

International Relations Outputs: April-September 2017

Shenyang Activities and Outputs to date 2017/18

Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council led a multi partner outward mission to China from 6-13 May 2017 which has led to ongoing cooperation in the areas of Smart Cities, education linkages between the colleges and universities on research and student exchanges, exchange of practice in supporting health and active ageing and tourism development opportunities.

Business and Investment:

- Collaboration with Invest NI on visit to Belfast and NI by the Chinese Consulate General and the London Chamber of Commerce in June 2017. This has led to further engagement as follows:
 - o Visit Belfast has since met with China Travel Service and will deliver annual training to the CTS staff in London on new Belfast tourism products including hotels and attractions
 - o Belfast City Council hosting Newham Council, London who are host council to the biggest Chinese investment in London, with a view to attracting middle and back office Chinese investments to Belfast
 - o Belfast City Council is developing a Belfast Investment Pitchbook of investment opportunities and sites to promote to the Chinese Embassy and London based Chinese businesses
 - o Belfast City Council hosted a delegation of Shanghai investors interested in opportunities on the North Foreshore investment site and other Harbour development sites
 - o Belfast City Council presented to an Invest NI led tourism business mission and is following up with information on hotel and other tourism investment opportunities
- Belfast City Council hosted a delegation from the Wenzhou Chamber of Commerce in April 2017 led by Invest NI, promoting investment opportunities in the city
- Belfast will be represented at the annual Shenyang Smart Cities Summit, September 2017, to develop a pilot project in this field between the cities and local partners.

Education/Sport:

- Belfast City Council supported two education showcases in China during the May China visit which led to linkages as follows:
 - o Belfast Metropolitan College considering activity with a Beijing College and reporting significant progress in this regard
 - o Ulster University signed a MOU with Shenyang University for staff and student exchanges in areas of fashion and animation
 - o Ulster University further cemented linkages around its ongoing annual work with the Police University of China, signing a new agreement to develop a cohort on criminology in September 2017
 - o Ulster University also had introductory meetings around partnerships in Art and Design, Film and Photography, in terms of staff exchange and research
 - o Ulster University has been invited to make a keynote speech at the International Criminology and Police Conference in Shenyang in October 2017
- Belfast City Council hosted an inward visit from Queen's China College welcoming 20 students from the Pharmaceutical Joint College in Shenyang in July 2017
- Belfast City Council hosted an inward visit from 4 visiting Chinese professors relating to Connected Health as guests of Ulster University in August 2017.

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Nashville Activities and Outputs to date 2017/18

Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council led a further mission to Nashville from 17th – 22nd May 2017. This has led to development of activity in the following areas:
 - Initial exploration and scoping with Invest NI and Nashville Chamber of Commerce regarding the development of a Sister City trade mission, potentially with the support of the Tennessee State Department. This has been provisionally planned for mid-2018
 - Ongoing engagement around youth and skills development activities, including Catalyst Inc.'s Night of Ambition, which has been replicated in Nashville
 - Initiated dialogue between Nashville Youth Council and Belfast Youth Forum which is leading to a joint webinar in November 2018
 - Additional exploration in respect to developing a formal partnership in the legal sectors of both cities
 - Exploration of opportunities for hosting international Country Music Association (CMA) events in Belfast in Spring 2018

Business/Investment

- Belfast City Council in partnership with Invest NI, hosted the Nashville Healthcare Council in April 2017 connecting the Council with stakeholders in the Life and Health Sciences sector in Belfast

Education/Sport

- Belfast City Council provided Lord Mayoral support to Ulster University's undergraduates visit to Nashville in April 2017
- Belfast City Council hosted a group of Ulster University's Nashville Summer School students in July 2017

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Boston Activities and Outputs to date 2017/18

Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council hosted a multi-sectoral mission from Boston in June 2017. Further linkages were made in the areas of:
 - Judiciary
 - Education
 - Business
 - Arts
 - Regeneration
- Belfast City Council hosted a welcome reception for Towards Independent Living, a Boston-based organisation that works with young adults with autism, together with Autism NI, who are collaborating on a Sister City level to improve young people's quality of life and life experiences.

Business and Investment:

- Belfast City Council provided Boston introductions for the first NI Sport Technology Trade Mission to Boston in September 2017
- Belfast City Council provided Boston introductions for the launch of the NI Aurora Investment Fund in Boston planned for October 2017
- Belfast City Council and CSIT (Centre for Cyber Security) hosted experts from Boston at the annual Belfast Cyber Security Summit in April 2017.