

Committee to consider applications to undertake certain duties by Members and Foreign Travel by Officers	FTC/17/16
Date: 13 December 2016	
Feedback from Member Foreign Travel to China	
Report by: Jennifer Reid, Committee Officer	
Enquiries to: Jennifer Reid, 03330 131332	

1. Purpose of the Report

To provide feedback (report attached) from Councillor Dick Madden following his visit to China in October 2016.

2. Recommendation

That the report be noted.

3. Background

On 20 September 2016 the Committee approved foreign travel for one Member and two Officers (Peter Manning and Ge Jing) to participate in a trade and investment promotion visit to Jiangsu Province, between 16 and 29 October 2016, at a total estimated cost of £5170.40.

4. Feedback

Councillor Dick Madden participated in the visit to China with Peter Manning, Head of International Trade, and Ge Jing, International Trade Co-ordinator (China) between 16 and 29 October 2016. Councillor Madden provided the following feedback:

“From Saturday 22nd October – Saturday 29th October I attended the province of Jiangsu, China being based in the city of Nanjing where I represented Essex County Council in engagements with Chinese government departments for this

area to develop potential partnerships between organisations, including Essex County Council, with Chinese organisations.

In my trip I opened a medical IT conference and met with the Jiangsu health commission and explored ideas in supporting each other especially around GP surgeries, acute hospitals and social care of the elderly.

I also met members of the Jiangsu football association who in particular wanted me to introduce them to premier league football clubs with the prospect of investing business from China in this area of entertainment.

Work is being developed in this area by our own representative in China and our Essex County Council, County Hall office.

My major first official formal function was on my first evening where I met and had a banquet with the Vice Governor of Jiangsu who was particularly interested in our National Government stance on Brexit.

During the rest of my visit to China I met with representative from the Department of Civil Affairs, Department of Education, Department of Organisation, the City of Nanjing local authority.

Whilst in Nanjing I was also given the opportunity to visit a Childrens home and an adults residential home which was very interesting but emotional visits, in particular with regards to disabled children in the Childrens home.

After 3 days in Nanjing with officers I made my way to another province of China named Zhejiang. In this province I met officials of the Department of Civil Affairs and Department of health. Our objective was to break new ground with this province and it's fair to state that our relationship with this province is in its early stages.

Members will be aware that Essex County Council have had a relation with the province Jiangsu for the past 20 years and Essex County Council has offices in the Jiangsu province and has officers from China also based in office in County Hall.

If Members need further information on my visit I would be pleased to answer any questions from members and can go into more detail of all the respective meetings I had.

In conclusion, work generated by my visit to China is being developed by ECC officer Peter Manning, Head of Essex International. He would make himself available to the committee to explain in more detail outcomes of the respective meetings I had, if required."

