

APPROVAL FOR VISITS MADE BY MEMBERS

involving travel abroad / individual costs exceeding £500 / aggregate costs for more than one member of £1,000

Name of Member(s) travelling:

Cllr Kevin Bentley

Details of the visit (incl. dates):

To Jiangsu Province, China.

Target dates: 12-20 July 2013. Dates TBC. The final date needs to be determined by the availability of key government counterparts in Jiangsu and, if applicable, any accompanying Essex businesses.

Purpose

The Economic Growth Strategy highlights the role that the Essex-Jiangsu link plays in attracting new inward investment to Essex and helping Essex businesses to find new export markets. The strong inter-governmental links provide Essex and Essex businesses with privileged access to senior decision-makers in Jiangsu businesses considering outward investment or seeking new technologies. The relationship also helps achieve other ECC Corporate objectives through exchanges in the fields of culture, education and tourism.

Cllr Bentley will have a full schedule of pre-prepared and targeted meetings to:

- Promote inward investment opportunities direct to senior managers of major Jiangsu businesses that have been pre-qualified as having an interest in setting up a UK business operation.
- Promote specific Essex businesses and technologies to senior procurement officials in municipal governments in the larger Jiangsu cities.
- Promote tourism attractions to major Jiangsu tourist agencies to begin to capture more of the growing Chinese outbound tourism market
- Promote the expertise of Essex training providers and Essex training facilities to targeted groups, specifically municipal government civil servants, doctors and fire and rescue officers.
- Promote further links between universities to help them recruit more Chinese students.

Cllr Bentley would be accompanied by up to two officers; the Head of International Trade (Peter Manning) and the International Trade Coordinator (Ms Ge Jing). Ge Jing's presence would only be required if businesses decide to accompany Cllr Bentley, in which case she will be needed to provide interpretation and consultancy support to the businesses. The officer(s) would stay on an extra 5 nights to follow on and pursue other trade and investment projects.

Estimated cost of the visit: £ **Based on 1 Member and 2 Officers travelling**

Flights

Economy Flights x 3 @£600ea.= £1800.00

Accommodation incl. breakfast):

Cllr Bentley: 7 nts @ av. £95 = £475.00

2 x Officer 12 nts @ av. £95 =£2280

Subsistence

Some meals will be provided by the Jiangsu government. In addition:

Cllr Bentley

Lunch x 4 @£10 ea. = £40

Dinner x 4 @£20 ea. = £80

2 Officers

Lunch x 10 @ £10ea. x2= £200

Dinner x 10 @ £20ea x2 =£400

Customary gifts to exchange £120

Visas £375 for 3 people

Transfers

1. *To and from airports*

Total = £504

Breakdown of transfers:

To Heathrow out (3persons)

£80

From Shanghai airport

Cllr Bentley & 2 Officers

£88

To Shanghai return

Cllr Bentley £88

2 officers £88

From Heathrow on return

Cllr Bentley £80

2 Officers £80

2. *Surface travel by train/bus/taxis*

Estimated at 5 rail/bus journeys @£20.00pp ea x3 =

£300

Estimated at 15 local China taxi journeys @ £1.50 ea =

£22.50

Incidentals (e.g. bottled water, other minor expenses)

Estimate: £30

Total £6627 if 3 persons travel (average £2209pp).

Based on 1 Member and 1 Officer travelling

Flights

Economy Flights x 2 @£600ea.= £1200.00

Accommodation incl. breakfast):

Cllr Bentley: 7 nts @ av. £95 = £475.00

1 x Officer 12 nts @ av. £95 =£1140

Subsistence

Some meals will be provided by the Jiangsu government. In addition:

Cllr Bentley

Lunch x 4 @£10 ea. = £40

Dinner x 4 @£20 ea. = £80

1 Officer

Lunch x 10 @ £10ea. = £100

Dinner x 10 @ £20ea = £200

Customary gifts to exchange £120

Visas £260 for 2 people

Transfers

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£22.50

Incidentals (e.g. bottled water, other minor expenses)

Estimate: £15

Total £4357 if 2 persons travel (average £2178pp)

Purpose of the visit and anticipated value to the County Council:

As per the report above. The purpose of the visit is to attract inward investment and to help specific Essex businesses promote their technologies to Jiangsu government departments and businesses.

ECC receives fees to help cover the costs of this work. In 2012-13 these fees

amounted to £52,000 and covered the complete cost of running ECC's office in Jiangsu, including staff costs plus all travel to and from Jiangsu by ECC officers and Members. The target for 2013-14 is to again cover all of these costs and this visit is a key means of achieving this, whilst also promoting economic growth for Essex and for our partners in Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils.

* Please note you will need to demonstrate that in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme three quotes have been obtained before booking foreign hotels.

This is a key part of our engagement to secure inward investment from Chinese business into Essex, as well as our partners. I support this trip.



Comments of the Chief Executive

The purpose of the visit is clearly set out and conforms to ECC objectives. The estimated costs are all within approved policy limits.

Margaret Lee

Comments of the Section 151 Officer

APPROVAL FOR AD HOC FOREIGN VISITS MADE BY OFFICERS

Name of Officer(s) travelling:

Peter Manning, Head of International Trade
Ms Ge Jing, International Trade Coordinator

Details of the visit (incl. dates):

To Jiangsu Province, China.

Target dates: 12-20 July 2013. Dates TBC. The final date needs to be determined by the availability of key government counterparts in Jiangsu and, if applicable, any accompanying Essex businesses.

Purpose

The Economic Growth Strategy highlights the role that the Essex-Jiangsu link plays in attracting new inward investment to Essex and helping Essex businesses to find new export markets. The strong inter-governmental links provide Essex and Essex businesses with privileged access to senior decision-makers in Jiangsu businesses considering outward investment or seeking new technologies. The relationship also helps achieve other ECC Corporate objectives through exchanges in the fields of culture, education and tourism.

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Accommodation incl. breakfast):

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Subsistence

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* Please note you will need to demonstrate that in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme three quotes have been obtained before booking foreign hotels.

This request is approved in support of
our inward investment ambitions



Comments of the Chief Executive

Purpose of the proposed visit conforms to ECE objectives and all estimated
expenditure is within approved policy limits.

Margaret Lee

Comments of the Section 151 Officer