

## 8. SISTER CITY EVENTS

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Corporate Plan Output: Sister Cities	

The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's support for Councillor representation at two separate Sister City activities happening in early October.

### **KURASHIKI SISTER CITY VISIT**

The Chairman of the Kurashiki Sister City Committee is leading a friendship delegation to Kurashiki 2 – 10 October. The delegation will comprise 9 – 10 in number and is a reciprocal tour to the "Kiwi Experience" visit made each year by a friendship group from Kurashiki. This friendship visit is open to any adult who has an interest (business or personal) in Kurashiki or Japan.

While in Kurashiki the delegates will be hosted by the Kurashiki City Hall with some official functions and several sightseeing tours. Special 'Business Opportunities and Requests' will be arranged by negotiation.

A return visit to Christchurch will be made by the Mayor of Kurashiki and a sizeable delegation in February 2001 to coincide with the opening of the Garden Park at Halswell Quarry.

Deputy Mayor Lesley Keast, while hosting a delegation from Tokyo Local Government, was asked to 'encourage Kurashiki City Council to consider the development of an electric shuttle passenger service using Designline Shuttles'. This visit could provide a platform through which the Deputy Mayor could raise this with the Mayor of Kurashiki and discuss the benefits the shuttles have had for Christchurch.

Total cost including all air travel, rail travel in Japan, group travel insurance, 7 nights hotel accommodation and both departure taxes is NZ\$3,000. Daily expenses (meals, tourism visits, taxis etc) outside of the hosting provided by Kurashiki City Hall are additional.

### **AUSTRALIAN SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION 2000 CONFERENCE**

Adelaide City Council's Sister City Controlling Authority is hosting the Australian Sister City Association 2000 Conference from 2 – 5 October 2000. The theme for the conference is '*New Millennium – New Ways*'. The programme will focus on successful strategies to maximise the benefits of Sister City Relationships and effective ways to communicate the economic, cultural and political benefits to ratepayers and stakeholders.

A draft programme (as at 21 June 2000) is attached.

Accommodation, Air and Airport Transfers for the conference is A\$1,628.00 (inclusive of GST). Conference registration fees will be advised in the very near future.

Staff believe there would be some benefit in an elected member attending this conference, given the Sister City Working Party paper that will be considered by the Council in the near future.

Councillor Sue Wells is the Council's representative on the Adelaide Sister City Committee. As stated above Adelaide City Council through their Sister City structure is hosting the conference.

It is anticipated that some elected members from other Councils in New Zealand will attend the Conference.

#### **FUNDING**

Funding for the visits, if approved by the Council, would be provided from Councillors' Travel under the Public Accountability provision.

**Recommendation:** That Councillor Lesley Keast join the Kurashiki Sister City Committee friendship exchange to Kurashiki in October and while there meet with Kurashiki City Hall elected members to discuss the opportunity of mirroring the Electric Shuttle service provided in Christchurch.

That Council support an elected members attendance at the Australian Sister City Conference in Adelaide in October 2000.

#### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:**

1. That the above recommendation be adopted.
2. That Councillor Sue Wells be the Council's nominee for the Australian Sister City Conference in Adelaide in October 2000.