

### 3. OFFICIAL VISIT TO SISTER CITIES OF KURASHIKI AND SONGPA-GU

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The purpose of this report is to seek funding for Councillor Alister James to accompany Mayor Garry Moore to Japan and Korea from Saturday 2 August until Saturday 16 August 2003.

The Mayor is to lead a goodwill mission of approximately 16 people who have a strong interest in Kurashiki, Japan, to take part in celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the Christchurch–Kurashiki Sister City relationship. Mayor Nakada of Kurashiki is to host two days of official functions including a public ceremony and commemorative tree planting.

After the official programme has been completed the Mayor and Mayoress are to travel to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to attend the memorial services (on 6 and 9 August respectively) of the atomic bombings of each of the cities. The rest of the delegation is to remain in Kurashiki for a week to enjoy the sights and hospitality of the city and its people.

The Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have personally invited Mayor Moore to visit their cities. It is intended that the Mayor will sign friendship agreements with each of these cities when he visits.

The Mayor and Mayoress are also to visit our Korean sister city of Songpa-Gu which is part of greater Seoul. This is to be the first visit of a Mayor to this sister city since the link was established in 1995. During their stay they will be hosted by Mayor Lee and senior city officials. A dinner in their honour is also being planned by the New Zealand Ambassador to Korea, David Taylor.

As this is to be the first visit by the Mayor and Mayoress to our sister cities of Kurashiki and Songpa-Gu it is therefore most important that they be accompanied by a small delegation of city officials so that they are seen to carry the mana appropriate to their positions. It would not be appropriate for the Mayor and Mayoress to travel alone to perform these official functions. It is considered important that one of these people be a senior elected member. It is for this reason Councillor James, Chair of Strategy and Finance Committee and former long serving Christchurch–Kurashiki Sister City Committee member, is proposed to accompany the Mayor.

The on-ground costs in Songpa-Gu will be met by that city. Many of the on-ground costs in Kurashiki will also be met with the exception of accommodation. The expected cost of this trip will therefore be approximately:

Airfares	Christchurch/Kurashiki/Seoul return	\$2,388
7 day rail pass		\$686
Accommodation	Kurashiki/Hiroshima/Nagasaki/Tokyo (10 nights)	\$2,300
Meals and incidental expenses		\$500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,874</b>

**Recommendation:** That Councillor Alister James accompany the Mayor and Mayoress to Japan and Korea in August 2003 to ensure the visit has the appropriate level of elected member support.