

REPORT OF THE LEADER**VISIT TO CHINA AND MALAYSIA****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the Chief Executive to attend a week-long visit with the University of Nottingham to China and Malaysia from 20-27 September 2015 to promote Nottinghamshire.

Information and Advice

2. The University of Nottingham has invited the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to attend a visit to China and Malaysia which will include a tour of the University's campuses and opportunities to meet representatives from government and business within the region.
3. This is an important initiative for the local economy and the County Council has a strong partnership with the University of Nottingham.
4. One of the Council's key objectives is to facilitate growth in Nottinghamshire's economy and this has been established as a priority for the new Chief Executive.
5. Representatives from the City Council have attended this event previously and a number of useful networks and opportunities have arisen which are contributing to the delivery of sustained economic growth within Nottingham. The Asian economy is buoyant and the links with the University and China and Malaysia provide an excellent platform for early discussion with government and business in the Far East on investment opportunities within Nottinghamshire
6. As a consequence it is proposed that the invitation from the University should be accepted but only on behalf of the Chief Executive. The reason for this is because this is the Council's first major engagement with the initiative and it is important to establish the potential before any involvement or investment of substantial resource.
7. Details of the contacts made and possible opportunities identified will be reported to Economic Development Committee and a review of the benefits and outcome of the visit will be brought back to Policy committee within 12 months of the return date to consider the benefits of any future visits.

Other Options Considered

8. This invitation could be declined but this would prevent the Council from fully utilising the opportunities this visit offers the County in terms of potential economic development.

Reasons for Recommendation

9. To enable the Council to be represented on this visit.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

11. The Council will be required to fund the international flights at a cost of £872 and a visa at £162. The University of Nottingham will pay all of the accommodation and ground travel costs in Asia.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Chief Executive accepts the invitation to represent the County Council on the visit to China and Malaysia.
2. That details of contacts and opportunities be reported to Economic Development Committee for follow up action.
3. That a report be brought back to Policy Committee within 12 months of the visit return date to consider the benefits from the visits and the merits of any future visits.

Cllr Alan Rhodes
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Keith Ford, Team Manager, and Democratic Services 0115 9772590 / keith.ford@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (HD 03/06/15)

12. Policy Committee has the authority to approve this recommendation

Financial Comments (SES 04/06/15)

13. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Invitation to the Visit from Sir David Greenaway
- Draft itinerary for the visit.

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All