

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT**

To: CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: TWINNING: SAINT DENIS
From: HEAD OF CENTRAL SERVICES		
Date: 6 December 2007	Ref: JAF/IL	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report advises of invitations received from the municipality of Saint Denis and seeks homologation of action taken.

2. Background

- 2.1 One of the Council's twin towns is Saint Denis in which is located the Stade de France – the venue for a number of matches in the World Rugby Championships.
- 2.2 As has been the practice of the municipality of Saint Denis in previous similar circumstances, a number of events were organised to coincide with the major sporting occasion and, in that connection, the Provost was invited to participate in a meeting of Saint Denis twin towns to plan future twinning activity; and the Council was invited to set up a promotional stand to coincide with the semi-final match in the anticipation of Scotland defeating Argentina and reaching the semi-finals.

3. Action Taken

- 3.1 Following consultation, action was taken to accept the invitation extended to the Provost, and the Depute Provost represented the Provost and the Council at the meeting in Saint Denis. Matters discussed included the continuation of the links established through the exchanges of young people in the run-up to the Rugby World Cup and the possibility of community exchanges between the communities of Glenboig and La Plaine in Saint Denis.
- 3.2 In connection with the second invitation, preparatory action was also taken, including the reservation of air tickets at advantageous prices for three members of staff to staff a North Lanarkshire promotional booth. In the event, Scotland did not succeed in reaching the semi-finals of the Rugby World Cup and, in the absence of a Scottish participation at that level it was considered that the advantages of a North Lanarkshire promotional booth were insufficient to justify officer attendance.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Committee note and homologate the action taken in response to the invitations received from the municipality of Saint Denis.


Head of Central Services

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