's successful Olympic bid for 2012 includes a strong international dimension, particularly in relation to young people, reflecting the potential this has to enhance the Olympic Programme.

### **Nurturing responsible global citizens**

An education, which helps learners to explore issues of global significance, from the Olympics, to conflict and climate change, and gives them the tools to engage with both the prospects and challenges of our increasingly globalised world, is very powerful. This type of 'global learning' increases understanding of people's rights and responsibilities, everywhere. It encourages a sense of purpose and provides the impetus for taking action to work towards creating a more just and sustainable world. A global dimension in learning (at any level) broadens experience and knowledge and helps promote responsible global citizenship where learners have a deeper understanding and the capacity to think critically about the world they live in.

### **Increasing skills, motivation and influencing attitudinal change**

International projects and active twinning links provide real world examples and opportunities for learning from first hand experience, which are enriching and empowering. Seeing the world from a different perspective enables people to value diversity and make connections between their own lives and those of people in other parts of the globe. Educational projects with a global dimension or international exchanges can increase practical skills, which enable young people to compete more successfully in the workplace. They also provide motivating and challenging experiences, which help to instil values and change behaviour, giving participants a meaningful incentive for learning and being actively involved in the world around them. Activities can be developed that relate directly to the national curriculum to improve educational achievement.

### **Enhancing youth activities**

Engaging in international activities and youth exchanges can give young people their first experience of life in another country, often providing an environment in which they can explore social and political issues, deepen their awareness and share opinions with their peers in other parts of the world. Such exchanges can also be combined with opportunities

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<sup>7</sup> Putting the World into World Class Education 2004, Published by the Department for Education and Skills (now Department for Children Schools and Families)  
<http://www.globalgateway.org.uk/PDF/International-Strategy.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> International School Award Scheme  
<http://www.britishcouncil.org/india-education-programmes-bcisa.htm>

for volunteering or work placements, which build practical skills and increase self-confidence.

### **Enriching informal and Lifelong Learning**

International partnerships can enhance informal education and lifelong learning for all members of the community. By providing a realistic context for learning, not only as a resource for many subjects areas but also in helping to support key skills such as communication and language learning. Taking part in international partnerships can raise public consciousness and encourage debate on major global issues, such as the environment or racism. Partnerships can also be used as a learning tool for all age groups in understanding the social, political, environmental and economic issues that face other parts of the world.

Equally, the international dimension can support the achievement of the outcomes set out in the Adult Services White Paper: improved health and well-being; improved quality of life; making a positive contribution; choice and control; freedom from discrimination; economic well-being; personal dignity.

#### What is already happening?

##### **- International Links in Schools**

There are 15 city schools that already have active international links, which they are developing and implementing as part of the International School Award, including Bridge Junior School, Dovelands Primary School, Linden Primary School, Judgemeanow Community College, Rushey Mead Secondary School, Soar Valley Community College and Babbington Community College. In addition, some of the twin-town groups help to set up or directly support international projects and/or exchanges in schools.

- The City of Leicester Twinning Association (CLETA) provides practical support and contact schools for exchanges with schools in Strasbourg and Krefeld.
- The Leicester Masaya Link Group runs an extensive development education programme and has worked with some 25 schools in the city and the county (see below).

##### **- Development Education<sup>9</sup> and Global Learning**

The Leicester Masaya Link Group (LMLG) is a registered Development Education Centre (DEC), whose role it is to support those wishing to raise the profile of global issues (in the formal and informal sectors) by providing learning programmes, training and workshops, physical resources, practical ideas and advice.

The LMLG is the only town-twinning link in England with DEC status. This is a unique role in which the link with Nicaragua provides first-hand experience and involvement in development work enabling us to explore particular issues relating to global inequality and explain the challenges that developing countries face. A live link offers opportunities to establish dialogue with people in another country and a rich source of materials for

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<sup>9</sup> Development education (DE), also known as Global Learning or Education for Global Citizenship, is an approach to learning that leads to greater understanding of global inequalities, why they exist and what can be done about them. It explores issues such as trade justice, sustainable development and human rights, using active learning methods to foster critical thinking, confidence and communication skills. DE challenges and supports everyone to explore the relationship between local and global issues and promotes the idea that we are all part of an interdependent global society and that we have a responsibility to contribute to the creation of a fairer, safer, healthier and more cohesive world. DE uses participatory methodology with reference to 8 key concepts which are fundamental to the understanding of the global context: human rights, sustainable development, interdependence, diversity, social justice, values and perceptions, conflict resolution, and global citizenship.

teachers and educators who are interested in broadening the understanding of global perspectives in their school and/or community. In the last 10 years, the LMLG has run a number of projects in a variety of educational contexts:

▪ *East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools – EMNGPS<sup>10</sup>*

Much of the city's Development Education work is delivered (and funded) through the East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools, which exists to provide support for schools to embed the global dimension into the curriculum. EMNGPS is one of 12 regional strategies funded by the Department for International Development and brings together a range of organisations working to place schools in a stronger position to engage with and respond to the challenges of globalisation, sustainable development and active citizenship. EMNGPS aims to 'encourage and support schools and other educational establishments in the East Midlands, to recognise, value and enact global perspectives as a core element of the educational entitlement of young people throughout the curriculum'.

There are 6 Locality Groups across 9 Local Authorities which have an operational remit, acting as the forum for key local stakeholders to come together to plan and deliver teacher training, resource development, projects in schools, in addition to providing guidance and support. The LMLG convenes the Leicester City/Shire Locality Group of EMNGPS.

- **Transforming Leicester's Learning and the Local Area Agreement**

There is a role for education, for global citizenship and development education methodology to contribute towards raising standards of attainment, in context of the City Council's 'Transforming Leicester's Learning'<sup>11</sup> plan, which seeks to address under-achievement in Leicester schools. Similarly, within Leicester City Council's Local Area Agreement, there is a priority for the Children and Young People lead delivery group to ensure 'Young people's participation in positive activities' (indicator NI110). This approach is inherent in development education (see Appendix B2 for information about the Leicester Masaya Link Group's role as a Development Education Centre and how it is responding to National Government initiatives and local authority agendas).

How will this objective be taken forward?

- a. Explore ways in which Leicester City Council Children and Young People's Services can make best use of the twin town groups, and particularly the LMLG to:
  - implement the global education agenda
  - encourage international school linking (in response to "Putting the World into World Class Education")
  - fulfil the duty to promote community cohesion as outlined in "Guidance on the Duty to Promote Community Cohesion"
- b. Liaise with Leicester City Council Children and Young People's Services to seek support for a dedicated post to support international school linking.
- c. Identify the role for education, for global citizenship and development education methodology within Leicester City Council's "Transforming Leicester's Learning" plan.
- d. Respond to Leicester City Council's Local Area Agreement (indicator NI110) to ensure 'young people's participation in positive activities'.

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<sup>10</sup> East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools – [www.emngps.org.uk](http://www.emngps.org.uk)

<sup>11</sup> Leicester City Council Education and Learning - Transforming Leicester's Learning  
<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council--services/education--lifelong-learning/about-us/policy-documents/transforming-leicesters-learning>

- ***Building Schools for the Future***

Leicester was the first city in the UK to pilot this scheme. The City Council has been awarded more than £235million to rebuild or remodel every secondary school in the city. This will provide a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment that will help engage and inspire pupils, staff and people in the community. The scheme will:

- Create school environments in which young people feel engaged and believe in themselves.
- Provide teachers with world-class learning environments in which they too feel valued and inspired.
- Root schools in the centre of their communities so that they become hubs that help revitalise areas.

Ultimately, Building Schools for the Future is about making a real difference to the life chances of all young people by giving them the best possible start, no matter what their background.

## OBJECTIVE 4

Respond to a shared agenda for environmental sustainability, carbon footprint reduction and increasing support for sustainable development to benefit future generations

### ***One Leicester - Environmental Targets***

***Leicester City Council has a range of targets under its corporate environmental management system (EMAS). In terms of One Leicester there is a commitment to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and to promote “people not cars”.***

Leicester is proud of being Britain's first 'Environment City' and has a strong commitment to sustainable development. Understanding the global context of issues such as climate change and the exploitation of the world's resources is fundamental in helping the city to find local solutions to ensure a sustainable future for its residents. Leicester benefits from sharing experience with European and international colleagues on tackling global environmental issues at a local level. International collaboration, such as the work that is happening through the LMLG in Nicaragua helps to reinforce the notion that local actions have global repercussions and that global issues and events have local implications.

What are the benefits?

### **Accessing funding**

The Commission provides funding to projects and initiatives that promote its policy priorities throughout the European Union and further afield. The Directorate General for the Environment makes funding available through three different programmes, the LIFE fund, the financial instrument for civil protection, the funding of eco-innovation projects, and operating grants to environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs). There is also a lot of potential for accessing other international resources to support work in this area, as well as targeted collaboration with the private sector.

### **Global solutions to local problems**

Many environmental problems have global causes, which cannot be addressed by a single country or city alone. As such, international environmental cooperation is essential if Leicester is serious about addressing the challenges presented by issues such as climate change, pollution and resource depletion.

What is already happening?

#### ***- Local measures for Economic Development and Environment***

Leicester is affected by global environmental issues such as pollution and climate change, and must make its contribution towards reducing negative impacts on the environment and ensuring sustainable development. Being pro-active in addressing these challenges will help to improve the quality of life within the City.

#### ***- Commitment to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions***

Leicester's commitment to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is well established and firmly based on experience at implementing energy efficiency reduction measures.

In 1992 Leicester began a partnership with Barcelona to share experiences and develop the Leicester Energy model. The Leicester Energy Agency continues to participate in several European and national projects. In 2003 Leicester created a Climate Change Strategy for the city to assist in the delivery of cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 5% of 1990 levels by 2025.

Leicester is also a member of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). One of the major initiatives of ICLEI is the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. This campaign followed on from the urban CO<sub>2</sub> reduction project that compared CO<sub>2</sub> emissions between different European and North American cities. The Cities for Climate Protection Campaign is now operating in many countries and the UK version (renamed the Councils for Climate Protection) is currently working with 24 UK local authorities.

Leicester's international reputation was recognised when it was invited to participate in the Toronto World Leaders Summit on Climate Change in 2001. This allowed direct comparison of Leicester's approach to that of other international cities.

- ***Energie Cités***

Leicester has benefited greatly from sharing experience with European and international colleagues. In 1992, Leicester became a member of the Energy Cities network of European energy and environmentally conscious cities. It currently holds the vice-presidency and the city has benefited from sharing experiences with European colleagues.

- ***Energy Central***

In 2008/09, the LMLG was involved in a 2-year EU and UK government funded project, which aimed to identify the non-technical barriers to implementing renewable energy in Nicaragua and Central America and establish networks to strengthen municipal support for alternative technologies. Leicester City Council presented a paper at the final symposium in Guatemala, illustrating its work on alternative energy projects within the local authority. The networks established through this project will continue to work in this area after the funded project itself has come to an end.

- ***Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development***

The East Midlands is one of 35 RCEs globally and is the first area to hold this prestigious award in the United Kingdom. Members and their organisations are committed to taking action to support the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

The RCE East Midlands Group has been set up to research and promote education for sustainable development and global citizenship in schools, colleges, universities as well as in youth, community and business education. Many Leicester-based organisations (including the LMLG and Leicester University) are playing important roles within the centre. The Schools group, which comprises more than 30 organisations across the region has a vested interest in linking strategies in schools with other local government agendas to ensure a holistic approach to sustainable development, for example, working with the 'Building Schools for the Future' scheme.

How will this objective be taken forward?

- a. Work with Leicester City Council's Environment and Energy Teams to raise awareness of the global relevance of sustainability issues within the local context.
- b. Embed sustainable development and energy efficiency measures in international projects.
- c. Maintain a presence within the UN Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development and ensure that sustainability issues remain high on the education agenda across the different educational sectors.

## OBJECTIVE 5

**Liaise with and work alongside developing economies to meet social justice objectives and challenge global inequalities**

**There is no specific reference to social justice in a global context within One Leicester. However, the vision is for Leicester to build confident people and caring communities, where people are not trapped by poverty. The implication is that the journey towards 'a new prosperity' at a local level will take into account what is happening on a global scale, especially in the current economic climate.**

The ambitious targets that were set by the UN in 2000 to work towards poverty reduction, access to health and education and redressing gender inequalities in developing countries are still a long way from being met. The recommendation that global partnerships be set up to help achieve the aim of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cannot be achieved without city-to-city cooperation. Twinning links with developing countries such as Nicaragua and emerging economies like India offer concrete opportunities to initiate practical projects, which are aimed at reducing poverty and improving the quality of life. Similarly, opportunities for people in Leicester to learn about and participate in supporting these projects, raises their awareness of the issues behind global inequality and the need to tackle the root causes as well as shedding light on the dynamics and impacts of poverty and inequality in our own city.

What are the benefits?

### ***Understanding of global interdependence***

The Department for International Development's (DFID) White Paper - Eliminating World Poverty - Making Globalisation Work for the Poor (2000) highlights the need for increased public understanding of global interdependence and the importance of international development. International projects and partnerships with developing countries can strengthen local government's efforts to enhance participatory democracy and build cohesive communities to contribute to eliminating global poverty.

### ***Commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)***

The MDGs are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000.

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Local government operates in a wider national and international context marked by increasing urbanisation and global economic integration. Local leadership has an important role in ensuring realisation of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the delivery of which – in whole or in part – lies with local government. This has been

recognised by the UN and its Millennium Development Campaign via the importance that is being attached to 'localising the MDGs'.

### ***Improving opportunities for people wherever they live***

As one in five people in the world today live in poverty, while other parts of the world enjoy substantial material wealth, the reality of global inequality is inescapable. With many of the most intractable problems facing the contemporary world, from conflict to refugee movements, international crime and the illicit drug trade, being exacerbated by poverty, it is in everybody's interest to challenge the status quo. International links, which work towards poverty alleviation provide a context for both local government and the wider community to play an active role in changing the balance and helping to increase the opportunities for people to realise their potential, wherever they live.

### ***Partnerships for prosperity***

The moral implications of supporting international development must go beyond the traditional notion of 'charitable giving' to address the deeper issues of inequity and mutual respect. Only then can international relationships between cities with very different levels of resources be built on a foundation of mutual partnership. The learning that comes from this process has tangible benefits for people at both ends of the economic spectrum and for Leicester provides important lessons for understanding the dynamics and implications of inequality in our own city.

#### What is already happening?

##### ***- Commitment to equality and human rights***

Leicester is a city with a very diverse population. The City Council's commitment to equality of opportunity and the elimination of discrimination for all people regardless of age, colour, disability, economic status, ethnic or national origin, gender or trans gender, marital or civil partnership status, race, religion and belief, sexuality, or trade union membership is reflected in its achievement of Level Three of the Equality Standard for Local Government and Beacon Status awards for the promotion of racial equality and community cohesion. The Council's Equality Strategy<sup>12</sup> aims to ensure that people can fully participate in and benefit from the social, cultural, economic and environmental quality of life the city offers its citizens and those who visit it. The e-qualities agenda and the appreciation of the rights and responsibilities of Leicester's citizens are an integral part of community cohesion. They are key priorities within **One Leicester's** vision to address deprivation, invest in our children and eliminate discrimination.

##### ***- Support for international efforts to reduce poverty and promote development***

Leicester's link with Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, provides a very real context for raising awareness of North/South issues and broadening public understanding of global inequality and the factors influencing poverty. The project work that the LMLG undertakes in Nicaragua reflects the major challenges and prospects for development, and illustrates how sustainable development can improve the welfare of people and contribute to poverty alleviation.

##### ***- Fair Trade***

Leicester City Council was one of the Local Authority participants in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. A number of local actions were initiated to elicit public support for global issues, which resulted in the establishment of the Leicester Advocating Fair Trade group and the designation of Leicester as a Fair Trade City in 2002.

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<sup>12</sup> Leicester City Council Equality Strategy. <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council--services/council-and-democracy/key-documents/corporate-equality-strategyaction-plan>

- ***Leicester's Primary Care Trust (PCT)***

The city's PCT is responsible for improving the health and well-being of the people of Leicester. Though health is improving in Leicester, the picture of health in the city is generally worse than the national average, with people dying prematurely of cancer, heart disease, and stroke. Within the city itself, there is great inequality between different geographical areas, between men and women and between people of different ethnic origin.

How will this objective be taken forward?

- a. Promote social justice both in Leicester and in Leicester's links around the world
- b. Develop a common understanding of local and global inequality
- c. Increase local support for international aid
- d. Continued support of Leicester's fair trade city status
- e. Enhanced PCT role

## **OBJECTIVE 6**

### **Develop and implement a coherent approach to town-twinning links to raise awareness of the impact of these relationships at local and international level**

Leicester is currently twinned with Strasbourg (France), Krefeld (Germany), Masaya (Nicaragua), Rajkot (India), Chongqing (China) and Haskovo (Bulgaria). All the links were established at different points in time and each has a different and particular focus to its work, encompassing the many characteristics that define town twinning.

The partnerships with Strasbourg (1960) and Krefeld (1962) have a solid foundation in the civic and friendship links of traditional post-war European twinning, which promotes people to people exchanges (choirs, sports clubs, schools etc). The link with Masaya (1987) comes out of the solidarity movement, where north-south linking builds support for international cooperation and increases understanding of development issues. The twinning with Rajkot (1992) is the outcome of community to community linking where there is a significant population base with roots in and connections with the Gujarat. In the case of Chongqing, the focus is on business and economic links and the newly established twinning with Haskovo (2008) is a positive example of the linking opportunities offered by EU enlargement.

#### What are the benefits?

##### ***A holistic approach to town twinning***

A multi-faceted, cross-sectoral approach to town twinning can make an important contribution to the work of the Overseas Links Working Party (OSLWP) and help implement the International Development Strategy for Leicester City Council. An integrated approach, which fosters collaborative work across all the town-twinning associations, will enable the twin town groups to deliver a high quality service and extend partnerships with those Council departments where their work can have a greater impact.

##### ***Development education and awareness-raising***

The wealth of experience and expertise within the town-twinning groups can be consolidated to provide an effective resource for global education, which can help young people and adults in Leicester to build the skills, values and dispositions, which enable them to be supportive of sustainable development, democratic values and human rights, as individuals in their local environment and collectively as global citizens. It is vital however, that a coherent strategy for Development Education and Awareness Raising is based on a systematic approach to ensure that such programmes are not tokenistic.

##### ***Language skills, exchanges and student placements***

Across all the twin town groups, there are important opportunities for supporting language skills in a range of ways - in schools and through student placements and exchanges.

##### ***Accessing funding***

There are a number of funding schemes and initiatives including Comenius, the International School Award and Global School Partnerships, which schools can access. Partnerships with the twinning links could offer added value as well as providing support directly to schools and to Children's Services.

#### What is already happening?

##### **- Educational activities within international links**

The Overseas Links Working Party has acknowledged the value of educational activities within the context of international links and this is manifested in the work of each of the twin-town groups:

- The Leicester Masaya Link Group

The LMLG is an established Development Education Centre with experience and expertise in delivering global education. The range and breadth of the LMLG's work across the city illustrates how town twinning provides valuable experiences to increase understanding of our place in a globalising world.

- The LMLG could however be offering more strategic support to the Education Department, where our DEC status would play a pivotal role in helping to implement both the global agenda, international school linking and the duty to promote community cohesion. (See Appendix B3 for examples of good practice in the East Midlands).
- The Leicester Rajkot Twinning Association  
The LRTA has clear links with the museum outreach services and regularly delivers and participates in events and activities across a wide range of Leicester's communities. This type of work sits well within the community cohesion agenda and would bring added value to the work of the twinning groups in this context.
- The City of Leicester European Twinning Association  
CLETA is involved in facilitating and supporting international exchanges between Leicester schools and schools in Krefeld and Strasbourg. The new link with Haskovo offers a timely opportunity to engage with issues that impact on Eastern European communities. A number of funding streams may be accessed as a result of this link, but more importantly, the link with Eastern Europe will provide a valuable channel of communication about some of the major issues of migration and integration that are becoming increasingly important in the current European context.

- **Resources**

The Leicester Masaya Link Group has an extensive archive as well as over 200 books and publications, 25 artefact boxes and at least 15 different displays. In its role as a Development Education Centre, these resources and services should be widely accessible to teachers and schools. At present however, due to office space, this is not the case.

How will this objective be taken forward?

- a. Create a more coherent Development Education and awareness raising strategy for all the twin town groups
- b. Deliver awareness raising events and disseminate information about the work of the twin-town groups more widely
- c. Improve the range of educational material relating to the twin-town groups and provide a dedicated space to store and make resources accessible to teachers and schools
- d. Provide opportunities for the twin town groups to engage in dialogue with relevant personnel within the Council to promote partnership working

**EUROPEAN ASIA-URBS PROGRAMME – LINKS WITH RAJKOT**

Leicester City Council worked with the Indian city of Rajkot on a project looking at the environmental impacts of the textile industry. The European Commission Asia-Urbs Programme is funding a four-month feasibility study in Rajkot. The partners, along with the Portuguese town of Maia, aim to develop an environmental and waste strategy for the whole Rajkot textile dyeing industry.

The objective is to enable textile-dyeing companies to develop their environmental management techniques on a sustainable basis. India's textile industry will inevitably have to meet tougher environmental standards demanding reductions in the discharge of untreated chemicals. The project builds on Leicester's success in working with its own local textile dyeing companies to improve environmental performance under an Article 10 European Commission programme.

Leicester has strong links with the Gujarat state with over a quarter of its population of Gujarati origin. As well as a formal twinning agreement between the two cities, there are also strong ties through family, business and social contacts. A delegation from Leicester visited Rajkot and met with the Rajkot Municipal Corporation, non-governmental organisations, the university, community groups and business organisations to establish the level of need and expertise needed for the successful implementation of the project. Consequently, the partners have developed a two-year Asia-Urbs project proposal aimed at adopting a more holistic approach to water and waste management in Rajkot with the involvement of local business, the community and NGOs.

**COMMONWEALTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM (CLGF) – GOOD PRACTICE SCHEME PHASE II – LINKS WITH RAJKOT**

The bid for the Phase II scheme was called 'Community Engagement with Local Government' and was approved by CLGF in April 2005. Colleagues from Rajkot Municipal Corporation shadowed the City Council's Social Economy Development Officer and Head of Crime and Community Safety on four visits arranged in order to pass on skills and knowledge. The visits to Leicester included a cross-section of senior and junior staff in recognition of the Rajkot Commissioner's wishes that officers from a cross-section of the Municipal Corporation be exposed to new ways of working. Meetings took place with City Council officers ranging from financial audit, development control, highways, IT WEB, planning, procurement, regeneration, economic development, crime and community safety, waste management and recycling to name but a few. Organisations that hosted meetings included amongst others BBC Asian Network, Biffa, Confederation of Indian Organisations, Great Central Railway and Severn Trent Water.

Ideas developed by colleagues from India as a result of this scheme included Rajkot Municipal Corporation elected members and senior officers meeting in public session including a discussion on how problems could be resolved within the community. The CLGF project also funded water-monitoring equipment to assist in this process.

The role of women in management and leadership positions was a second theme of the CLGF scheme. At the time of the CLGF project, the first women Municipal Commissioner for Rajkot was appointed as well as the promotion of the CLGF contact to become the City's Chief Engineer. The success of the Phase II project has led to the planning of a further one under Phase III between Rajkot and Leicester called 'Local authority facilitated sustainable development with poor communities'. The project is anticipated to run from November 2008 to June 2010.

## **GLOBAL LINKS – LOCAL IMPACT**

### **Using town-twinning links to deliver Local Government agendas**

This paper uses the work of the Leicester Masaya Link Group to illustrate how international links can be used as an important vehicle for delivering educational and community cohesion objectives in relation to both local government agendas and national initiatives and strategies.

#### **Context**

The Leicester Masaya Link Group was established in 1987. As a town twinning association, the overall aim of the LMLG is to foster friendship and mutual understanding between the people of Leicester and Masaya in Nicaragua. This is the recognised focus of traditional town twinning but the LMLG's link with the global south involves two additional areas of responsibility:

- As a charitable organisation we contribute to poverty alleviation on the ground in Nicaragua by working in partnership with the people of Masaya to facilitate sustainable development projects.
- As a Development Education Centre (DEC), we run a programme of awareness-raising and educational activities, which is informed by our link with Nicaragua and the projects undertaken there.

Development education (DE), also known as Global Education or Education for Global Citizenship, is an approach to learning that leads to greater understanding of global inequalities, why they exist and what can be done about them. It explores issues such as trade justice, sustainable development and human rights, using active learning methods to foster critical thinking, confidence and communication skills. DE challenges and supports everyone to explore the relationship between local and global issues and promotes the idea that we are all part of an interdependent global society and that we have a responsibility to contribute to the creation of a fairer, safer, healthier and more cohesive world.

#### **LMLG'S CURRENT ROLE AS A DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION CENTRE (DEC)**

Throughout its 20-year history, the LMLG has run development education and awareness raising projects in different contexts including, public talks, projects in schools and work with youth and community groups across Leicester.

As the only town-twinning group with DEC status in England, the LMLG provides:

- a. A live link that offers opportunities to establish dialogue between and friendship with people in another country as well as direct contact with the issues that impact on their lives.
- b. First-hand experience and involvement in development work which generates case studies to help us explore particular issues relating to global inequality and explain the challenges that developing countries face.
- c. A rich source of materials (written and physical) that link to the National Curriculum which enables us to provide support for teachers and educators who are interested in broadening the understanding of global perspectives in their school and/or community.

#### **1. LMLG Development Education projects**

Genuine examples based on our development work in Masaya help to make the issues we deal with more accessible, enabling us to develop an educational programme which focuses on the global link as a means of understanding interdependence between and the local implications for people in different parts of the world.

We use active learning methodology to bring the issues to life in participatory projects delivered in schools and community settings, supported by displays, handling boxes and teacher training events.

Food for Thought, the LMLG's flagship project, delivers an interactive approach to global citizenship using case studies from Nicaragua and the facilities at the University of Leicester Botanic Garden to explore how plants are grown and used in Nicaragua's tropical climate. Pupils make a range of plant based products which they sell in a recreation of a Nicaraguan market where they experience how a local economy works and find out how the produce we buy in the shops goes from the farmer's field to the market place. The impact of international trade and fair trade in particular are examined in follow-up activities in school.

Other projects look at cultural diversity, fair trade, sustainable development and human rights.

## 2. East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools – EMNGPS

Much of our DE work is delivered (and funded) through the East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools, which exists to provide support for schools to embed the global dimension into the curriculum. EMNGPS is one of 12 regional strategies funded by the Department for International Development and brings together a range of organisations working to place schools in a stronger position to engage with and respond to the challenges of globalisation, sustainable development and active citizenship. EMNGPS aims to 'encourage and support schools and other educational establishments in the East Midlands, to recognise, value and enact global perspectives as a core element of the educational entitlement of young people throughout the curriculum'.

EMNGPS uses participatory methodology with reference to 8 key concepts which are fundamental to the understanding of the global context: human rights, sustainable development, interdependence, diversity, social justice, values and perceptions, conflict resolution, and global citizenship.

### a. The LMLG convenes the Leicester City/Shire Locality Group of EMNGPS

There are 6 Locality Groups across 9 Local Authorities which have an operational remit, acting as the forum for key local stakeholders to come together to plan and deliver teacher training, resource development, projects in schools, in addition to providing guidance and support.

- The focus on partnership working means that the LMLG collaborates with a number of local organisations including Skillshare International, the University of Leicester School of Education, the University of Leicester Botanic Garden, the Schools Development Support Agency, the Leicester Council of Faiths and others.
- We also work closely with Leicestershire County Council's International Links Co-ordinator who is specifically responsible for facilitating school linking projects with other countries (including France, Spain, India, China and Thailand). Currently, there is no equivalent of this post within Leicester City Council.

## 3. UN Regional Centre for Expertise in Education (RCE) for Sustainable Development

The East Midlands is one of 35 RCEs globally and is the first area to hold this prestigious award in the United Kingdom. Members and their organisations are committed to taking action to support the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

The RCE East Midlands Group has been set up to research and promote education for sustainable development and global citizenship in schools, colleges, universities as well as in youth, community and business education.

- a. The LMLG plays an active role on the schools working group and will assume the Chair from Feb 2008. The group, which comprises more than 30 organisations across the region has a vested interest in linking strategies in schools with other local government agendas to ensure a holistic approach to sustainable development.
  - For example, working with the 'Building Schools for the Future' scheme, which is of particular interest as Leicester was the first city in the UK to pilot the scheme.
- b. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without reference to the global context and the twinning link with Nicaragua helps to reinforce the notion that local actions have global repercussions and that global issues and events have local implications.

#### 4. Public awareness raising across the community

Twinning links, like ours, give a local relevance and provide a useful vehicle for understanding the social, political, environmental, economic and cultural issues that face other parts of the world.

- a. Public events that stimulate discussion and debate on major international issues from the WTO to Eco tourism in Nicaragua are a regular feature of the LMLG's work.

### **HOW THE LMLG IS RESPONDING TO NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND EUROPEAN AGENDAS**

In its function as a DEC and as a facilitator of international development projects, the work of the LMLG is continually influenced by strategic policies. The success of our work, and the level of funding we can access, depends on how well we are able to respond to the range of different initiatives and it is our responsibility to evaluate our work against the criteria contained therein.

#### 1. Department for Children, Schools and Families – DCSF

All our DE work is set in context of the full range of National educational strategies, including statutory requirements and optional schemes in which there is a clear global strand.

##### a. *Every Child Matters*

There are 5 outcomes within this statutory strategy, all of which can be addressed using the international dimension and global awareness.

- LMLG projects are designed to include reference to all 5 outcomes and 2 in particular ('Enjoy and Achieve' and 'Making a Positive Contribution').

##### b. *OFSTED – Evaluating internationalism in schools (Nov 2006)*

This document describes the value that schools place on their international work, and how in turn, this is reflected in their Ofsted reports. Many of the comments highlight the fact that an international focus gives students a wider perspective of community and that students' knowledge of other cultures is supported extremely well through a school's international links.

- The LMLG has found that introducing the link with Nicaragua to schools in Leicester has provided a mechanism with local relevance for looking at wider global issues.

*c. Putting the world into World Class Education*

This international strategy for education, skills and Children's Services focuses on equipping children and young people for life in a global society and work in a global economy. The aspiration is for all schools to have established an international link or partnership by 2012.

- The LMLG approach combines both international linking with global perspectives, as illustrated in our work with a number of schools in Leicester, including Whitehall Primary and Judgemeadow Community College.

*d. International School Award (ISA) – British Council*

This award is administered by the British Council and is recommended in 'Putting the World into World Class Education'.

- Schools that have worked with the LMLG can use the link with Nicaragua to be accredited for Intermediate level of the ISA

*e. Guidance on the Duty to Promote Community Cohesion (July 2007)*

Since September 2007 all schools have had a statutory requirement to promote community cohesion.

- Equal opportunities, rights and responsibilities, valuing diversity and promoting tolerance are all tenets, which are fundamental to the work of the LMLG both in Nicaragua and in our development education work in the UK.
- The LMLG is involved in the East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools working group to develop a strategy to support community cohesion in an educational context.

*f. Eco Schools*

The global dimension is a cross-cutting theme within all the Eco School topics (water, energy, healthy living, schools grounds and biodiversity)

- The LMLG has used Nicaragua as a case study and the Food for Thought methodology to contribute to the development of regional resources for the Eco Schools Green Flag Award.

*g. Sustainable Schools*

This is a recently launched framework for schools, which aims to empower young people to lead more sustainable lives by becoming models of good practice for their communities. Sustainable development is a global issue with serious implications for the way we all live and work.

- The Food for Thought project is featuring as a case study on the new regional Sustainable Schools website.
- The LMLG is chairing the regional Sustainable Schools working group.

## 2. Department for International Development – DFID

There are a number of initiatives within DfID, which are specific to our work as an international development agency in conjunction with our responsibility to raise development awareness at all levels.

### a. *Eliminating Global Poverty – White Paper on International Development and the Millennium Development Goals*<sup>13</sup>

The LMLG's remit to contribute to poverty alleviation is implemented through our development projects on the ground in Nicaragua. The positive impact these projects have on the lives of the beneficiaries is highlighted by the multiple and long-term benefits that are being achieved.

- The projects show how sustainable development works in practice as part of the poverty reduction agenda enshrined in the UN Millennium Development Goals

### b. *Development Awareness Grants*

Alongside project implementation, DfID also provide support for educational projects to raise awareness of development issues.

- In 2005, the LMLG successfully applied for £28,500 to deliver the Food for thought project over 3 years. The project uses the link with Nicaragua to explore aspects of development and global interdependence.

### c. *Global School Partnerships – The World Classroom*

Like the International School Award, this programme is also administered through the British Council but has an emphasis on links with developing countries, including Latin America, to support learning exchanges on a mutual basis.

- There are currently no links with Nicaragua but the British Council has expressed an interest in working with the LMLG to establish these.

### d. *Enabling Effective Support (EES)*

The EES initiative was launched in 2002 to develop regional strategies for supporting teachers and schools to incorporate the global dimension into their teaching. The East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools was set up in 2003.

- The LMLG co-authored the first EMNGPS strategy document (with Skillshare International), continues to be an active member of the network and now co-ordinates the Leicester City/Leicestershire Locality Group (see 1.4 above)

## 3. European Agendas

The LMLG's work sits firmly in context of the European agenda on both International Development and Development Education.

### a. European Strategy Framework for Increased and Improved Global Education to the Year 2015 (Maastricht Declaration)

Europe-wide Global Education Congress, which brought together governments, parliamentarians, civil society organisations and local and regional authorities from the 45 countries of the Council of Europe agreed the Maastricht Declaration.

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<sup>13</sup> Eliminating World Poverty: Making globalization work for the Poor. White Paper on International Development <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/whitepaper2000.pdf>

b. European Consensus on Development: the contribution of Development Education & Awareness Raising – Development Education Exchange in Europe Project (Nov 2007)<sup>14</sup>

This document provides the first strategy framework on European development education and awareness raising at local, regional, national and European levels. It is a joint statement, drawn up by representatives from a wide range of EU institutions, governmental, intergovernmental and civil society organisations and is intended to complement the European Consensus on Development (2005)<sup>15</sup>. A number of recommendations are made in relation to Local Authority programmes and budgets:

“To provide policy, financial and organisational support for the integration of Development Education and Awareness Raising in formal and informal education systems, curricula and programmes... and on opportunities that enable authorities, agencies and institutions to play their part in responding to the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development. Policy, funding and organisational commitments should enable perceptible change to be made towards reaching the aim of Development Education and Awareness Raising.”

c. CONCORD Statement on Development Education and Awareness Raising, November 2004<sup>16</sup>

Development education is an active learning process, founded on values of solidarity, equality, inclusion and co-operation. It enables people to move from basic awareness of international development priorities and sustainable human development, through understanding of the causes and effects of global issues, to personal involvement and informed actions of European citizens and public institutions. The concept of development education is a complex and multidisciplinary, taking different forms across the EU, including awareness raising, formal, non formal and informal education, lifelong learning, campaigning, advocacy, training and learning. It involves a diverse range of players, predominantly non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs), trade unions, educators, the media and public institutions.

## **HOW THE LMLG IS ACTIVELY RESPONDING TO LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL AGENDAS AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITIES**

1. LCC International Development Strategy

Leicester City Council’s commitment to north/south linking was set out in its International Development Strategy (2003), which aimed to “work with Leicester’s international links to

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<sup>14</sup> The European Consensus on Development: the contribution of Development Education & Awareness Raising [http://www.deeep.org/english/europe/strategy/Consensus\\_DEAR.pdf](http://www.deeep.org/english/europe/strategy/Consensus_DEAR.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> The European Consensus on Development - Council of the European Union <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/eupresidency2005/eu-consensus-development.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> CONCORD Statement on Development Education and Awareness Raising, November 2004 <http://www.deeep.org/english/europe/concord/statement/index.php>

support sustainable development, cultural diversity and social justice for both Leicester and Leicester's international partners.”

- a. The council consulted the LMLG as a successful example of partnership working, both in Leicester and Masaya, with local communities and council departments as well as for its expertise in development education.
- b. Whilst the broader implications of international work are highlighted in the strategy: “The local authority's links can be used as a learning tool in understanding the social, political, environmental and economic issues that face other parts of the world”, this approach has not been incorporated into Council Policy at a strategic level (and certainly not within the Overseas Links Working Party).
- c. The strategy acknowledges that international co-operation “can bring about important benefits in increasing understanding of the world and help to combat insularity, racism and prejudice” and it is committed to ‘the importance of raising public awareness of global issues to promote tolerance’. Although this is one of the tenets of the LMLG's work, it is not reflected in the terms of reference of the town twinning groups.
- d. The recommendation is that ‘Leicester will revitalise its existing twinning arrangements to meet the objectives of this Strategy’.

## 2. Education – Children's Services

The importance of international links as a vehicle for delivering global education is well documented in a number of strategic reports and publications produced by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the British Council and the Department for International Development.

- a. In context of the City Council's ‘Transforming Leicester's Learning’ plan, which seeks to address under achievement in Leicester schools, there is a role for education for Global Citizenship and development education methodology to contribute towards raising standards of attainment.
- b. Similarly, within Leicester City Council's Local Area Agreement, there is a priority for the Children and Young People lead delivery group to ensure ‘Young people's participation in positive activities’ (indicator NI110). This approach is inherent in development education.
- c. In “Putting the World into World Class Education – an International Strategy for Education, Skills and Children's Services”, (published by the DCSF – formerly the DfES) the message is that, if the UK is to remain a stable society, our children will need to know about other cultures, systems and practices and will require the skills to acknowledge similarities and differences.

The LMLG contributes to this process in a number of different educational contexts:

- A visit by 2 Masayan mural painters involved a range of artist-in-residence projects for a number of city schools and contributed to the International School Award accreditation for one secondary school.
- In 2001 we collaborated with the Woodcraft Folk on a youth exchange which involved teenagers from Leicester and Masaya in an international camp and a learning programme focused on sustainability. This led to the establishment of a school link.

- For 3 consecutive years we worked with The Contact Project on the St Matthews Estate, looking at local to global links through poetry and sculpture. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> year the project was delivered as part of the Everybody's Reading event in collaboration with Leicester City Libraries.
- From 2002, the LMLG has contributed annually to the Botanica project at the University of Leicester Botanic Garden, working alongside a number of other local organisations to simulate the prospects and challenges of living in a developing country. The project has been delivered to over 2000 secondary students.
- Food for Thought, a project for primary and secondary students, which uses the collection at the Botanic Garden and the Masaya link to explore how plants are grown, used and traded in Nicaragua, has just completed its fourth year. To date, more than 1300 pupils, 60 teachers and 18 schools have participated.
- Most importantly, our work with the East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools is providing us with an opportunity to engage with Children's Services in a more strategic way.

### 3. Community Cohesion

Twinning as a mechanism for increasing cultural understanding, social inclusion and community cohesion is well recognized. The belief that we can reach out to people of all backgrounds, in other parts of the world and in our own locality to understand what makes us all different, as well as what unites us is paramount in a twinning link. This goes beyond 'international activities' per se to include issues, which are about challenging perceptions and misconceptions within our own communities as well as the wider world.

- a. There are multiple opportunities for the twinning groups to contribute to Leicester City Council's Local Area Agreement priority target for Community Cohesion, which is to increase the percentage of 'people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area' (NI 1).
- b. Many of the recommendations made in Leicester City's Community Cohesion Agenda resonate with the fundamental principles of development education and the LMLG has experience of responding to a number of specific themes within the agenda including:
  - 'fostering inter-cultural contact between young people in schools and colleges'
    - Many of the young people who met the young Nicaraguans who visited in 2001 are still in touch with each other.
  - 'supporting cultural festivals and celebrations which open up contacts across communities' and 'establishing inter-cultural activities and events valuing shared and distinct cultures.'
    - We work closely with other community groups across the city and regularly take part in a range of events such as the Caribbean Carnival, Leicester & Me, the Beltane Spring Fair where there are opportunities for cross-cultural sharing,
  - 'supporting inter-faith activities'

- We are currently working with the Equality officer for Leicester Council of Faiths on a project relating to the Tree of Life
- ‘spreading the Community Cohesion message across the city’ - This is achieved mainly through our work with the East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools.
- ‘addressing perceptions of unfairness’ - this is fundamental to all our work and is one of the key concepts in global education.
- c. In a recent presentation about the new duty to promote community cohesion in schools, Professor Ted Cattle and Sir Keith Ajegbo put forward the case for school linking to support intercultural dialogue as a means of opening a gateway to stronger communities.
- d. The importance of international work has been reinforced by the duty on schools to promote community cohesion. This is spelled out in the Self Evaluation Form which is the basis of school Ofsted inspections. There are questions under Leadership, of which one is “How do you effectively contribute to the cohesiveness of the wider community, through developing learners’ understanding of other communities both in Europe and globally”. Schools will not be graded outstanding unless they achieve outstanding for cohesion. The cross curriculum dimension of Global Development and identity & Diversity also supports this work.

Learning Services Community Cohesion Strategy refers to the opportunities presented for school-to-school links by Comenius 1 projects and Comenius Regio partnerships. Staff development is an important aspect of all links and TPD and Study Visits for Educational Specialists (previously the Arion Programme) specifically focus on this and also facilitate school-school links.

The creation of community cohesion networks around the One Leicester Learning Project (first phase 2009 of the national School Linking Network) and The Community Cohesion Network being set up in Leicester by iCoCo will help disseminate outcomes and maximize the impact of links, including international, for all schools.

- e. Community Cohesion is a key theme within the next 5-year strategy of the East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools. We will be consulting with Community Cohesion teams in different Local Authorities across the region to ensure our approach reflects council policies.
- f. There are potential opportunities for working with the Institute of Community Cohesion (iCoCo), which was established in 2005 to provide a new approach to race, diversity and multiculturalism. The institute represents a unique partnership of academic, statutory and non-governmental bodies, including De Montfort and Leicester universities and practitioners from a range of diverse backgrounds and professions. Their work focuses on building positive and harmonious community relations and there are several case studies of educational projects in Leicester involving the Schools Development Support Agency and other local partners which the LMLG is establishing links with.
- g. Community Cohesion is a key theme within the next 5-year strategy of the East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools. We will be consulting with

Community Cohesion teams in different Local Authorities across the region to ensure our approach reflects council policies.

- h. There are potential opportunities for working with the Institute of Community Cohesion (iCoCo), which was established in 2005 to provide a new approach to race, diversity and multiculturalism. The institute represents a unique partnership of academic, statutory and non-governmental bodies, including De Montfort and Leicester universities and practitioners from a range of diverse backgrounds and professions. Their work focuses on building positive and harmonious community relations and there are several case studies of educational projects in Leicester involving the Schools Development Support Agency and other local partners which the LMLG is establishing links with.

#### 4. Environment and Energy

Leicester is proud of being Britain's first 'Environment City' and has a strong commitment to sustainable development. The LMLG is well placed to contribute to discussions about the global context as well as participating in local actions.

- a. The range and depth of work on Education for Sustainable Development that the LMLG does within the context of the UN Regional Centre of Expertise on Sustainable Development resonates clearly with the local measures for Economic Development and Environment, specifically around climate change mitigation & adaptation.
- b. The LMLG worked closely with Leicester City Council's Environment Team and other local organisations in the run up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to bring global issues into the local context. This partnership was instrumental in securing Fair Trade City status for Leicester and we continue to collaborate on projects and developing a 'corporate' policy for the council.
- c. Discussions between the Leicester Environment Partnership and Leicester Advocating Fair Trade, under the banner of The Big Idea, are seeking to exploit the link with Nicaragua to strengthen the council's commitment to fair trade.
- d. The LMLG is currently involved in a 2-year EU funded project which is researching the non-technical barriers to implementing renewable energy in Nicaragua and Central America with the aim of establishing networks to strengthen municipal support for alternative technologies. The LMLG has liaised closely with the Energy Efficiency Agency and there has been a two-way sharing of information with our Nicaraguan partners, much of which resonates with Leicester's Climate Change Strategy.

#### 5. Culture & Regeneration – Libraries and Museums

Since the early days of the link, the LMLG has worked closely with the relevant council departments to ensure that Nicaragua's culture is enjoyed in Leicester as part of the city's rich and diverse heritage.

- a. The City Gallery has hosted a number of exhibitions and workshops at different times when artists from Masaya have visited Leicester.
- b. The LMLG is frequently invited to put up displays and presentations in Libraries across the city to raise awareness of the link in context of global themes such as cultural diversity or fair trade.

- c. We played a key role in one aspect of the 'Leicester and Me' project, working alongside the other twin town groups and the community outreach team at the Museum Services to explore Leicester's global connections and celebrate its vibrant cultural diversity.

## 6. One Leicester

This document sets out a vision for Leicester to become Britain's most sustainable city.

- a. Within the recognised challenges facing the city, the LMLG is already linked to a number of key opportunities referred to in the vision – promoting good community cohesion, Building Schools for the Future, EMAS in schools – which will 'contribute to the achievement of sustainable development locally, regionally, nationally and globally'.
- b. All the twinning links can and should continue to be part of this process.

## CONCLUSION

The range and breadth of the LMLG's work across the city illustrates how town-twinning provides valuable experiences to increase understanding of our place in a globalising world

Through its development education work, the LMLG is helping young people and adults in Leicester to and build the skills, values and dispositions which enable them to be supportive of sustainable development, democratic values and human rights, as individuals in their local environment and collectively as global citizens.

## Supporting Information

### International, national and strategic documents and websites

- Eliminating World Poverty: Making globalization work for the Poor. White Paper on International Development  
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/whitepaper2000.pdf>
- The European Consensus on Development: the contribution of Development Education & Awareness Raising  
[http://www.deeep.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/downloads/Consensus\\_on\\_DE/DE\\_Consensus-EN.pdf](http://www.deeep.org/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/Consensus_on_DE/DE_Consensus-EN.pdf)
- The European Consensus on Development - Council of the European Union  
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/eupresidency2005/eu-consensus-development.pdf>
- Linking Toolkit – produced by UKOWLA  
[www.ukowla.org.uk](http://www.ukowla.org.uk)
- Putting the World into World Class Education – DfES (now DCSF)  
<http://www.globalgateway.org.uk/pdf/International-Strategy.pdf>
- Developing the Global Dimension in the School Curriculum – DfID and British Council  
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/dev-global-dim.pdf>
- The Global Dimension in Action – QCA (Qualifications and Curriculum Authority)  
[http://www.qca.org.uk/qca\\_15333.aspx](http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_15333.aspx)

- Sustainable Schools for Pupils, Communities and the Environment – DfES (now DCSF)  
<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/Sustainable%20Schools%20A4%20leaflet.PDF>
- Global School Partnerships  
<http://www.britishcouncil.org/globalschools-about.htm>
- Institute of Community Cohesion  
<http://www.coventry.ac.uk/researchnet/icoco>
- The DCSF guidelines on duty to promote Community Cohesion  
<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00598-2007.pdf>
- The Ted Cante Report 2001  
[http://www.coventry.ac.uk/researchnet/external/content/1/c4/25/58/v1186483609/user/CommunityCohesionAReportoftheIndependentReviewTeam\\_id1502709.pdf](http://www.coventry.ac.uk/researchnet/external/content/1/c4/25/58/v1186483609/user/CommunityCohesionAReportoftheIndependentReviewTeam_id1502709.pdf)
- The Ajegbo Report 2007  
<http://www.coventry.ac.uk/researchnet/external/content/1/c4/25/58/v1186483609/user/Ajegbo%20Diversity&Citizenship.pdf>

#### Local Publications

- Leicester City Council Education and Learning – Transforming Leicester’s Learning  
<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council—services/education—lifelong-learning/about-us/policy-documents/transforming-leicesters-learning>
- Leicester City Council Community Cohesion Strategy  
<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/index.asp?pgid=7293>
- Leicester’s Climate Change Strategy  
<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council—services/ep/the-environment/climate-change/climate-change-strategy>
- Integrating Global and Anti-Racist Perspectives into the Primary Curriculum  
<http://www.nottinghamschools.co.uk/eduweb/schools/schools-template.aspx?id=1327>
- Get-in (Gender, Ethnicity – Integration Through International School Projects)  
[www.get-in.info](http://www.get-in.info)

Claire Plumb, Development Worker for the Leicester Masaya Link Group – 04/2008

## **EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE ON THE GLOBAL DIMENSION AND INTERNATIONAL LINKS IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE EAST MIDLANDS**

There is a range of different models of good practice across the region, which illustrate how development education can be supported within a local authority in a number of ways.

### **1. Leicestershire County Council – International Links Co-ordinator**

This post sits within the Chief Executive's Department and the incumbent (Helen Trilling) has a specific remit for working with schools to support international linking. This includes the International School Award and Global School Partnerships, the latter of which involves travelling with head teachers to establish links in other countries under the Teacher's International Professional Development scheme, as well as coordinating the British Council's Regional Network for International Links (RNIL) and representing the County Council on the East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools.

At the time of writing this report, Leicestershire schools have active links with France, Germany, Italy, India, Thailand and China.

### **2. Nottingham City – International Dimension Consultant (IDC)**

The role of the International Dimension Consultant is multi-faceted and encompasses a range of duties including supporting "schools to bring a global dimension to the school curriculum in accordance with national guidelines." This work is complemented by a specific role to provide resources for the delivery of the global dimension to Citizenship and Modern Foreign Languages. Like the above post, there is also a remit to develop international links and to facilitate opportunities for international professional development through the RNIL, in addition to being an adjudicator for the Comenius scheme.

A recent evaluation report (April 1007) conducted on behalf of EMNGPS, showed that of the 119 schools in Nottingham City, 55 were running some form of international project and following a questionnaire, almost all of the schools with international links said that the IDC "was involved in setting up or coordinating the projects" and that the role was "considered vital to the success of international projects".

The report lists 8 points where the IDC post has had an impact including "attracting funding opportunities for the local authority for projects relating to the international and global dimension" and in summary, 2 recommends that every local authority has an IDC... particularly with a view to achieving government initiatives relating to incorporating international linking and global issues in all schools."

### **3. A Tale of Two Local authorities – Case Studies of the East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools work with two Local authorities**

This report (draft) sets out how two Local Authorities which did not have access to a Development Education Centre (DEC), have used the input of funds from the East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools to build capacity for the global dimension.

#### **a. *Lincolnshire Local Authority***

The responsibility for work on the global dimension and international lies within the School Improvement Service and a £20,000 grant from EMNGPS was match funded to provide 2 part time posts as Global Dimension Co-ordinators.

These were short-term posts and though the achievements were substantial, there was insufficient time to make the work sustainable.

*b. Northamptonshire Local Authority*

In 2005, the authority drew up a 'Global dimension in the Curriculum' strategy document which sets out the Northamptonshire County Council School Service Strategy for meeting the challenges of the DFES vision and strategy for the global dimension in the curriculum. One of the goals is to 'develop and engage in links with international partners in order to achieve their goals and ours' by actively encouraging 'further development of existing links between schools in areas which are twinned in Germany, France, Italy and the USA.'

With pump-priming from EMNGPS, the Council agreed to fund the appointment of 2 part-time Global Dimension Curriculum Practitioners, but from the outset, it was understood the post would become self-financing.

A large part of their work is to offer training and resources for teachers and it was felt that this required a dedicated venue, a DEC, which is based at Grendon Hall (Northamptonshire's residential Outdoor and Environmental Studies Centre). The Northamptonshire DEC is known as the Ignatius Sanchos Centre.

4. Global Education Derby (GED)

Global Education Derby is a very active DEC, the largest in the East Midlands. Following successful negotiations with Derby City Council last year, GED has now been given a 3 year Service Level Agreement to provide support for the global dimension within Children and Young People's Services. Specifically, they have been contracted to assist schools in applying for and attaining the International Schools Award (ISA). In conjunction with this, the City Council has also appointed an International Links Coordinator to work alongside GED to promote and administrate school linking activities.

Claire Plumb, Development Worker for the Leicester Masaya Link Group – 04/2008

**SYNOPSIS TABLE: LINKING THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY TO ONE LEICESTER**

	<b>CONFIDENT PEOPLE</b>	<b>GREATER PROSPERITY</b>	<b>A BEAUTIFUL PLACE</b>
<b>1. Invest in and learn from international partnerships to support economic development, inward investment, enhance skills and improve performance</b>	By developing practitioner to practitioner exchanges with other countries to share learning, support staff development and training, we will help to create a confident workforce	European funding provides a major opportunity to help create a wealthier and fairer city. By encouraging opportunities for local businesses to develop trading links beyond the UK, we will maximise business competitiveness.	International cooperation, through activities such as the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEs) Cities for Climate Change Programme, will ensure the city is outward looking and is able to maximise opportunities to create a greener place
<b>2. Embrace Leicester's diverse communities to build social cohesion and celebrate local identity alongside the city's links with the wider world</b>	By working with partners in other countries to share experience and expertise on well-being and social cohesion, we will help to create a place where people have confidence in themselves, where they live and work	By developing innovative approaches and building capacity to promote positive and harmonious community relations, we will help to create an environment where everyone can fulfil their potential	By working with relevant City Council departments, we will ensure that the cultures contained within Leicester and those of its twin towns are enjoyed as part of the city's rich and diverse heritage, thus helping to create a vibrant city
<b>3. Increase international understanding and global learning to improve educational standards, broaden experiences and promote active citizenship</b>	By implementing the global education agenda and international school linking, we will help increase the practical skills of our people and enable them to compete successfully in the workplace	By identifying the role for global citizenship and developing education methodology within the City Council's 'Transforming Leicester's Learning Plan', our people will be able to acquire that skills that will help them thrive within the global economy	By exploring issues of global significance such as climate change, we will encourage a sense of purpose among our people and encourage them to take action and work towards creating a more sustainable world
<b>4. Respond to a shared agenda for environmental sustainability, carbon footprint reduction and increasing support for sustainable development to benefit future generations</b>	By raising awareness of the global relevance of sustainability issues, we will help create environments in which people feel engaged and believe in themselves	Understanding the global context of issues such as climate change will enable us to find local solutions to ensure a sustainable future for the city's residents and businesses	By making our contribution towards reducing negative impacts on the environment and ensuring sustainable development, we will help to improve the quality of life within the city
<b>5. Liaise with and work alongside development economies to meet social justice objectives and challenge global inequalities</b>	By promoting social justice both in Leicester and in Leicester's links around the world, we will help to build confident and caring communities	By developing a common understanding of local and global inequalities, we will help create more cohesive communities and help to alleviate global poverty	By raising awareness of the issues behind global inequality and tackling the root causes, we will help create a better place
6. Develop and implement a coherent approach to Leicester's town twinning links to maximise the impact of these relationships at local and international level	By helping people build the skills and values that will enable them to become global citizens, we will help to create more confident people	By supporting language skills in a range of ways in schools and through student placements and exchanges, we will help people realise their potential to compete in a global market	By providing opportunities for the twin town groups to work in partnership with relevant personnel within the City Council, we will add value to existing work and help create a vibrant city

**SUMMARY - INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**  
**MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY - Action and Impact**

The City Council's International Development Strategy has been developed primarily for and on behalf of the corporate International Development Committee to support Leicester's sustainable community strategy as set out in **One Leicester** and ensure that the opportunities and benefits of international engagement are maximised in all areas of the Council.

The Strategy has been developed within the context of Leicester's 25-year vision 'One Leicester, Britain's Sustainable City: Confident people, new prosperity, a beautiful place'<sup>17</sup> and reflects key recommendations and policy directions of international institutions (such as the UN and the EU), UK government departments and civil society organisations.

1. ***Invest in and learn from international partnerships to support economic development, inward investment, enhance skills and improve performance***  
How will this objective be taken forward?
  - a. Developing practitioner-to-practitioner exchanges with other countries to share learning and support staff development and training.
  - b. Encouraging opportunities for local businesses to develop trading links beyond the UK.
  - c. Raise the profile of Leicester as a tourist destination for visitors from overseas.
  - d. Keeping abreast of European agendas to ensure the city is outward looking.
  - e. Maximising opportunities to make collaborative funding bids from the European Union, the Department for International Development and other streams.
  
2. ***Embrace Leicester's diverse communities to build social cohesion and celebrate local identity alongside the city's links with the wider world***  
How will this objective be taken forward?
  - a. Liaising with local authority partners in other countries to share experience and expertise on well-being and social cohesion.
  - b. Working with relevant Leicester City Council departments such as Libraries and Museums, to ensure that the cultures of Leicester and those of its twin towns are enjoyed as part of the city's rich and diverse heritage.
  - c. Identifying opportunities for international partnerships and the town-twinning groups to contribute to Leicester City Council's Local Area Agreement priority target for Community Cohesion (NI 1).
  - d. Working with other local agencies (Schools Development Support Agency, the East Midlands Network for Global Perspectives in Schools, Leicester Council of Faiths and Diversity Hub) to support schools in their duty to promote community cohesion
  - e. Developing innovative approaches and building capacity to promote positive and harmonious community relations with the support of the Institute of Community Cohesion and its local partners, the University of Leicester and de Montfort University.
  
3. ***Increase international understanding and global learning to improve educational standards, broaden experiences and promote active citizenship***  
How will this objective be taken forward?
  - a. Explore ways in which Leicester City Council Children and Young People's Services can make best use of the twin town groups, and particularly the LMLG to:
    - implement the global education agenda

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<sup>17</sup> [www.oneleicester.com](http://www.oneleicester.com)

- encourage international school linking (in response to "Putting the World into World Class Education")
  - fulfil the duty to promote community cohesion as outlined in "Guidance on the Duty to Promote Community Cohesion"
- b. Liaise with Leicester City Council Children and Young People's Services to seek support for a dedicated post to support international school linking.
- c. Identify the role for education, for global citizenship and development education methodology within Leicester City Council's "Transforming Leicester's Learning" plan.
- d. Respond to Leicester City Council's Local Area Agreement (indicator NI110) to ensure 'young people's participation in positive activities'.
- 4. *Respond to a shared agenda for environmental sustainability, carbon footprint reduction and increasing support for sustainable development to benefit future generations***  
How will this objective be taken forward?
- a. Work with Leicester City Council's Environment and Energy Teams to raise awareness of the global relevance of sustainability issues within the local context.
- b. Embed sustainable development and energy efficiency measures in international projects.
- c. Maintain a presence within the UN Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development.
- 5. *Liaise with and work alongside developing economies to meet social justice objectives and challenge global inequalities***  
How will this objective be taken forward?
- a. Promote social justice both in Leicester and in Leicester's links around the world
- b. Develop a common understanding of local and global inequality
- c. Increase local support for international aid
- d. Continued support of Leicester's fair trade city status
- e. Enhanced PCT role
- 6. *Develop and implement a coherent approach to Leicester's town-twinning links to maximize the impact of these relationships at local and international level***  
How will this objective be taken forward?
- a. Create a more coherent Development Education and awareness raising strategy for all the twin town groups
- Deliver awareness raising events and disseminate information about the work of the twin-town groups more widely
  - Improve the range of educational material relating to the twin-town groups and provide a dedicated space to store and make resources accessible to teachers and schools
  - Provide opportunities for the twin town groups to engage in dialogue with relevant personnel within the Council to promote partnership working.