

Freedom of Information request 2492

1a) How many trips abroad were taken by councillors or senior council officers in 2011/12?

- 0: None funded from Overseas Link budget

b) The same for 2010/11 - 2: Combined visit to Strasbourg & Epinal, France; Visit to Haskovo, Bulgaria

c) The same for 2009/10 - 1: Combined visit to Chongqing, China & Ludhiana, India

d) The same for 2008/09 - 2: Visit to Haskovo, Bulgaria; Combined visit to Masaya, Nicaragua & Guatemala

e) The same for 2007/08 - 0: None funded from Overseas Link budget

2a) What was the total cost of all trips abroad taken by councillors or senior council officers in 2011/12?

- Not applicable

b) The same for 2010/11

- Combined visit to Strasbourg & Epinal, France: **£469.95** (see breakdown below)

- Visit to Haskovo, Bulgaria: **£1,855.82** (see breakdown below)

Total cost: £2,325.77

c) The same for 2009/10

The total cost for the combined visit to Chongqing, China & Ludhiana, India was **£17,899.94**.

This includes **£5,614.62** funded from Overseas Links budget (see breakdown below) and

£12,285.32 funded from Civic Support

d) The same for 2008/09

- Visit to Haskovo, Bulgaria: **£4,594.33** (see breakdown below)

- Combined visit to Masaya, Nicaragua & Guatemala: **£9,169.14** (see breakdown below)

Total cost: £13,763.47

e) The same for 2007/08

- Not applicable

Please note: all travel was in economy class

3a) For each trip in 2011/12 please provide a breakdown listing the destination, name of the councillors or senior council officers who embarked on the trip, cost of the individual trip, who paid for the trip, duration of the trip, the purpose of the trip, the mode of transportation, what class of travel they took (i.e. Business Class/First Class/Economy etc.), the name of hotel(s) stayed at, and cost of hotel accommodation. - Not applicable

b) The same for 2010/11

▪ **Combined visit to Strasbourg & Epinal, France (27th to 31st October 2010)**

Name of visit / event	Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce & Industry visit to Strasbourg and Epinal (France).
Number of visitors / delegates involved	The visit was led by Andrew Taylor and John Townsend representing the Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The City Council's representative was Sandra Rieger, Senior Economic Regeneration Officer (International Development).
Where from / to	Leicester to Strasbourg and Epinal.
Date of visit / event	27-31 October 2010.
Duration	3 days.
Where the visit / event will be held	The delegation met with representatives from local authorities and Chambers of Commerce in Strasbourg and Epinal.
Purpose of the visit / event (i.e. aims & objectives)	<p>The purpose of the visit was to present a business case for Leicester / Leicestershire to the chambers of commerce and the local authorities with a view to developing business and commercial links.</p> <p>The visit built on the city and the county's twinning links, and the Chamber's Network France initiative, which started with the realisation that there are many French connections in the city / county (e.g. French owned companies, businesses trading with France, people who are interested in France for future trading purposes).</p> <p>The Senior Economic Development Officer (International Development) used the opportunity to 'Talk Up Leicester' and to explore potential business and commercial opportunities.</p>
Benefits	The visit created links between the Chambers of Commerce, promoted Leicester / Leicestershire as a place to do business with, explored trading opportunities and built on the city and the county's twinning links. This was an opportunity to refresh the connections, assist with the Chamber's Network France initiative and the planning of further events.
Proposed outcomes	To create contacts in both cities with a view to developing business and commercial links.
Sources of funding	The visit by the Senior Economic Regeneration Officer (International Development) amounted to £469.95 and was funded from Overseas Links budget. A breakdown of the cost is

	<p>provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £326 flights - £45.80 train to Stansted - £10 travel insurance - £34 return train from Strasbourg to Epinal - £29.15 mileage Stansted to Leicester - £25 subsistence
Cost to Leicester City Council (i.e. cash & in-kind)	One officer's time. The visit by the Senior Economic Regeneration Officer (international Officer) was funded from overseas links budget. Hotel fees were met by Strasbourg City Council.

▪ **Visit to Haskovo, Bulgaria (27th February to 2nd March 2011)**

Name of visit / event	Leicester City and CLETA delegation to Haskovo
Number of visitors / delegates involved	<p>There were 5 delegates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Paul Westley, Vice-Chair of International Development Working Party and Cabinet Member (Housing), LCC - Mr Geoff Marston, School Improvement Advisor (Learning Services), LCC - Cllr Michael Johnson, LCC & Chairman of CLETA - Mr Colin Cook, Vice-Chairman of CLETA - Mr Malcolm Unsworth, CLETA Executive Committee member
Where from / to	From Leicester to Haskovo
Date of visit / event	27/02 – 02/03/11
Duration	4 days
Where the visit / event will be held	Haskovo Municipality
Purpose of the visit / event (i.e. aims & objectives)	The purpose of the visit was to discuss school links and other partnerships involving young people (i.e. rotary clubs, local youth clubs, sport clubs, etc).
Benefits	<p>The visit enabled links to be developed. Geoff Marston (Learning Services) developed a development plan for developing school links, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing current interest from City schools (Primary and Secondary) for forming links with schools in Haskovo; - Reviewing feasibility of Governor links programme; - Reviewing feasibility for providing redundant laptops to schools in Haskovo

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Donation of surplus books / resources - Pen Pals scheme
Proposed outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raised profile (Talking Up Leicester) - Commitment / expression of interest obtained from key schools - Expressions of interest confirmed from Primary and Secondary Governors - 10 Laptops taken over with delegation - Overview sheet of types of schools, ages ranges from Haskovo - Surplus books identified - Pen pals scheme developed - Agreement to develop plan and next steps achieved
Sources of funding	<p>The total cost to the Council was £1,855.82. Haskovo Municipality provided free internal transport (i.e. return transfer from Sofia Airport to Haskovo; local transport between venues/meetings). A breakdown of the cost is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £1,102.50 flights - £100 airport transfer - £45.75 travel insurance - £239.53 hotel - £148.49 cash advance - £6.55 members' expenses - £193 gifts - £20 pen drives to Language school in Haskovo
Cost to Leicester City Council (i.e. cash & in-kind)	As above plus officer's time.
Names and roles of officers / members involved and others acting on behalf of the Council (i.e. twinning organisations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Paul Westley, Vice-Chair of International Development Working Party and Cabinet Member (Housing), LCC - Mr Geoff Marston, School Improvement Advisor (Learning Services), LCC - Cllr Michael Johnson, LCC & Chairman of CLETA - Mr Colin Cook, Vice-Chairman of CLETA - Mr Malcolm Unsworth, CLETA Executive Committee member

c) The same for 2009/10

▪ **Combined visits to Chongqing, China & Ludhiana, India (7th to 12th May 2009)**

The Lord Mayor, Cllr Manjula Sood, accompanied by Alex Kowalczyk (Officer) led a delegation to Chongqing. The purpose of the visit was to reaffirm the city's links with Chongqing, promote trade and economic cooperation, as well as cultural and educational

links between the two cities. During the visit, the delegation met with Government officials and attended a major economic event in the city. A breakdown of the costs, which were met from Overseas Links budget is provided below:

Date	Detail	OSL budget
	VISA fees - Cllrs Kitterick & Bhatti (Chinese Embassy)	£334.95
07/05/2009	Cllr Clair's flights LHR-Delhi-Amritsar-LHR	£1,520.00
09/05/2009	Cllr Kitterick's flights LHR-Hong Kong-Chongqing-Hong Kong-LHR	£2,736.50
	Cllr Kitterick's hotel in Chongqing (6 nights) – JW Marriott	£510.00
10/05/2009	Food, Broadband & Laundry (China)	£330.00
12/05/2009	Chinese interpreter	£160.67
	Business cards translation into Mandarin - Cllr Bhatti, Cllr Kitterick	£22.50
Total		£5,614.62

d) The same for 2008/09

- **Visit to Haskovo for the Leicester-Haskovo Twinning Ceremony (7th to 11th September 2008) - Total cost: £4,594.33**

The purpose of the visit was to: a. attend the twinning ceremony on 08/09/08; b. enable LCC officers to meet with their counterparts in Haskovo and to discuss joint initiatives, which will benefit communities in Leicester and Haskovo, develop awareness in schools and share best practice on approaches of community cohesion. The following LCC representatives attended: Cllr Culdipp Bhatti; Mr Suki Supria; Mr Ian Craig; Mr Toni Soni; Mrs Irene Kszyk; Mrs Pauline Burton; Miss Sandra Rieger.

As a result of the visit, LCC submitted a successful bid to the European Commission under the Thematic Networking of Twinned Towns.

A breakdown of the total cost is provided below:

- Flights: £3,009
- Minibus: £250
- Balloons: £111.49
- Civic gifts: £82.36
- Taxis: £45.41
- Europa Hotel: £1,096.07

- **Visit to Masaya, Nicaragua (6th to 13th October 2008) & Guatemala (13th to 18th October 2008) - Total cost: £9,169.14**

A LCC delegation, led by Sheila Lock (Chief Executive) travelled to Masaya, Leicester's twinned city. After an official welcome and reception at the Town Hall in Masaya, the delegation attended meetings with representatives from the department of education in Masaya as well as visits to both secondary and primary. They also visited a number of the LMLG's rural development projects, which their partner organisation (ADIC) has been facilitating over the last 5 years. The aims of the visit were to further the twinning links between Leicester and Masaya and explore areas of mutual benefit for both cities. The visit

was initiated in response to an invitation from the Mayor of Masaya (who is also Leader of the Council of Masaya) and was the first visit by a Leicester delegation since 1993. The delegation met with representatives from the Municipality of Masaya, the department of Education in Masaya and visited both secondary and primary schools where they met with teachers and young people. The delegation also visited 5 of the Leicester Masaya Link Group's rural development projects in Masaya and held a series of meetings with their partner NGO.

As a result of the visit, various meetings took place with members of the Urban Regeneration Team, the Energy and Environment Teams, Youth Services and Children and Young People's Services. The outcomes of these meetings included:

- Cllr Cooke met with the current president of the Energie-Cites to initiate discussions about developing a similar network with partners in Central America
- An educational project to raise awareness of renewable energy in Masaya and Leicester is being developed
- 45 Year 7 students from New College participated in a project called Food for Thought, which is run by the Leicester Masaya Link Group (LMLG) and the University of Leicester Botanic Garden. This has been hugely beneficial for both the students and the teachers
- The LMLG will be working with 10 city schools to raise awareness of international and twinning links as part of a UNICEF project with LCC Learning Services
- As a result of a presentation about the visit, which was made to the Young People's Council, they are planning a visit to Masaya to explore issues of global citizenship and democracy.

A breakdown of the costs is provided below:

Flights 5 people	Cllr Willmott Cllr Wann Cllr Cooke Sheila Lock Jane Brown	£5,195.00
Hilton London Gatwick	Cllr Willmott	£116.33
	Cllr Cooke	£116.33
	Sheila Lock	£116.33
Sofitel London Gatwick	Jane Brown	£116.33
	Cllr Wann including parking costs	£139.00
Subsistence	Meal at Gatwick	£86.45
Airport transfers	Cllr Willmott Cllr Cooke Sheila Lock Jane Brown Claire Plumb	£400.00
	Cllr Cooke return transfer by Swift Taxi	£167.18
Gifts Tourist Information Centre	Quality of Leicester Books Various gifts	£151.20
Subsistence	Meal at Houston	£74.10
Hotel Casa Catarina Nicaragua	Sheila Lock 6 nights	223.69
	Cllr Willmott 6 nights	223.69

Bed and breakfast	Jane Brown 6 nights	223.69
	CLlr Cooke 5 nights	186.41
Subsistence	Various Food & Drink – Hotel Casa Catarina	79.32
	Meal ADDIC	14.12
Camino Real Hotel Guatemala On bed only basis	Sheila Lock 4 nights Jane Brown 4 nights CLlr Wann 5 nights	865.81
Transport by minibus from Camino Real Hotel to functions	Transport 14/10/08 Hotel to Municipality Offices return 14/10/08 Hotel to British Ambassador's Residence return 15/10/08 Hotel to Ldivar University 2 return trips	£390.31
	Agency fees	£87.92
Expenses	Hotel Casa Catarina – meals Airport Managua	£195.93
	TOTAL	£9,169.14

e) The same for 2007/08 - Not applicable