

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Warwick Area Committee

**Date of Committee** 26th July 2005

**Report Title** Member Champion for the Development Partnership with Sierra Leone

**Summary** This report recommends that the Area Committee nominates a Lead Member who will champion the development partnership between Warwickshire County Council and Bo Town Council in Sierra Leone.

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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** Yes/No

**Background Papers** None

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** *Details to be specified*

- Other Committees  Warwick Area Committee - 16th September 2003, 22nd March 2005. Cabinet – 28th April 2005.
- Local Member(s)  .....  
(With brief comments, if appropriate)
- Other Elected Members  .....
- Cabinet Member  Councillor C Saint – for information.  
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  I Marriott – agreed.
- Finance  .....

- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION**                      **YES/NO**      *(If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps)*

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :**

*Details to be specified*

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  .....
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

## Warwick Area Committee - 26th July 2005

### Member Champion for the Development Partnership with Sierra Leone

#### Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy

#### Recommendation

The Area Committee is requested to nominate a Lead Member to champion Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) Development Partnership with Bo Town Council in Sierra Leone.

#### 1. Context

- 1.1 In September 2003 Warwick Area Committee agreed in principle the idea of collaborating with Warwick District Council to support Bo Town Council as part of a UK Local Government technical advice and assistance programme after April 2004 local elections in Sierra Leone. Councillor Haydn Thomas was nominated as Lead Member contact to liaise with Warwick OWL (One World Link) Committee and champion the link within WCC in future. Since he is no longer a Member, and in light of the significant developments detailed below, Area Committee needs to appoint a new committed Member to champion this work.
- 1.2 During a visit by the Mayor of Bo, Dr Wusu Sannoh, it was resolved on 22nd March 2005:-
  - (i) "That the Warwick Area Committee fully support initiatives for the County Council in conjunction with others to become involved in schemes to improve services and infrastructures in Bo through capacity building."
- 1.3 Following that, Cabinet resolved on 28th April 2005:-
  - (i) "That Warwickshire County Council participates in the bid to be made by the consortium of local authorities for resources from the World Bank (and any other bid made by the consortium to any other suitable funding source) to support a development partnership with Sierra Leone."
- 1.4 Warwickshire County Council has been looking at ways that it can assist in post-conflict reconstruction of Sierra Leone. A three-year development partnership is being established which will enable Bo Town Council to work jointly with Warwickshire County Council in collaboration with Warwick District Council on

projects that seek to build stronger local governance to address poverty. The programme will draw from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) funded Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme and this approach will be further developed by working as part of a 'UK Local Government Taskforce for collaboration with Sierra Leone', managed by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and Local Government International Bureau (LGIB), to jointly apply for project funding. The partners in the Taskforce so far are:-

- (i) Hull City Council/Freetown
- (ii) Warwick District Council and WCC/Bo
- (iii) Southwark/Kono
- (iv) West Dunbartonshire/Kenema
- (v) Hastings/Hastings (Western Area)

- 1.5 The Taskforce was expected to be officially launched on 22nd July 2005 at an event hosted by Hull City Council.
- 1.6 At this stage, we are looking for a Lead Local Member to replace Haydn Thomas who will champion the partnership within the Council, liaise with organisations in Warwickshire and with the Taskforce in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

JOHN DEEGAN  
Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Strategy  
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8th July 2005