

Agenda Item No. 3(a)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER - STRATEGIC POLICY, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET**

21 June 2016

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities

DERBYSHIRE-TOYOTA CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE 2016

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to fund the continuation of the cultural and educational links with Japan for Derbyshire pupils during 2016-17 and to support the Derbyshire-Toyota City Student Exchange programme 2016.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Since 2001, Derbyshire County Council has financially supported the annual Schools Exchange Programme between Derbyshire and Toyota City schools with students participating in the exchange on an annual basis. Six Derbyshire schools have been involved in developing links with Japan over the past 15 years with activity focusing on annual cultural exchanges and Japanese language tuition.

It is proposed that Derbyshire County Council continues to financially support this Schools Exchange Programme during 2016 by part-funding the exchange as a continued commitment to the civic, cultural and economic twinning link with Toyota City. This work also supports the Council's increasing activity on harnessing the economic benefits of international trade through stronger cultural relationships.

As stated in previous reports, officers have worked with schools in recent years to identify other funding sources to support the Programme and, as such, the financial contribution required from the Council has reduced year on year.

The official reception for the visiting Japanese students is due to be held at County Hall, Matlock in the Members' Room in September 2016, although this has yet to be finalised.

This year, 24 Japanese students will be staying with Derbyshire host families with a reciprocal return visit by Derbyshire students to Toyota City, due to take place in October 2016.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The cost of supporting the schools in facilitating the exchange visit is £4,500 for 2016; this is significantly reduced from the £7,500 grant awarded and is a clear demonstration that schools are becoming increasingly self-sufficient. Officers will continue to help the schools with independent funding bids to various organisations in future years, with the intention of further reducing the Council contribution.

The total costs for the exchange, including hosting of the reception, is £5,350 and can be met from the Twinning budget held by the Economic Regeneration Service.

(4) **Equality and Diversity Considerations** The proposal will help support young people, their families and school communities to improve their understanding of issues, challenges, opportunities and similarities across cultural backgrounds, thereby supporting greater cohesion and wellbeing.

(5) **Social Value Considerations** The social value implications of this proposal have been considered. The Exchange Programme will help increase community resilience and capacity by nurturing greater understanding and tolerance in younger people.

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

(6) **Key Decision** No.

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

(8) **Background Papers** All relevant documents are held by the Economic Regeneration Service within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details – Stephanie Walsh, extension 38464.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the Cabinet Member approves a budget of £5,350 to support the Derbyshire-Toyota City Student Exchange Programme 2016.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Communities