

REPORT

To: CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: TWINNING - MONGOLIA
From: HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES		
Date: 13 October 2015	Ref: MS/MR	

1. Purpose of Report

The Convener of Learning and Leisure Services has received communication from a member of Airdrieonians Supporters Trust advising of an approach made to him to investigate the possibility of Airdrie being twinned with the town of Madalgovi, Mongolia or indeed, North Lanarkshire with the region of Dundgovi, Mongolia.

2. Background

2.1. A group representing the Supporters Trust recently spent 10 days in Mongolia visiting the capital Ulan Bator and a town in the Gobi Desert called Mandalgovi in the Dundgovi Region where two football matches were organised. The Supporters Trust group donated money to build four gers (portable homes) for homeless families and, also, donated football equipment and kits.

2.2. The Group travelled with the Honorary Consul for Mongolia in Scotland and attended a reception in the British Embassy at Mandalgovi, where discussions regarding the twinning proposal took place.

3. Considerations

3.1. North Lanarkshire Council has established formal twinning relations with seven communities, and a friendship link with a further community.

3.2. Airdrie is twinned with the town of Gatchina, Russia and has a friendship link with the town of Airdrie, Alberta, Canada.

3.3. The action required to develop the twinning and friendship links approved by the Council involves considerable investment of time as well as financial resources. In those circumstances it is recognised that it would be difficult to accord the necessary priority to the development of a further twinning link, the more so as, in the current financial climate, it is unlikely that the Council will be able to increase the budget for town twinning.

3.4. In light of the foregoing it is suggested that the Committee decline the invitation to establish twinning relations with either the town of Madalgovi or the region of Dundgovi, Mongolia.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee note, but decline, the invitation to establish a twinning relationship with either Madalgovi or Dundgovi, Mongolia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Head of Democratic and Legal Services

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact Margaret Shankland on extension 2726.