



Subject:	Request for Council Support for Chinese New Year 2016
Date:	9 th December 2015
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard, European & International Relations Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise Members of a request for financial support for the annual Chinese New Year celebrations for 2016 and to recommend approval of the request.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">consider and agree Council support for the Chinese New Year 2016 celebrations, up to a value of £4,000. <p>This budget is available from within the Council's International Relations budget.</p>
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members will be aware that the Council's International Relations Framework promotes civic and business linkages in key global markets, including China. One of the main partners on the China work is the Confucius Institute at Ulster University. The Institute is funded to support cultural development outside of China.

3.2	On 18 February 2016, the Confucius Institute, in partnership with the Culture Office of the Chinese Embassy in London, plans to hold a celebration event to mark the Chinese New Year. The Institute is inviting the famous Chongqing Sichuan Opera House to perform the Sichuan opera for a Belfast audience.
3.3	This event will bring senior officials from the Chinese Embassy in London to officially recognise Chinese New Year and, in particular, the opening of the Chinese Consulate General in Belfast. An audience of 3,000 people is expected to attend the event.
3.4	Invited guests to the event will include all Council Members with a speaking role for the Lord Mayor alongside the Chinese Ambassador and Consul General. Schools participating in the Confucius programme will also be invited to attend.
3.5	The overall budget for hosting the event is around £24,000. The Institute has requested a sum of £4,000 from Belfast City Council towards the costs of hosting the event. This budget is available from within the council's International Relations budget.
3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The Confucius Institute has requested £4,000 from Belfast City Council towards an overall project cost of £24,000. This would be used to assist with the costs of promotion as well as hospitality and venue costs.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>No specific equality or good relations implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	None