

## ANGUS COUNCIL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

29 MAY 1997

SUBJECT: LATVIA OUTWARD TRADE MISSION 15-22 MAY 1997

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Abstract: This report seeks homologation for officer participation in a mission to strengthen and develop trade and cultural links with Latvia.**

### 1 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee agree to homologate the decision taken by the Convener of Economic Development to send the Senior Development Officer and Corporate Support Manager to represent the Council in a trade and cultural links mission to Latvia.

### 2 PROPOSAL

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 4 February 1997 (Article 14 refers), the Committee agreed to approve Report 173/97 'Developing a Network of Transnational Links' and particularly the identification of an Eastern European partner to assist access to European Programmes.
- 2.2 In view of historically strong links between the Baltic States and East of Scotland an opportunity to develop trade and cultural links with Latvia could assist to reaffirm these historic links, build trading links and provide a transnational partner for projects on the context of potential loss of ERDF and review of structural funds - post 1999.
- 2.3 A programme of visits and meetings with industrial and Government officials has been organised by Latvian contacts.

### 3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Accommodation in Riga is being provided by the Latvian authorities. The costs of travel and subsistence is estimated to cost a total of £1,200.
- 3.2 This sum can be contained within the Departmental Revenue Budget in the present year.

### 4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law and Administration and Director of Planning, Transport & Economic Development have been consulted and are in agreement with the terms of this report.

**5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 An opportunity has arisen to identify potential for trade and cultural links in Latvia. In addition this will assist the Council assess the value of Latvia as a transnational partner for the post 1999 European programme development.

**NOTE**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

AA/DV/SW/MR/IAL  
8 May 1997

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