



Subject:	China Outward Visit May 2016
Date:	10 February 2016
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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the proposed visit to Shenyang, China in May 2016 and to request approval for additional support staff, given the expanded visit programme.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Note the update on the proposed visit to Shenyang in May 2016.- Approve the participation of an additional member of staff to support the visit with costs to be met from the International Relations budget.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> Members will be aware of their decision at the SP&R Committee on 24 April 2015 to support an outward visit to China in order to identify opportunities for collaborative activity between the cities of Belfast and Shenyang. This was to be the first civic visit to Shenyang since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Belfast and Shenyang in July 2013.
3.2	At this time, Members agreed that the Lord Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair of the City

	Growth and Regeneration Committee (or their nominees) and one Officer would participate in the visit.
3.3	There has been significant momentum in recent months and city partners have confirmed their willingness to engage in the visit. This means that, in addition to the civic request, Invest NI will lead a multi-sector trade mission to Shenyang for the first time. There will also be representation from Belfast Metropolitan College, Queen's University and Northern Ireland Connections. Given the level of commitment from city partners, the Chief Executive will also take part in the city council delegation. Council staff are working with colleagues in the NI Bureau in Beijing as well as with contacts in the Shenyang Municipality to finalise details of the visit programme.
3.4	Members are therefore asked to agree to the inclusion of an additional Officer and a translator from the Confucius Centre at Ulster University to accompany the delegation to ensure appropriate support for the programming and logistics. Members should note that the Confucius Centre has offered in-kind support by covering the costs of providing the translator.
3.5	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> The additional cost of support staff will be met within the International Relations budget.
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality or good relations implications attached to this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents attached
4.1	None