

**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 8TH DECEMBER 2008**

**REPORT ON: DUNDEE'S BID TO HOST WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP 2011**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**REPORT NO: 618-2008**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To inform the Committee that the City intends to bid to host the World Schools Debating Championship 2011 (22nd August - 31st August inclusive).

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the committee agrees:-

- The city to assist in the bid with the Scottish International Debating Council for Dundee to host this event which would bring an estimated £976,000\* to the local economy (\*Dundee & Angus Convention Bureau conference & event multiplier).
- The Economic Development Department to allocate £5,000 from the 2010/2011 budget subject to the bid being successful and the availability of financial resources.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Based on past events we hope to attract 320 delegates with a registration fee at £350 per person. It is anticipated the event will cost in the region of £111,216 and registration fees (based on the above) would equate to £112,000. It is also the intention to seek additional public and private sector funding and therefore financial commitments may be reduced.

3.2 The Economic Development is being asked to allocate £5,000 from the 2010/2011 budget to assist in securing the bid and to be used if necessary as a contingency sum.

3.3 The Lord Provost has agreed to host a civic reception on the first evening (23rd August) and the Education Department will provide 9 secondary schools for 3 1/2 days and lunch for 3 days for up to 320 people and the High School of Dundee will host everybody for 1 day.

## **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 The World Schools Debating Championships (WSDC) is a global competition for high school debaters. The Championships take place each year in a different country, hosted by a national debating body. Recent venues include Sydney, London, Johannesburg, Singapore, Lima and in 2006 Cardiff, Wales. All debates take place in English. Each country can submit a squad of 3-5 students under 19 in full time education in that country to debate social, moral and political issues. Past patrons of the Championships include Tony Blair and Nelson Mandela.

4.2 The 2007 World Schools Debating Championship was won by Scotland in Korea (2 of the team were from Dundee), following this Dundee hosted the Four Nations Debating Championship in 2008 in association with the Scottish International Debating Council.

4.3 The Economic Development department is the lead department and is working closely with the Education Department, Dundee High School and the Scottish International Debating Council to work together to bring this global event to Dundee, Scotland.

4.4 The bid if approved at committee will be presented at the 2009 World Schools Event taking place in Athens in February.

4.5 This event would bring approx 320 future leaders from 36 countries to the city for 10 nights arriving Monday 22nd August and departing Thursday 1st September.

4.6 By engaging with the schools this will raise awareness of debating and encourage pupils to get actively involved in debating on an international level and by participating as a volunteer or becoming a member of the audience.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

5.2 There are no major issues.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.

**DOUGLAS A A GRIMMOND**  
**DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE: 1ST DECEMBER 2008**