



**Interaction**  
international development  
**toolkit**

## **International Connections** *bringing benefits home*

### **BRINGING BENEFITS TO SCHOOLS, YOUTH & COMMUNITY**

#### **Bristol – exposing local children to global issues**

Bristol's twinning association has helped expose local school children to a range of issues from a variety of countries. Between 2007 and 2009 Bristol City Council has supported the Nicaraguan Fairtrade Producer initiatives, exposing thousands of local school students across the city to the real issues of fair trade.

#### **Leicester Masaya Link Group: bringing a fair trade link to life**

The Leicester Masaya Link Group co-ordinates the link between Leicester and Masaya in Nicaragua and is also a Development Education Centre. They have found that the link with Nicaragua provides an invaluable resource and real life stories of Nicaraguan coffee growers, which sets the trading processes in context of an active link and makes the issues more pertinent.

The Leicester Masaya Link Group also works in partnership with the University of Leicester Botanic Garden, and has developed a resource for schools called Food for Thought, which looks at how plants go from the farmer's field to the market place. This interactive project helps students to understand some of the factors that impact upon producers in developing countries.

#### **Durham's cross council work for school links rewarded**

In Durham, the leader of the council has championed the school links work and ensured support from other areas of the council. In 2008 this joined-up approach was rewarded when Durham County Council won the HSBC Link2Learn award for excellence and innovation in school linking.

#### **Bradford building safer & stronger communities with Pakistan**

Through the work of the Safer and Stronger Communities initiative in Bradford, the city is taking advantage of opportunities to develop mutual links and take part in a global exchange between clusters of schools in the UK and Pakistan. These projects bring together professionals and young people to enable learning across boundaries, improve understanding of other cultures and prepare them for life and work as global citizens. The project also enables the professional development of teachers and school leaders through exchanges and provides International School Award accreditation to recognise school work.



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### **BRINGING HOME KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION**

#### **Leeds: influencing supply chains, strengthening the economy**

The partnership between Leeds and the city of Durban (now eThekweni Municipality) is a lively one with the two cities co-operating on education, sports, culture and business projects, benefitting both sides. Leeds City Council and eThekweni are currently working on a Good Practice Scheme project funded by the UK's Department for International Development. The project looks at best practice and capacity development in procurement and small business support.

As well as sharing expertise on these areas Leeds has also been learning new ways of thinking from its South African partners in how to engage and interact with corporate procurement. Leeds will now hold a workshop, mirroring work undertaken in South Africa, to open up better dialogue with large local businesses and find out how a local authority can influence and improve use of supply chains for the benefit of the local economy. The working relationship between Leeds' procurement and business support services has also been strengthened as a direct result of working closely together on this project.

#### **Sunderland: economic development, unemployment & football**

Sunderland's partnership with the Mbombela Local Municipality is not solely about sharing experience on economic development and tackling unemployment to build capacity and expertise within the South African local authority, but also builds on a common bond of football. As a candidate host city, Sunderland hopes to learn from Mbombela's experience during the 2010 World Cup should England be successful in its bid for 2018 or 2022 World Cup.

#### **Warwickshire and Warwick: delivering services with limited resources**

Warwickshire and Warwick District have benefitted enormously in terms of the personal and professional development of staff. The near thirty year link with Bo in Sierra Leone has recently been reinvigorated by a series of externally funded projects around waste management, environmental health and community development. In tackling the issues, staff were forced to go back to basics in their professional expertise requiring adaptability and lateral thinking – vital skills at a time of constrained public finances. The resourcefulness and commitment shown by Sierra Leonean colleagues operating in far more seriously under-resourced authorities has been inspirational and a strong motivator for WCC staff on their return to the UK.



## **BRINGING BENEFITS TO LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Gateshead: recognising and building on its international assets**

Developed in consultation with a range of local, regional, national and international partners as well as the many communities across Gateshead, Gateshead's International Strategy 2010-2013, ensures understanding and ownership of the key priorities from the outset. The international strategy recognises that Gateshead is increasingly part of a global community, whose future is dependent not only on what happens locally, but also the wider international context. Gateshead looks beyond council activities to include the role of all local partner and the international strategy sets out up front why Gateshead benefits from international work. This emphasis on outcomes means that Gateshead is able to monitor how international work has a local impact.

Gateshead positions itself as an international city, recognising its renowned cultural and sports facilities (including the Angel of the North, The Sage Gateshead and Gateshead International Stadium) as 'international assets'. The Gateshead Strategic Partnership (GSP) aims to strengthen these assets for the future benefit of Gateshead. Through raising its global reputation as a centre for art and culture, the GSP sees opportunities for Gateshead to benefit from this international profile – growing business links, attracting talent and giving residents the skills they need to compete in an age of globalisation.

### **Leicester's international strategy reflecting the 'One Leicester' vision**

Leicester's International Development Strategy, reflects the vision set out in 'One Leicester' - Leicester's sustainable community strategy. 'One Leicester' is underpinned by priority themes, including: skills and enterprise, community well-being and health, investing in children and reducing the city's carbon footprint. Leicester's international development strategy identifies areas of international work that bring positive impacts to Leicester's priorities. These include:

- support for economic development and inward investment;
- enhancing skills and improving performance;
- celebrating local identity alongside international links to build cohesion;
- improving global learning to improve education and active citizenship;
- response to environmental sustainability and climate change issues;
- working alongside developing economies to challenge global inequalities;
- maximising the impact of Leicester's links at local and global levels.



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### **Partnership building for Staffordshire in Sri Lanka**

Staffordshire is one of eight original Consortia established by the Local Government Association in 2005, to assist with the medium and long-term rehabilitation of the tsunami affected areas of Sri Lanka. The Consortium brings together a range of local actors from the county including the local authorities, Staffordshire University and NHS agencies in the county and is working in Kalmunai, Ampara District, in the east of Sri Lanka.

It has developed work programmes jointly with stakeholders from Kalmunai in several areas such as waste management, health and university links. One of the major benefits experienced by the Staffordshire consortium is the improved dynamic between the local partners which means that partnerships in the home environment become more effective. They are now working to create a Consortium in Kalmunai along the lines of the Staffordshire Consortium, which is hoped to further improve the sustainability and efficacy of the project.

### **Cardiff's International Partner Assessment Matrix**

The focus of Cardiff's International Policy is to support the Council in developing links with international networks and cities with similar aspirations and facing similar challenges, and to develop funded projects which reflect the Council's objectives, and ultimately, the needs and aspirations of the citizens of Cardiff.

An 'international partner assessment matrix' has been developed to support this work, firstly as a database of all cities that Cardiff have worked with and secondly as a means to prioritise partner cities which most closely reflect the needs of Cardiff. In essence, Cardiff's approach is to identify funding streams match the city's aspirations – then utilise existing links to build partnerships and international projects.