

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

28 May 2015

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

DERBYSHIRE-TOYOTA CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME 2015

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval for funding in 2015-16 to assist the continuation of cultural and educational links with Japan for Derbyshire pupils and, in particular, to support the Derbyshire-Toyota City Student Exchange programme, 2015.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Since 2001, Derbyshire County Council has supported the annual Student Exchange Programme between Derbyshire and Toyota City schools, with 26 students participating in the exchange on an annual basis. Six Derbyshire schools have been involved in developing links with Japan over the past 14 years with activity focusing on annual cultural exchanges and Japanese language tuition.

It is proposed that Derbyshire County Council continues to support the Students Exchange Programme during 2015 by part-funding the exchange as a continued commitment to the civic, cultural and economic twinning link with Toyota City.

In support of the Exchange Programme, officers will work with schools to help them apply to independent funding bodies to support Anglo-Japanese projects for future years, with a view to reducing the cost implication for Derbyshire County Council and further developing a wider partnership approach to the twinning link.

This year, it is proposed that 30 Japanese students will be staying with Derbyshire host families and a reciprocal visit will be made Toyota City in October 2015.

An official reception for the visiting Japanese students is due to be held at County Hall in the Members' Room on 18 September 2015.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The total cost of supporting the Student Exchange Programme has reduced from £7,500 in 2014 to £5,850 this year (2015). The funding will be reduced each year going forward, with a view to the schools applying for their own funding from various external organisations such that there is no cost to the Council, other than officer support for funding applications.

The budget will part-fund the cost of supporting the schools in facilitating the exchange visit, as well the welcome reception for the Japanese students and their Derbyshire host families. All costs will be met from the Economy and Regeneration Service core budget and are part of planned expenditure.

(4) **Equality and Diversity Considerations** This 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.

Other Considerations

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.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

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

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economic Regeneration Service of the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Stephanie Walsh, extension 38464.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the Cabinet Member approves a budget of £5,850 to support the Derbyshire-Toyota City Student Exchange Programme 2015.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment