

REPORT

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| To: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE | | Subject: TWINNING: SAINT DENIS |
| From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION | | |
| Date: 20 September 2006 | Ref: JAF/IL | |

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The report seeks the instructions of the Committee on an invitation received from the Mayor of Saint Denis to participate in an exchange of young people linked with the 2007 Rugby World Cup.

2. **Background**

- 2.1 Between 7 September and 20 October 2007, the Council's twin town, Saint Denis, will host in the Stade de France seven matches of the Rugby World Cup. As has been their practice on previous occasions, the Municipality of Saint Denis propose to expand on that event to put in place a programme, involving young people from twin towns engaging in debates, concerts and sporting events.

3. **Invitation**

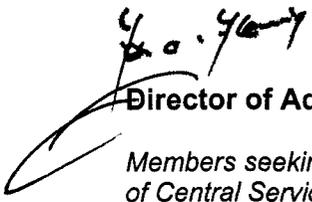
- 3.1 The invitation issued by the Mayor of Saint Denis proposes that a group of 14 young people from North Lanarkshire be hosted in Saint Denis from 6 to 13 September 2007 to participate in the International Youth Forum linked with the Rugby World Cup – and to be present at the opening match in the Stade de France.
- 3.2 The invitation proposes, also, that in the spirit of exchange, North Lanarkshire Council host, for a week in early 2007, 14 young people from Saint Denis.

4. **Consideration**

- 4.1 Following discussion with colleagues in the Department of Education, it is considered that this invitation can be accommodated – and will provide a valuable learning experience for the young people involved. It is considered, also, that the visit to North Lanarkshire could coincide with one of the Six Nations matches to be played at Murrayfield – and that the party be afforded the opportunity to attend that match.

5. **Recommendation**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the invitation received from the Mayor of Saint Denis and, in light of the foregoing considerations, instruct a response.


Director of Administration

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on Extension 2228.