

Housing and Economy Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 22 March 2018

Invitation to Fuzhou

Item number	8.2
Report number	
Executive/routine	Routine
Wards	All
Council Commitments	C2 , C46

Executive summary

An invitation has been received from the Mayor of Fuzhou, China, for the Lord Provost to travel to the city with the Scotland Fujian Chamber of Commerce.

Fuzhou is a trade port, located on China's southeast coast on the maritime 'Silk Road'.

Due to the timing of the invitation and the need to confirm arrangements for the Lord Provost, a decision to accept the invitation was required to be made under Paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions.

Invitation to Fuzhou

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Note the acceptance of the invitation extended to the Lord Provost from the Mayor of Fuzhou to visit Fuzhou with the Scotland Fujian Chamber of Commerce. Due to the timing of the invitation and the need to confirm arrangements for the Lord Provost, a decision to be represented was required to be made under Paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Function; and
 - 1.1.2 Note that a post-visit report will be provided after the event.

2. Background

Fuzhou

- 2.1 The city of Fuzhou is located in the southeast coast of China, and the city has a population of over 7.5 million. It is identified as a gateway along the maritime 'Silk Road', and its industries are concerned with the modernisation of the Chinese navy, technology, and mechanical equipment.
- 2.2 Fuzhou is in the process of developing a New Area: a Free Trade Pilot Zone to align with the 21st Century Maritime 'Silk Road'.

3. Main Report

Visit Programme

- 3.1 The invitation to the Lord Provost to visit Fuzhou is to provide a wider understanding of the city. Further detail regarding the programme is pending.
- 3.2 Due to the timing of the invitation and the need to confirm arrangements for the Lord Provost, a decision to be represented was required to be made under Paragraph 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Function.
- 3.3 The invitation has been accepted on behalf for the Lord Provost to attend.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Attendance in Fuzhou by the Lord Provost will raise Edinburgh's profile in southeast China.
- 4.2 Feedback reports are provided on all international travel commitments made by elected members.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The cost of flights, accommodation and local expenses for the Lord Provost and the City Officer will be met by the City of Fuzhou.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The actions and outputs described in this report adhere to the risk compliance policy and governance arrangements. In addition, the recommendations in the report do not impact on any existing policies of the Council.

7. Equalities Impact

- 7.1 There are no equalities impacts arising from the programme proposed in this report.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Travel arrangements have been made by the Scotland Fuzhou Chamber of Commerce.
- 8.2 While there are adverse impacts in terms of carbon emissions, air quality and noise associated with air travel, overland travel in China is not considered practical given the distance, time efficiency, and cost.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Arrangements for the visit are being made by the Scotland Fujian Chamber of Commerce with the Mayor of Fuzhou.

10. Background reading / external references

10.1 Background information held by the Lord Provost's Office.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Elaine Ballantyne, Service Manager, Investment and International Relations
E-mail : elaine.ballantyne@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel: 0131 469 3854

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Invitation from the Mayor of Fuzhou

Appendix 2 - Confirmation from the Scotland Fujian Chamber of Commerce

City Chambers
High Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1YJ

Your respected Lord Provost Frank Ross,

First of all, please accept greetings from Fuzhou, China.

Fuzhou covers an area of 12,000 square kilometers and has a population of 7.57 million. Historically, this 2200-year old city was always an important trade port on China's southeast coast and a crucial gateway along the Maritime Silk Road. In modern times, it became the cradle of China's modern navy as well as its modern industry and technology. President Xi Jinping lived and worked in Fuzhou for many years and regards it as his second homeland. After years of development, Fuzhou today, with its centuries-old history and maritime culture shining together, is a city of pleasant ecology and a nice place to live and work. Its competitive sectors include electronic information, mechanical equipment, petro-chemistry, textile, chemical fiber, metallurgy building materials, food processing and so on. Currently Fuzhou is in process of developing a national level New Area, a Free Trade Pilot Zone, a core area of the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, an Innovation Demonstration Zone and a Pioneering Demonstration Zone for Promoting Ecological Progress. The many favorable policies are significantly driving forces for a new round growth of the city.

Both Edinburgh and Fuzhou are renowned historic cities with brilliant cultures. I believe that we have broad potential for mutually beneficial cooperation. As the Mayor of Fuzhou, I sincerely wish that we would keep in closer connections, enhance communications, facilitate interactions in various fields, and work jointly to establish the friendship city relationship.

Last but not the least, I would extend my invitation to you to visit Fuzhou in March 2018 to have a better understanding of my city and to upgrade our friendship to a new level. If you have any need, please feel free to contact the International Exchanges Section of the Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Fuzhou Municipal People's Government (Tel: 0086-591-87622096, Fax: 0086-591-87553273, Email: Evelyn_Fuzhou@163.com).

Look forward to meeting you in Fuzhou.

Sincerely,
YOU Mengjun
Mayor
Fuzhou Municipal People's Government



苏格兰福建商会

Scotland Fujian Chamber of Commerce

Tel:01415833808,07824616760,e-mail:awei771022@gmail.com

To whom may concern:

I am writing to confirm that I will travel to Fuzhou, Fujian, China with the Lord Provost Frank Ross. And our association will afford all the expenses including accommodation, transportations and meals for Lord Provost Frank Ross and one assistant during the visiting in China.

Please give assistance and do not hesitate to contact me if I can be any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Lihao Lin

Scotland Fujian Chamber of Commerce