

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – JOBS, ECONOMY AND  
TRANSPORT**

**30 September 2014**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPING THE TOYOTA TWINNING  
SCHOOLS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To outline the progress and success of current twinning activities with Toyota City and to seek formal approval for supporting the Schools Exchange Programme in 2014.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Derbyshire and Toyota City have been formally twinned since 1998. A variety of educational, cultural and economic projects have taken place over the years. In May 2014, a mayoral and educational delegation from Toyota City attended the 2014 Derbyshire Food and Drink Fair, which proved to be very successful to all parties concerned. In addition, a colleague from Toyota City is currently on secondment to Derbyshire County Council for one year to help work on economic development and tourism related activity; this is in response to be a brief exchange of officers from Derbyshire County Council during 2013.

During the recent education visit, the Japanese delegation also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with South Derbyshire and Burton College, and Repton School to strengthen the educational links between the two regions.

Outside of the formalities of the twinning arrangement, Derbyshire County Council has a long history of providing support to the annual Schools Exchange Programme between Derbyshire and Toyota City; such activity directly contributes to the Council's priorities set out in the Council Plan, particularly in relation to 'building a strong and confident workforce' where such exchange visits can build knowledge, support skills development and raise aspirations in young people.

Although resources are increasingly limited, it is considered that continuing to provide support to the Schools Exchange Programme is important in helping the Council meet its stated objectives and providing opportunities for young people.

## Public

(3) **Financial Considerations** The cost of the Schools Exchange Programme is approximately £7,500 and, on average, 26 students participate on an annual basis. It is proposed the Council continues to financially support this activity during 2014 by part-funding the exchange, notably in recognition of the economic significance of the Toyota Manufacturing UK factory in Derbyshire and the long-standing, very active links with Toyota City.

It is proposed the £7,500 cost of the Schools Exchange Programme be met from the Economy and Regeneration Twinning budget. It is also proposed that additionally, the County Council hosts a small welcome reception in County Hall, Matlock for the students and host families with costs again, approximately £500, being met from the Economy and Regeneration Twinning budget. Contributions both financially and in kind, will be sought from the relevant schools and district/borough councils to ensure the success of the reception.

In recognition of the financial challenges facing the Council, officers will work with schools to help them apply to alternative funding bodies to support Anglo-Japanese projects for future years, with a view to reducing, and ultimately removing, the cost implications for the Council.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(4) **Key Decision** No.

(5) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(6) **Background Papers** Held by the Economy and Regeneration Service of the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Stephanie Walsh, extension 38464.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

7.1 Notes the long-standing and active relationship between schools in Derbyshire and Toyota City.

7.2 Approves that the costs (approximately £7,500) of the Annual Schools Exchange Programme and welcome reception (approximately £500) for 2014 be met by the Economy and Regeneration Twinning budget as part of the on-going commitment and that officers also help build capacity in schools to secure external funding for the programme in future.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**