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**B O S T O N**  
**B O R O U G H C O U N C I L**

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**Phil Drury**  
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Our Ref: LB/International Links/Ag

Please ask for: Lorraine Bush

10 February 2017

TO MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LINKS COMMITTEE**

Dear Member

You are invited to attend a meeting of the  
International Links Committee on  
**Monday, 20th February, 2017 at 5.30 pm**  
in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston

**PHIL DRURY**  
**Chief Executive**

**Membership:**

Councillors Alison Austin, Viven Edge, Paul Skinner and Nigel Welton  
Boston International Committee – Ian Clayton  
Hakusan Project – David Scoot  
Historic Bostons' Partnership – Judy Cammack

**A G E N D A**

**PART I – PRELIMINARIES**

**1 APOLOGIES**

To receive apologies for absence.

**2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

To receive declarations of interest from members in respect of items on the agenda.

## **PART II - AGENDA ITEMS**

- 1 ALLOCATION OF FUNDING 2016/17 (Pages 1 - 10)  
(Report by the Democratic Services Manager)
- 2 LAVAL TWINNING 60TH ANNIVERSARY 2018  
(Boston International Committee)
- 3 BOSTON DIE HANSE GROUP (Pages 11 - 14)  
(Report by the Democratic Services Manager)

**This meeting may be subject to being recorded.**

### ***Notes:***

The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Lorraine Bush, Democratic Services Manager, Municipal Buildings, Boston,

Council Members who are not able to attend the meeting should notify as soon as possible giving the name of the Council Member (if any) who will be attending the meeting as their substitute.

### **Alternative Versions**

Should you wish to have the agenda or report in an alternative format such as larger text, Braille or a specific language, please contact Democratic Services on direct dial (01205) 314226

### **Emergency Procedures**

**In the event of a fire alarm sounding all attendees are asked to leave the building via the nearest emergency exit and make their way to the Fire Assembly Point located in the car park at the rear of the Municipal Buildings.**



## B O S T O N B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

REPORT TO:	INTERNATIONAL LINKS COMMITTEE
DATE:	20 FEBRUARY 2017
SUBJECT:	ALLOCATION OF FUNDING 2016/17
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR PETER BEDFORD
REPORT AUTHOR:	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

### **SUMMARY**

To consider the allocation of funding to the Boston International Committee (Laval), and the Hakusan Project from the grant available to the International Links Committee for 2016/17.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That funding be allocated to projects based on merit, subject to budget limitations.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To provide financial support to the recognised international relationships established between Boston and Laval (France) and Hakusan (Japan).

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

To not award grant funding.

## REPORT

- 1.1 The organisations represented on the International Links Committee i.e. the Boston International Committee (Laval), and the Hakusan Project (formerly Mikawa Project) have been requested to submit requests for funding for their annual planning programmes for the forthcoming year. The third organisation recognised by the Committee, the Historic Bostons' Partnership is not currently active.
- 1.2 The submissions received to date are appended to the report.
- 1.3 The Committee is asked to consider the requests and make recommendations for the allocation of funding, based on merit.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The International Links grant budget for the financial year 2016/17 is £1000.

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

### ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

### CONSULTATION

No consultation undertaken.

### APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A	Submission by the Hakusan Project
APPENDIX B	Submission by the Boston International Committee

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

### CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

# **Hakusan City Exchange 2016/2017**

## **Funding Request**

The Exchange has been running for 22 years now and takes place between students from Hakusan in Japan and students from Boston.

The current exchange has recruited 12 students from the secondary schools in the Boston area and 3 chaperones, who will be visiting Japan in July 2017. In July last year we will host 15 Japanese students and three chaperones.

The total cost of this exchange is currently budgeted to be £34,000 (but final figures will depend on currency exchange rates etc). The students and their families have been fund raising over the last fourteen months to help towards the final budgeted costs.

More detailed information is attached.

## How it works

The exchange works over a two year cycle.

- The Japanese Authorities nominate Japanese students to take part in the exchange. They are considered to be ambassadors for both their schools and for Japan. It is therefore considered an honour to be involved and the Japanese State pays the majority of costs for the pupils to be involved.
- All secondary schools in the Boston area are invited to offer their Year 8 & 9 pupils the chance to come to a meeting to find out about the exchange.
- If there are more students wishing to take part than there are places available a selection process has to take place involving a written presentation, communication with the student's school and a short interview.
- A working committee is formed consisting of parents of the students involved, as well as some people who have had experience of the exchange in the past.
- Teachers from the local secondary schools are invited to take part as chaperones.
- Fund Raising and organisation begins.
- Students and Chaperones meet monthly to get to know each other, to learn about Japan and prepare a performance to entertain the Japanese, as is considered polite within the culture of Japan.
- Year 1 - July - Japanese Students visit Boston
- Year 2 - July – Boston students visit Japan.

# **Summary Budgeted Funding Figures for 2016/2017 Exchange**

## **Expenses**

July 2015 costs for entertaining Japanese Students	Organized trips out, formal evening	£1500 (further expenses were covered by individual families).
July 2017 total budgeted costs for travel for Boston Students and chaperones	Coach, international flights, internal flights, bullet train	£30,000
Gifts	Traditional Japanese custom to exchange gifts	£500
Contingency		£1,000
Other	T-shirts for students to wear as a uniform. Stationary, insurance etc.	£1,000
		£34,000

## **Income**

Fundraising (Estimated)	Race nights, bag packing, balls, Seabank Marathon, 300 club, wine tasting, donations,	£17,000
Balance (Estimated)	To be paid by families involved, any additional funding secured.	£17,000
		£34,000

# **Benefits of the Exchange**

## **For the Students**

- A rare and wonderful opportunity to visit Japan and experience the culture of the country alongside a Japanese family. Hopefully making life long friendships with a student from a totally different culture.
- A chance to work with a group outside their normal school peer group, to learn together and to work as a team whilst making new friends.
- Having chosen to take part in the exchange, learning that they must put effort into both fund raising and into learning a performance in order to entertain their hosts.

## **For the Chaperones**

- An opportunity to visit Japan and experience the culture of the country.
- A chance to work with a group of students on a very positive project, which all those involved have chosen to take part in.

## **For the Families**

- The honour of welcoming a Japanese student into their homes and for all the family to have an insight into Japanese culture.

## **For Boston**

- Helping to put Boston on the international map and creating international links.
- Introducing a number of local school children to a taste of international culture, when the Japanese students visit local schools etc whilst in Boston.
- We have taken every opportunity to use and support local businesses when entertaining the Japanese party whilst in the UK and when purchasing, gifts, food, transport etc.

## **In Brief**

The Boston/ Hakusan Exchange has been running for 22 years now. It is run on a voluntary basis by parents, teachers and ex exchange students for the benefit of local secondary school pupils. It has a proud history and to date has been nothing but a positive experience for all those involved and also for Boston. The students involved are totally motivated and should be applauded for their enthusiasm and hard work.

- The students will design a fantastic emblem for the uniforms that professional design artists would be proud of.
- Others will take part in and complete the Seabank Marathon twice, (2nd time around sponsor money will not be available for this exchange as it is not issued until November, and this is carried over to start funds for the next exchange and for others to have the same opportunity).
- All of the students will participate in fund raising and work together.

The exchange has previously been supported by all the local secondary schools, many local businesses, local primary schools and the Lincolnshire LEA. The Mayor also supported us in 2016 by attending various functions and hosting an evening at the council chamber. We hope that the Borough Council will be able to offer some financial support for this worthwhile venture.

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BOSTON INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL LINKS COMMITTEE

BID FOR FUNDING

It is the turn of Boston sportspeople to visit Laval this year. Consequently, apart from some official gifts and membership and insurance fees for the Lincolnshire Twinning Federation, there will be relatively low expenditure.

However, we have to bear in mind that 2018 will be the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning between Boston and Laval. This momentous occasion will need commemorating and funds will be required. The International Committee have in mind fund raising events but these may or may not be successful.

Therefore, given the tenuous expectations, the Committee respectfully requests grant aid from the Links Committee. It is understood that the amount of £1000 is available and the Committee would hope that it can receive an equal distribution, either of £330 or £500 depending on demand.

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## B O S T O N B O R O U G H C O U N C I L

REPORT TO:	INTERNATIONAL LINKS COMMITTEE
DATE:	20 FEBRUARY 2017
SUBJECT:	BOSTON HANSE GROUP
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR PETER BEDFORD
REPORT AUTHOR:	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

### **SUMMARY**

To consider whether the Boston Hanse Group should be invited to join the International Links Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to consider if it wishes to support the proposal for the Boston Hanse Group to be invited to join the International Links Committee and, if so, on what terms in respect of grant funding. Any recommendation would be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To recognise the work of the Boston Hanse Group in promoting Boston as a tourist destination and contributing to the Boston visitor economy.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

To not invite the Boston Hanse Group to join the International Links Committee.

## REPORT

- 1.1 The current membership of the International Links Committee is four members of the Council and one representative from each international organisation formally recognised by the Council i.e. Boston International Committee (Laval); Hakusan Project and the Historic Bostons' Partnership.
- 1.2 The objectives of the Committee are
  - a) To enable representatives of the Boston International Committee, the Hakusan Project, the Historic Bostons' Partnership and Boston Borough Council to consult so that the Council's aims and objectives with regard to international twinnings and friendships may be fostered and improved.
  - b) To provide a forum under which all matters relating to the Council's current and any future international relationships can be dealt with on a fair and consistent basis.
  - c) To provide regular means of consultation on matters affecting international twinnings and friendship links.
- 1.3 A suggestion has been made that the Boston Hanse Group should also be invited to be part of the Committee to recongise its work in promoting Boston as a tourist destination and contribution to the town's visitor economy.
- 1.4 At the meeting of the Full Council on 2 March 2015 consideration was given to a report on a proposal for Boston to apply for membership of the Die Hanse (The New Hanseatic League).
- 1.5 The resolution of Council was:-

RESOLVED that an application be made for Boston to become a member of Die Hanse, with the Council to fund the initial two years' membership of the Hanse Business Sub Group, if the Boston Hanse Group so wishes, and for Council Officers to facilitate the initial series of meetings of the Boston Hanse Group to ensure membership proceeds well.
- 1.6 The application was successful and since that time the Boston Hanse Group has been involved in the promotion of Boston as a tourist destination and adding to the town's visitor economy by taking part in the International Hanseatic Day held in Bergen Norway in June 2016. The delegation included students from Boston College and Boston High School whose participation was partly funded by the Boston Big Local.
- 1.7 It is hoped a similar visit will be made to the International Hanseatic Day being held in Kampen, Netherlands in 2017.

- 1.8 Boston is the only town in Britain to have a Youth Hanse Group attending the international forum and links have been made with a town in Holland who are sending 10 students to Boston in March 2017.
- 1.9 It should be noted that in the resolution of the Council the only funding agreed was to support the initial two years membership of the Hanse Business Sub Group and officer support limited to the initial series of meetings. The intention was for volunteers and business connections to develop the Group without Council support.

## **Conclusion**

The Committee is asked to consider if it wishes to support the proposal for the Boston Hanse Group to be invited to join the International Links Committee and, if so, on what terms in respect of grant funding. Any recommendation would be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Annual grant budget of £1,000 available for allocation to recognised international organisations.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **CONSULTATION**

Chief Executive  
Monitoring Officer

### **APPENDICES**

None.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

### **CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT**

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

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