

Committee: Policy and Resources	Date: 16 February 2017
Subject: Request for the Chief Commoner Elect to attend the Global Innovation and Enterprise Fair in Sichuan, China	Public
Report of: Director of Economic Development	For Decision
Report Author: Sherry Madera, Special Adviser for Asia	

Summary

The Chief Commoner Elect has been invited by the Mayor of Chengdu to attend and speak at the Global Innovation and Enterprise Fair in Sichuan, China, from 8 May to 12 May 2017.

The Fair brings together an array of enterprises with the mayors and civic leaders of a number of major cities. The event seeks to encourage Chengdu's small- and medium-sized enterprises to develop actively and inject new vitality into the city by taking full advantage of the resources provided by the government. The Chief Commoner Elect has been invited to attend on behalf of the City of London and speak on the role of the City of London Corporation and City institutions.

The visit will foster and support the UK-China relationship and promote the interests of the City of London post-Brexit. In addition, it will raise the profile of the City Corporation further and help build relationships with Chinese businesses and leaders of major cities. The cost of this visit is to be met by the Municipal Government of Chengdu. Notwithstanding this, it is likely that a modest budget will be required to cover expenses such as reciprocal hospitality. It is envisaged that a sum of no more than £500 would be needed and that the cost would be met from the Chief Commoner's hospitality budget.

Chengdu is a robustly growing economy with great aspirations for international prominence. It has its sights on growing its technology sector and is keenly interested in building its cultural and tourism links.

Your urgent approval is being sought in order to allow sufficient time for any necessary arrangements to be made.

Recommendation: That the Chief Commoner Elect visits Sichuan, following an invitation from the Mayor of Chengdu, to attend the Global Innovation and Enterprise Fair in May 2017.

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