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| Report to: | Development Committee |
| Subject: | Shenyang Inward Visit |
| Date: | 18 March 2014 |
| Reporting Officer: | John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470 |
| Contact Officers: | Laura Leonard, European Manager, ext 3577 |

| 1 | Relevant Background Information |
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| 1.1 | <p>Members will also be aware that in the August Committee report the city of Shenyang was recommended as a Chinese city that Belfast should seek to strengthen and formalise its relationship with. The rationale behind this was based on the fact that key city stakeholder organisations, Queens University, University of Ulster, Bombardier and the Confucius Institute had well established relationships with this city within the educational and business spheres and also at senior political levels. All stakeholder organisations welcomed the opportunity to strengthen links and to build on these to open doors and facilitate future benefits in the areas highlighted in our International Relations strategy.</p> |
| 1.2 | <p>Further encouragement to make an approach to Shenyang came from a meeting with the China Britain Business Council (CBBC) when it became known that Shenyang had issued a call to develop 'friendly cooperative relationships' with other cities. We responded to the call and CBBC arranged a meeting for Cllr Reynolds (with Committee agreement) to meet with the Foreign Affairs office when he was in Shenyang during the summer. At that meeting Cllr Reynolds reiterated our desire to formalise our relationship with the city and we followed up with written communications reaffirming our interest.</p> |
| 1.3 | <p>In November 2013, the Mayor of Shenyang expressed interest in signing a 'friendly cooperative agreement' with Belfast during his visit to Bombardier. An agreement was signed with the Lord Mayor committing both cities to exchanges and cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, science and technology, culture, education, sports and health to promote common prosperity and development.</p> |
| 1.4 | <p>Since the signing of the agreement communication has continued between our two cities to promote engagement. As a result Queen's University is now</p> |

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| | benefiting from direct support from the Mayor's office in Shenyang and new opportunities are being created for them to collaborate with colleges and universities there. Belfast Metropolitan College is also in the final stages of negotiating a role in the Shenyang Community Campus for a two way programme to recruit students to study in NI to university level and to deliver 'A' levels to students in Shenyang. Belfast Metropolitan College would like City Council's involvement in the launch of this collaborative work and will provide further details at a later date. |
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| 2 | Key Issues | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | <p>A request has now been received asking us to host a delegation of senior officials between May and July 2014 when our new Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor will be in place. The delegation wishes to build on the agreement that has been signed and to explore opportunities for inward and outward investment. The delegation will dedicate one full day to meet with relevant people on this theme and the following Shenyang officials will attend:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="400 801 1310 1258"> <tr> <td>QI Ming</td> <td>Vice Mayor Shenyang Municipal Government</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LIU Xiang</td> <td>Director Shenyang Bureau of Civil Affairs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NA Na</td> <td>Deputy Director Shenyang Finance Office</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TIAN Xiaojing</td> <td>Deputy District Mayor Shenhe District Municipal Government</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BU Shijie</td> <td>Deputy Director Puhe New Town Administrative Committee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KONG Lingyu</td> <td>Interpreter Shenyang Foreign Affairs Office</td> </tr> </table> | QI Ming | Vice Mayor Shenyang Municipal Government | LIU Xiang | Director Shenyang Bureau of Civil Affairs | NA Na | Deputy Director Shenyang Finance Office | TIAN Xiaojing | Deputy District Mayor Shenhe District Municipal Government | BU Shijie | Deputy Director Puhe New Town Administrative Committee | KONG Lingyu | Interpreter Shenyang Foreign Affairs Office |
| QI Ming | Vice Mayor Shenyang Municipal Government | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LIU Xiang | Director Shenyang Bureau of Civil Affairs | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| TIAN Xiaojing | Deputy District Mayor Shenhe District Municipal Government | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BU Shijie | Deputy Director Puhe New Town Administrative Committee | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| KONG Lingyu | Interpreter Shenyang Foreign Affairs Office | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.2 | To support their visit the delegation request that a formal letter of invitation is issued via the Lord Mayor's office and that we establish a relevant agenda which will focus on economic opportunities. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| 3 | Resource Implications |
| 3.1 | <p>Staff from the European Unit who lead on international affairs relating to China and will head up this work.</p> <p>£3,000? is requested from the International Relations budget to host the inward delegation from Shenyang.</p> |

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| 4 | Equality and Good Relations Considerations |
| 4.1 | There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report. |

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| 5 | Recommendations |
| 5.1 | It is recommended that: |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £3,000 is approved to support the inward visit• A formal letter of invitation is issued via the Lord Mayor's office |
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| 6 | Decision Tracking |
| Timeline: | Reporting Officer: Laura Leonard |