

5. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR ELECTED MEMBERS TO VISIT CHINA IN APRIL 2008

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services DDI 941-8462
Officer responsible:	Democracy Services Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Mayor, Mayoress and Councillor Barry Corbett to visit China in April 2008.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. It is proposed that the Mayor, Mayoress and Councillor Corbett will visit China during April 2008 for the purposes of:

Beijing

- Attending the “Science to Market” Conference in Beijing, being organised by the University of Auckland and the University of Canterbury, and sponsored by Ministry of Research, Science and Technology
- Attending the signing ceremony of the Sino-NZ Free Trade Agreement

Wuhan

- Present the city gift (pounamu) to Wuhan City
- Present pounamu to China University of Geoscience
- Formalising the partnership between Wuhan and the Christchurch Botanic Gardens
- Meet with management of the Wuhan Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Science (WBGCS), regarding possible partnership between the WBGCS and Christchurch Botanic Gardens
- Support student exchange programmes organised by Education Christchurch
- Support the various University of Canterbury projects in Wuhan
- Support business delegation

Gansu

- Meet with Governor Xu Shousheng and/or new Vice Governor Liu Yongfu
- Promote University of Canterbury officials trainee programme
- Promote and further strengthen the Christchurch – Gansu relationship by identifying opportunities to promote Christchurch as a world class boutique city

3. Representatives of the following Canterbury industries have been invited to accompany the Mayor to China:

Research collaboration
Venture Capital collaboration
Partnership with Optics Valley of China
Seafood export, via Ngāi Tahu
Education
Trade Alliance (nutraceuticals, white wine, seafood, etc)
Biotechnology
Technology transfers

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Do the recommendations of this report align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

4. Sufficient funding is available within the provision for Mayor and Councillor travel within the 2007/08 annual plan to cover the estimated travel, accommodation and other costs amounting to approximately \$12,800 for the Mayor and Mayoress, and \$4,400 for Councillor Corbett.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

5. The principal statutory provisions which apply in this instance are the Seventh Schedule of the Local Government Act 2002, and the Remuneration Authority Act 1977. The expenses and allowances rules approved by the Remuneration Authority in respect of members of the Christchurch City Council require prior Council approval to be obtained for travel overseas by the Mayor and Councillors, for the purpose of inspecting or evaluating initiatives, facilities or operations which may be of benefit to Christchurch City.
6. The rules approved by the Authority also permit the Council to authorise the payment of the associated travel, accommodation and incidental costs for the Mayoress to enable her to accompany the Mayor on overseas trips, where appropriate.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

7. Page 113 of the LTCCP, level of service under Democracy and Governance refers.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

8. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

9. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council grant approval for the Mayor, Mayoress and Councillor Barry Corbett to visit China in April 2008 as official representatives of the Council, for the purposes set out in this report.