

**Decision Maker:**        **URGENCY COMMITTEE**

**Date:**                    **Friday 11 October 2019**

**Decision Type:**        Urgent                                Non-Executive                                Non-Key

**Title:**                   **MAYORAL VISIT**

**Contact Officer:**        Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager  
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**Chief Officer:**         Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

**Ward:**                    N/A

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1.    Reason for report

- 1.1   The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and two Portfolio Holders have been invited to participate, at no cost to the Council, in a visit to China at the end of October focussing on Chinese schools. As there is no delegated authority for officers to travel abroad on Council business, except within the European Union, an urgent member decision is sought to enable a mayoral attendant to accompany the party.
  - 1.2   The Committee's decision will be reported to the next full Council meeting as required in the Council Constitution.
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2.    **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Members consider whether to grant authority for a mayoral attendant to assist the Mayor and the rest of the delegation during the visit to China in October 2019.**

### Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The aim of the visit is to explore opportunities for cultural and educational exchange.
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### Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable:
  2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People:
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
  2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Not Applicable
  4. Total current budget for this head: Not Applicable
  5. Source of funding: The costs of the visit will be borne by the hosts.
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### Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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### Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
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### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Not Applicable
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

### 3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the Portfolio Holders for Children, Education and Families and for Public Protection and Enforcement have been invited to participate, at no cost to the Council, in a visit to China at the end of October 2019 focussing on educational links. The party will include teachers from UK schools and the trip will include visits to Chinese schools and to a manufacturing plant featuring artificial intelligence. It is expected that the visit will explore opportunities for cultural and educational exchange for secondary schools in the borough and exchange visits for teachers.
- 3.2 It is customary for the Mayoral Attendant to accompany the Mayor on official duties. As part of the visit the Mayor will wear his chains of office when meeting local officials and making speeches. It is therefore considered essential that a mayoral attendant is on hand to safeguard the chains, ensure that protocol is observed and generally assist the party.
- 3.3 Bromley has received and supported several visiting delegations from China in recent years, and this visit is intended to build on this experience.

### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All the costs of the visit are being borne by the hosts. The only costs for the Council are for the extension of insurance cover for the mayoral chain of office and additional salary costs for the attendant in the order of 25 hours.

### 5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is delegated authority for officers to travel on Council business within the European Union, but not to elsewhere in the world. Explicit permission is therefore sought from members to enable a mayoral attendant to accompany the visit to China. The employee concerned is agreeable to the arrangement and their contract of employment is not affected by the travel because the arrangement is in the course of their employment.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Impact on vulnerable adults and children/Policy/Legal/procurement
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	None