

By: Alex King, Deputy Leader  
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To: Cabinet – 03 December 2007

Subject: KCC International Activities Annual Report 2006/7

Classification: Unrestricted

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The International Activities Annual Report 2006/7 is the second annual report covering the diverse range of international work in which KCC is involved.
- 1.2 The report utilises the following headlines to report activity across KCC in the past year - The Global Economy; Developing Global Citizenship; Ensuring World-Class Services. The report also groups information by geographical region. This format follows the structure of the draft KCC International Strategy (Appendix 1).

## 2. 2006-7 Headlines

- 2.1 Headline successes in 2006-7 include:
- Determining a realistic EU Funding target for Kent of €100 million over the next programming period 2007-13.
  - More than 1000 students and teachers have undertaken international visits in 2006-7. There has been significant emphasis on vocational education and professional development.
  - Successful premises relocation of the Kent Brussels Office with KCC as leaseholder.
  - Successful bid to host the prestigious EBN Congress 2007 in Canterbury around the theme of Transatlantic Cooperation between SMEs in Innovation & Technology.
  - A renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the current Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Tim Kaine and the Leader of KCC, Paul Carter to further develop joint work across a range of areas of common interest.

## 3. Costs / Benefits

Directorate	Unit / Project	Costs (£m p/a)	Financial Benefits (£m p/a)
Adult Social Services & Communities	International Perspectives Unit	0.07	£2.1m
Chief Executive's Department	European Affairs Group	0.321	£20m
Children, Families & Education	International Development Unit	0.08	£2.1m
Environment & Regeneration	Kent/Virginia	0.315 (*2007)	(to be confirmed)
	Smithsonian	0.225 (*2007)	(to be confirmed)
	PASCAL	0.058	£100k
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>£1.069m</b>	<b>£24.3m</b>

\* Time limited – Costs 2005-2007

## **4. An International Strategy for Kent County Council**

4.1 In a changing world, Kent must remain firm in its understanding of, and commitment to, international activity, and its relevance and benefits for the people of Kent. Kent has always looked outwards and a good measure of its prosperity has been derived from its geographical situation – but this factor alone is no longer enough to ensure competitiveness. As the world grows ever smaller and more inter-dependent, it is vital that KCC keeps pace with change to allow the people and businesses of Kent to profit from future opportunities.

4.2 As such, KCC's first corporate International Strategy (Appendix 1) has now been produced to bring together the key strands of this work. The strategy addresses the following issues:

- Why must Kent work internationally?
- Spheres of Influence
- Principles
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Communication

It is grouped by geographical area and under the following headlines:

- The Global Economy
- Developing Global Citizenship
- Ensuring World-Class Services

4.3 The strategy is a crucial tool in bringing greater coherence to KCC's international activities and through the strategy, Members are asked to acknowledge and support the ongoing development of this area of business for the benefit of the people of Kent.

4.4 As part of this developing work, a strategy for engaging with China is in development and will be brought separately to Members and officers in the near future.

## **5. Recommendations**

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) NOTE the contents of the 2006-7 Annual Report, and
- (ii) DISCUSS & APPROVE the draft International Strategy (Appendix 1)

Background Documents: None

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