

**Enquiries to: Information Team**  
**Our Ref: FOI6053855**

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**Liverpool  
City Council**

Dear Matt Williams

**Freedom of Information Request 6083855**

Thank you for your recent request. Your request was actioned under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in which you requested the following information –

*Liverpool Vision Director of Invest Liverpool, Ellen Cutler and Liverpool city Councilor Gary Millar were sent to Hong Kong 30/31st October 2015.*

*Q1. They both were a part of the new Liverpool/ Chinatown NPG Ltd sales project. Please supply all expenses for this trip to Hong Kong for both Ellen Cutler and Cllr Gary Millar*

*Please supply the person in the Liverpool city council that sent these two to attend the grand opening of the overseas sales NPG Ltd opening in Hong Kong?*

*a) Was it the Mayor of Liverpool who set it up and sent them?*

*b) Cllr Anna O'Byrne?*

*c) Max Steinberg CEO of Vision Liverpool?*

*d) Did Jeannette McLoughlin sign this off and approve this trip?*

*Q2. On June 18th, 2015, a police raid took place in Liverpool, ITV News and the Liverpool reported the events*

*Q3. Did the Liverpool city council solicitor Jeanette McLoughlin not pull in (Cllr Gary Miller) and pull the rug from his planned trip to Hong Kong and stop all ties with PHD1 and NPG Ltd due to the link to Anthony Quigley?*

*Q3. Did Cllr Ann O'Byrne report the cash payment from PHD1 to the local Liverpool party of £1,800 did she report this to (Jeanette McLoughlin)?*

**Response:**

To the extent that elements of your request are valid and excluding speculation comment and hearsay, responses are as follows –

1. Please refer to details included below relating to Councillor Millar's overseas visits and engagement with China. No further data is held in this regard. For purposes of clarity, each overseas visit sets out the basis and reasons for the trip.
2. This is a statement and not a valid request for information.
3. Liverpool Labour Party and the Labour Party are separate and distinct organisations to Liverpool City Council nor does the City Council hold any information or have any control/management over those organisations. We would advise that you contact them directly.

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## **Overseas visits to China**

For centuries, Liverpool has enjoyed a long and prosperous relationship with China. We are home to the oldest Chinese community in Europe - first established over 200 years ago, and are one of the most China-friendly cities in the UK. We have established trade and investment links and friendship agreements with several Chinese cities and regions, including Shanghai, Qingdao, Tianjin, Xi'an and Kunming.

Famous around the world as the birthplace of music icons, The Beatles, and boasting two English Premier League football teams, Liverpool is a vibrant city at the heart of one of the fastest growing regional economies in Europe.

With a global perspective, world famous brands and exceptional economic strengths, Liverpool is recognised as one of the UK's leading business destinations. We are ranked No.1 in the UK for both entrepreneurship and business growth, and renowned for our cutting edge technology and R&D, topping the Northern UK league table for business innovation.

Liverpool offers businesses and investors opportunities across a broad range of industry sectors including: financial and professional services, low carbon, digital and creative industries, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, logistics and leisure. We are home to global Fortune 500 companies complemented by a large, diverse base of innovative SMEs and start-ups. Major investors include AstraZeneca, BNY Mellon, Jaguar Land Rover, Maersk, Siemens, Sony and Unilever. We are also the host city of International Business Festival – the UK's foremost global trade and investment event.

Liverpool and City Region Partners are working together with the objective of strengthening and delivering greater benefit from the City Region's trade, investment, tourism, education, cultural, civic and other links with China. The city's world-class educational institutions, favourable investment environment and state-of-the-art deep water container port facilities will continue attracting investors, students, business visitors and tourists from China.

This response comprises

- The date and duration of the overseas trip, as well as the Chinese city that was visited.
- The reason or reasons why the council officials went on the trip and an explanation as to how the trip benefited the council, city, city region or UK. To keep costs low Councillor Millar was not always joined by officials – Beijing, Beijing and Xi'an, Kunming, Shanghai and Kunming and Chengdu.
- A list of places the officials visited and the people they met where known
- The cost of the trip where known (with a breakdown of costs including travel costs, accommodation costs, expenses and any other costs).
- It stated whether the council met the costs of the trip, or whether an individual, group, company, consortium, charity or another organisation met the costs, including Chinese companies or government bodies.
- It contains the name of the group, company, organisation or government agency that met the costs.
- Where known or where appropriate gifts received are noted. Please note that the vast majority of gifts are low in monetary value and almost always below £25 in value. These include scrolls, stamps, corporate plates and Chinese calligraphy. These are recorded in line with Liverpool City Council's policies on gifts.
- Details of any financial benefits received by the council as a result of the trip - e.g. free showcase space as in Qingdao

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## About Liverpool China Partnership

The Liverpool China Partnership was formed in 2015 to expand, strengthen and deliver greater benefit from the Liverpool City Region and Isle of Man's business links with China. Since establishment, the Partnership has made good progress on several points including:-

- Setting up a platform for partners with active links with China to network, share information and best practices;
- Leveraging support from Liverpool City Council and government leaders to promote investment, trade, education and city-to-city links with China;
- Marketing Liverpool and the partners' offer by producing a slide deck and other marketing collateral in English and Mandarin, including the Liverpool China Partnership brochure;
- Facilitating business links by hosting inbound Chinese delegations and organising targeted outbound trips to China;
- Expanding network with businesses and agencies that have active interests in China.

Liverpool City Council is a key partner alongside, universities, small and medium sized enterprises and healthcare organisations. It won the Department of International Trade North West Greater China Award in February 2020 for its leadership and delivery in China and particularly for its success in Shanghai in 2019.

Please note in China a Deputy Mayor is more often called Vice Mayor and this response uses that term in itineraries, etc.

### Liverpool and China – 2017 to 2020

#### 2017:

Inbound delegation: 25  
Outbound delegations: 5

#### 2018:

Inbound delegations: 57  
Outbound delegations: 4  
Activities and events: 17

#### 2019:

Inbound delegations: 25  
Outbound delegations: 8  
Activities and events: 20

## Liverpool's Oldest Chinese City Relationship - Shanghai

In 2019 Liverpool hosted a major international programme of events as it celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the city's official twinning with Shanghai. Liverpool's relationship with China started with Shanghai and now extends primarily to Shanghai, Kunming, Xi'an, Qingdao, Tianjin but also through its partners with Suzhou (the University of Liverpool and Xi'an Jiaotong University) and other cities through Liverpool China Partnership member relationships.

Last year marked the twentieth anniversary of the Liverpool and Shanghai twinning, which throughout enabled commercial, cultural and academic ties between the cities to flourish and has led to a range of formal agreements with other Chinese cities and provinces.

To celebrate this milestone year, the city and city region partners planned a series of special events. Highlights included:-

- 15-20 Apr: Liverpool Business delegation visited Shanghai and Suzhou
- 18-21 Apr: Liverpool was the Honorary Guest City for the 7th China (Shanghai) International Technology Fair
- 17 Apr: Liverpool China Partnership Reception and University of Liverpool Alumni Event in Shanghai

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- 8 May: True Partnerships 20th Anniversary Reception in Liverpool, promoting school links between the two cities
- 31 May: Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) student exchange programme in Shanghai
- June: Liverpool dragon boat race
- 11-15 Oct: Shanghai Week & Shanghai Film Festival in Liverpool
- Oct-Dec: PEER to PEER Exhibitions & Shanghai-Liverpool school link project
- 2-11 Nov: Liverpool was the Honorary Guest City for the 2nd China International Import Expo

As part of last year's celebrations, Liverpool City Council, together with Invest Liverpool and Liverpool China Partnership (LCP), led an outbound business delegation to Shanghai from 15-20 April. The LCP was formed in 2015 by Investment Liverpool and City Region partners with the aim to expand, strengthen and deliver greater benefit from the Liverpool City Region and interestingly the Isle of Man's business links with China.

Using existing Civic links the 21-strong delegation gained exclusive access to senior decision makers in Shanghai from across government, business and academia. During the special visit, Liverpool was invited by the Shanghai government to be the Honorary Guest City for the 7th China (Shanghai) International Technology Fair, 18-21 April. The city was gifted a pavilion to highlight the region's expertise in the application of key technologies including AI, high performance computing, simulation and data analytics, genomic sequencing, sensors and detectors.

Vice Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Millar, who acts as a trade envoy between the cities, led the delegation to Shanghai. He said:

*"There is a genuine special relationship between our two great cities – one that doesn't just go back 20 years, but it is actually over 200 years since the first sailors from Shanghai arrived in Liverpool. I am pleased to witness first hand that 2019 promised and indeed delivered great opportunities cementing existing relationships and build for the future".*

*"We saw this outbound business delegation as a fantastic platform to further develop on these partnerships and to support delegates in seeking out new investment opportunities. Liverpool was particularly delighted to have been invited as the Honorary Guest City at this year's China International Technology Fair and also the even more prestigious China International Import Expo. Two amazing opportunities to showcase Liverpool's unique talent pool of skills and strengths."*

*"We see our relationship with China as one of the keys to unlocking Liverpool's future growth. Last year we were thrilled to be celebrating our twentieth year of twinning with Shanghai and this provides an opportunity to reflect and look back on the range of successful partnerships that our two cities have created during this time."*

*"But, lets not forget our other Chinese City friends in Kunming, Xi'an, Qingdao, Tianjin, Suzhou, Chengdu, Jinan, Beijing and others. Our links are extensive, they are effective and together with the Northern Powerhouse, DIT, CBBC, FCO and our partners in sports, academia, healthcare, business and culture they are successful."*

*"Liverpool is recognised in China as a vibrant, diverse and exciting city, and we believe offers unparalleled opportunities for international investment and as a place to study and partner in research. We're very pleased to be able to explore how we can"*

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*continue to build on these important ties with China through the Liverpool China Partnership.”*

Highlights since Liverpool and Shanghai were twinned in 1999 include:

- Liverpool was the only UK city to have a pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo in 2010.
- In 2015, one of Liverpool’s oldest companies Henry Bath received more than USD 60 million Chinese equity investment and consequently set up a warehouse in the Shanghai Free Trade Zone.
- Liverpool-based Colloids established manufacturing and research facilities in Changshu near Shanghai in 2016.
- Shanghai headquartered Zhenhua Heavy Industries (ZPMC) secured a GBP 100 million deal to provide five 92 metre-high cranes to Peel Port in 2014, followed by an additional GBP 180 million contract in 2015 to provide cranes to Liverpool2. ZPMC now has a permanent office in Liverpool.
- There have been multiple trade delegations between the two cities.
- The University of Liverpool (UoL) partnered with Xi’an Jiaotong University in 2004 to create Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University in Suzhou.
- In 2018, Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) set up the LJMU China Centre in Shanghai.
- Liverpool Football Club visited Shanghai in 2017 and Everton FC identified China as a major priority market for international expansion by signing a GBP 60 million finance deal with Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) in 2017.
- The 2018 International Business Festival in Liverpool was attended by Shanghai deputy mayor Xu Kunlin and 70 delegates from China.
- Liverpool was selected as the host city of UN Habitat World Cities Day 2018, a legacy of Shanghai Expo 2010.
- Shanghai sent a delegation of 70+ people to attend the World Cities Day in Liverpool and to host the China week in Liverpool 30 October – 2 November 2018.

**SUMMARY of visits to China between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Dates	Destination	Summary	Elected Member	Costs All flights were economy class return flights.
2017 24/03 - 28/03/2017	Beijing	Speak at CAITEC, Beijing to discuss Mayoral Zones and Free Trade Zones. All costs paid by Chinese Government.	Councillor Millar	N/A
2017 17/05 – 28/05/2017	Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou & Tianjin	Councillor Millar helped promote IBF 2018, support LFC, visit XJTLU, speak at the World Forum for FDI & meet the Vice Mayor of Shanghai. All travel, accommodation and food costs were covered by Liverpool Vision/IFB. Liverpool City Council paid for Cllr Councillor Millar Millar’s flights.	Councillor Millar	£613.02
2017 14/10 – 27/10/2017	Beijing & Xi’an	Lead delegation with Confucius Institute to sign school's partnerships & support Univ. of Liverpool. All costs paid by Confucius Institute.	Councillor Millar Millar School Partners Confucius Institute	N/A N/A N/A
2017 01/11 – 11/11/2017	Shenzhen,	Promote IBF 2018, speak at Global	Councillor Millar	£253.74

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		Qingdao, Jinan, Hangzhou, Suzhou & Shanghai	City Informatisation Forum (GCIF) & open Liverpool Showcase in Qingdao. All travel, accommodation and food costs were covered by Liverpool Vision/IFB. Liverpool City Council paid for Cllr Councillor Millar Millar's flights		N/A N/A N/A
2018	20/03 – 22/03/2018	Qingdao & Hong Kong	Councillor Millar welcomed the Liverpool Clipper in Qingdao and joined the GREAT Festival of Innovation to promote IBF 2018 with govt ministers. All travel, accommodation and food costs were covered by Liverpool Vision/IFB.	Councillor Millar Millar	N/A N/A
2018	22/04 – 26/04/2018	Kunming	Councillor Millar spoke at the opening of the Liverpool FC International Coaching Academy in Kunming. Flight costs were covered by Liverpool City Council/Liverpool Vision and accommodation and food costs by the Kunming Municipal Government.	Councillor Millar Liverpool FC	£788 N/A
2018	03/11 – 11/11/2018	Shanghai	Councillor Millar led a delegation to the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai as Honoured City. The Shanghai Municipal Government paid all accommodation, hotel and internal travel costs during CIIE, whilst Liverpool City Council paid for Cllr Councillor Millar Millar's flights. Liverpool Vision/IFB paid for the other staff members.	Councillor Millar Liverpool China Partnership	£563.40 N/A N/A
2019	13/04 – 22/04/2019	Shanghai	Councillor Millar led a delegation to showcase Liverpool at the China (Shanghai) Information Technology Fair (CSITF) in Shanghai as Honoured City. The Shanghai Municipal Government paid all accommodation, hotel and internal travel costs during CSTF, whilst Liverpool City Council paid for Cllr Councillor Millar and Officer flights.	Councillor Millar Officer Liverpool China Partnership	£1121.80 £1121.80 N/A N/A
2019	29/05 – 04/06/2019	Shanghai & Kunming	Councillor Millar led an LJMU delegation visiting Shanghai and Kunming. All costs paid by LJMU.	Councillor Millar LJMU	N/A N/A
2019	02/11 – 09/11/2019	Shanghai & Suzhou	Councillor Millar led a delegation attending the China International Import Expo (CIIE) as Honoured City. Shanghai Municipal Government paid accommodation, hotel and internal travel costs. Liverpool City Council paid for Councillor Millar and Officer flights	Councillor Millar Officer Liverpool China Partnership	£553.47 £553.47 N/A
2019	27/11 – 02/12/2019	Chengdu	Councillor Millar to speak at Sound Xity, Chengdu & meet City Leaders. All costs paid by Chengdu	Councillor Millar Modern Sky	N/A N/A

			Govt/Modern Sky		
2019	02/12 - 07/12/2019	Kunming	Councillor Millar to speak at 4th Kunming International Friendship-city Seminar and meet City, provincial and international leaders. Liverpool China Partnership paid for Councillor Millar's flights, reimbursing Liverpool City Council	Councillor Millar Liverpool China Partnership	£633.04 N/A

#### 4th to 28th Mar 2017 – Beijing

Following a previous visit to Liverpool City Region by the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC) Vice Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Councillor Millar was thereafter invited to Beijing. He and a representative from Arup were asked to speak at a national seminar on enhancing policy in Chinese Free Trade Zone's Administration. Their visit to Liverpool and the later seminar focused on UK policy on import/customs processing, free trade zones and related issues. The Chinese Government was in the process of researching best practice from the UK.

All costs were covered by the Chinese Government.

Results: Examples include, enhanced senior level relationships between Liverpool, Liverpool City Region and the Chinese Government; pilot Chinese Free Trade Zones were made expanded and more added following this seminar; the Chinese Government has since agreed on additional relationships and partnerships with Liverpool Universities; and Liverpool City Council in particular continues to attract a significant number of senior policymakers. In fact, 2018 saw a record breaking 57 delegations choosing to visit Liverpool and meet with officers and elected members seeking guidance on issues as diverse as regeneration, audit and governance, culture, sports, trade and healthcare. 25 of those 57 visited in June 2018 to attend the UK's International Business Festival and some of those contributed to investment successes not just in Liverpool but across the North and the rest of the UK.

Furthermore, as a result of Liverpool's consistent and long established relationship with Beijing, Shanghai, Kunming, Suzhou, Xi'an, Tianjin, Chengdu, Qingdao, Jinan, Guiyang, Foshan, Dalian and others were key reasons Liverpool welcomed over 100 Chinese delegations over the past 3 years. In addition, Chinese delegations accounted for 25% of international delegations attending the 2016 and 2018 International Businesses Festivals. This particular trip to Beijing was a result of one of those visiting delegations. In February 2017 CAITEC visited Liverpool City Region as a result of their interest in IFB2016 and also IBF2018.

#### 17th to 28th May 2017 - Beijing/Shanghai/Suzhou/Tianjin

The Liverpool team travelled over 12,000 miles to promote the 2018 International Business Festival and also investment into Liverpool and the City Region; attended 28 meetings, presented to over 750 people from 41 countries; signed 1 MoU; and was passed the baton to host 2018 global conference.

Councillor Millar was asked by the Mayor of Liverpool and Liverpool Vision to help promote the UK's International Business Festival 2018 (IBF2018) in China. He was also asked to

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support Liverpool Football Club, speaking at their World Partners Launch in Shanghai; visit the University of Liverpool's partner university XJTLU in Suzhou; meet political leaders (including Vice Mayors); and speak at the Conway World Forum for FDI to accept their baton bringing this major international event to Liverpool in 2018.

All travel, accommodation and food costs were covered by Liverpool City Council/Liverpool Vision.

Results: Examples include, 57 Chinese senior delegations visited Liverpool in 2018 including 25 delegations attending IBF2018 as a direct result of this and other promotional visits by Councillor Millar in China. These delegations brought trade, cultural, academic, sports and health sector interest and potential FDI investment. They helped create business, health and academic partnerships and increased civic engagement not just in Liverpool but across the UK. Other examples include:-

- In Beijing the Councillor Millar proposed delegation to International Business Festival to BCEG; provided Embassy teams with Chinese and English language versions of Business Festival brochures; asked for their support in promoting the Business Festival; and provided British Embassy with a better understanding of Liverpool's sector focus. BCEG are now building in Liverpool and have an office in the city.
- Agreed handover of World Forum to take place during Business Festival in 2018; Councillor Millar signed 3-year MoU with Shanghai's Vice Mayor Xu Kunlin and received provisional agreement from him to send 8 or 9 delegations to the 2018 International Business Festival (in the end the sent 10); INVEST Shanghai agreed to help bring 3 or more delegations to the Business Festival; agreed to send all those met in Shanghai with electronic PDF copies of Chinese and English language versions of Business Festival brochures; plus send Sponsor/Partner Opportunities documents to key stakeholders; provided Consulate staff with a better understanding of LCR sector focus; send further information on Sensor City and LCR 4.0 to key government commissions (CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee of Economy and Informatization and Commission of Commerce); and received several requests for trade investment opportunities (to be followed up by INVEST Liverpool).
- Councillor Millar provided VP of Academic Affairs, Prof Andre Brown and XJTLU leadership team with Chinese/English versions of International Business Festival brochures; provided better understanding of Liverpool City Region sector focus; and requested assistance for partnership working in China.
- In Tianjin Councillor Millar was given a tour of new facilities in Binhai New Area (200,000 square feet warehouse and new HQ shaped like a bird and called the Phoenix) by Tidfore Commander Nanan Yang; received agreement that Tidfore would consider being involved in the 2018 International Business Festival. They estimated that their next year's turnover (2018) will be over £15 billion. Councillor Millar also asked for a copy of the video they presented. Councillor Millar asked it to be shown it to the Business Festival team and others; Councillor Millar sent a thank you letter to the Commander; details were sent relating on Sensor City and LCR 4.0 to the Science & Technology Commission (they were keen to explore the links created as a result of IFB2016 and also the Sensor City and Tianjin MoU signed in Tianjin in October 2016); PDF electronic copies of International Business Festival and Opportunities/Sector brochures in the Chinese language version were sent as were sponsor/Partner Opportunities documents to Tidfore. As a further example of some success Tianjin recently invested £2 million into setting up a Liverpool based culinary arts centre and restaurant.



## Aims & Objectives

### BEIJING

- Support 2018 International Business Festival preview event at the British Ambassador's residence
- Attract Chinese delegations to International Business Festival
- Facilitate Beijing Construction Group's (BCEG) investment into Liverpool.
- Meet senior diplomats/leaders from organisations in China to leverage their top-down support and requests resources on the ground.

### SHANGHAI

- Attend World Forum for Foreign Direct Investment and promote 2018 International Business Festival
- Accept handover of World Forum as first global conference of the Business Festival
- Secure 5 Chinese delegations from Shanghai to the Business Festival
- Support Liverpool FC World Partners VIP reception and its link it with businesses
- Strengthen high-level dialogue and renew MoU with Shanghai to set 3-year strategic co-operation framework towards the 20th anniversary of Liverpool-Shanghai sister city relationship (1999-2019)

### SUZHOU

- Strengthen links with Xi'an Jiatong-Liverpool University (XJLTU) and commercial partners. XJLTU is the largest international collaborative university in China with 500 academic staff and 9,420 students. Follow-up to the Mayor's visit in October 2016.

### TIANJIN

- Maintain high-level relationship with Tianjin Government
- Follow up SASAC visit to Liverpool in May 2017 and meet potential investors
- Attract business delegations to International Business Festival

### 14th - 27th Oct 2017 - Beijing/Xi'an

Vice Mayor of Liverpool Millar was asked to lead a delegation on behalf of the Liverpool Confucius Institute to help sign 5 Liverpool school's partnerships with schools in Xi'an and to support the University of Liverpool and Kaplan International Pathways/Liverpool International College in their aims to attract more students to study in Liverpool.

All costs were covered by the Liverpool Confucius Institute.

Results: Examples include, 5 school's signed partnership agreements with Xi'an schools, but also both Kaplan and the University of Liverpool registered more interest from potential students and their families. Of course the following year Xi'an's Terracotta Warriors visited Liverpool for what become one the UK's most successful museum exhibitions. Plus, during the launch of this exciting exhibition in 2018 Councillor Millar signed a "Friendship Agreement" with the Vice Mayor of Xi'an. These links have all significantly helped grow interest between our 2 cities. Both Xi'an and its provincial Shaanxi government have since

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visited Liverpool and the UK a number of times and are currently in discussion about a number of exciting educational opportunities.

Please also see further outcomes against each meeting on the following pages.

## ITINERARY OUTCOMES

### **WEEK 1 – Beijing & Xi'an**

14th to 21st October 2017

The first 10 days of this visit was organised by the Confucius Institute at the University of Liverpool, supported by Confucius Headquarters (Beijing), University of Liverpool and Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU). In this first week Councillor Millar joined a delegation from Liverpool in China on an educational exchange between primary schools and universities. This delegation visited two Chinese cities (Beijing and Xi'an) to meet Chinese education officials, teachers and students and to exchange views on education. The organiser also made arrangements for delegation members to establish partnership with schools in China and has previously offered Mandarin courses in readiness for this visit. The delegation first visited China's capital city Beijing and after a few hectic days moved onto Xi'an located in the central part of China and interestingly was previously capital of China for 13 dynasties. Xi'an is also the home of the world famous Terra-Cotta Warrior Museum and the starting point of the famous Silk Road, connecting China with Europe in ancient times. As you may know, in 2018, a selection of the Terra-Cotta Warriors will be exhibited in Liverpool for the first time.

### **Departure from Liverpool to Beijing - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Up at 7am to catch a direct flight from Manchester to Beijing with Hainan Airlines

### **Arrival in Beijing - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Arrived at Beijing Airport at 4am (and almost 1.5 hours early). Sadly couldn't check into our hotel until 11.30am but allowed us to catch a few hours' sleep before visiting Beijing's Temple of Heaven.

### **University of Liverpool Meetings - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 - Beijing**

Councillor Millar joined an early morning meeting with the Liverpool delegation and to plan the week ahead before parting ways so they could visit China's Great Wall. Councillor Millar joined the University of Liverpool, for lunch and said a few words about the City of Liverpool at their event designed to attract international students. Councillor Millar joined a meeting with the University of Liverpool and Chinese branding experts so they could convey key findings of a social media analysis of the City of Liverpool brand; plus offer an understanding about how well it's known in China as opposed to other UK cities; and finally to discuss negative and positive perceptions.

### **Visit to Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 - Beijing**

Visited Tiananmen Square and a very quick visit to the Forbidden City before catching a cab to a Liverpool International College and University of Liverpool partnership event.

### **10th Anniversary Celebration with Liverpool International College - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 - Beijing**

Councillor Millar was asked to speak at a 10th Anniversary Celebration with Liverpool International College and the University of Liverpool. Opened by Leo Song and Professor Fiona Beveridge from the Univ. of Liverpool.

### **Visit Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) for meeting, tour and lecture - Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017 - Beijing**

Councillor Millar visited the Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) and met with Executive Deputy Director-General ZHAO Guocheng and Director YANG. They gifted a

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courtesy scroll. This was followed by a very interesting exhibition tour of the Confucius Institute. In addition, Councillor Millar attended a lecture from Dr Su Yujun from the Confucius Institute (Hanban) where the subject matter was rural education in China.

### **Departure from Beijing to Xi'an - Thursday 19th October 2017 - Beijing**

7:30am departure from our hotel in Beijing to catch a direct flight to Xi'an with China Eastern. Sadly the flight was delayed by 2.5 hours so we eventually arrived in our hotel in Xi'an at 6pm.

### **Key visit to Xi'an Jiaotong University - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Xi'an**

Councillor Millar met President Wang Shuguo and his colleagues Assistant President Professor Wenhua Shan, Director He Changzhong and Director Zhang Hua of Xi'an Jiaotong University. This is one of China's top universities and is a partner with the University of Liverpool in Suzhou. He explained details about their Summer Camp and scholarships for international students. This was followed by lunch with Assistant President Professor Shan and Director Zhang before visiting the Terracotta Army in Xi'an.

### **Lecture Xi'an Jiaotong University - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017**

Councillor Millar attended a lecture on Chinese Culture and New Developments with Xi'an Jiaotong University's Prof. Yang.

### **Cultural Visit to Farmer's Village – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017 – Xi'an**

The Liverpool delegation was taught how to make paper cuts by the award winning Mrs. Pan and visited a local farmer's home to enjoy some dinner.

### **WEEK 2 – Xi'an**

22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017

### **Day off - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 – Xi'an**

A day off for some culture on top of Xi'an's historic wall and a visit to its historic quarter before moving onto the very busy and vibrant Muslim Street.

### **Lecture at Xi'an Jiaotong University's School of Foreign Studies - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 – Xi'an**

Councillor Millar attended a lecture with Professor CHEN Xiangjing Dean of Xi'an Jiaotong University's School of Foreign Studies about ancient and modern education in China, plus about their English language training. Received a request for more English language teachers for their 4-week Summer Intensive English Program to help improve Chinese students listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

### **Meeting with Education Department of Shaanxi Provincial People's Government - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 – Xi'an**

Councillor Millar met with Deputy Director-General GAO Jinghua from the Education Department of Shaanxi Provincial People's Government. Councillor Millar thanked him and also GAO Qiang and LI Yanni for their time. They had an interesting conversation about education in Shaanxi, pre-school, universities, international British students (there were then only 77 in Xi'an), SightBox, visual impairment, deaf children, football, including the history of Xi'an within the curriculum in the UK, Shaanxi/Xi'an educational resource tools for schools, sourcing a resin/fibreglass smaller scale Terra-cotta warrior for touring Liverpool schools with and a request for Mr GAO and his team to visit Liverpool to take part in the UK's 2018 International Business Festival.

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## **Meeting with Xi'an Jiaotong University Elementary School - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Xi'an**

The delegation visited Xi'an Jiaotong University Elementary School and witnessed demonstrations of music, poetry, dance, opera, art and calligraphy. A primary school with over 2000 children and over 100 teachers. Councillor Millar thanked young Simon for his beautiful calligraphy called "Knowledge has no limit", Director ZHANG Hua from Xi'an Jiaotong University School of International Education and Headteacher Ms LEI from the Xi'an Jiaotong University Elementary School for hosting the Liverpool Confucius Institute delegation.

## **Xi'an and Liverpool School's MoU Signing - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Xi'an**

Councillor Millar witnessed the signing of 5 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) between schools.

## **Cultural visit to Xi'an Museum & Little Goose Pagoda - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Xi'an**

This day was the end of this trip to Beijing and Xi'an with the Confucius Institute spending time with 5 outstanding head teachers making serious academic links with China. Great friends were made as the trip was rounded off with a day of thought-provoking culture to the Xi'an Museum and Little Goose Pagoda. The delegation returned to Liverpool to leave Councillor Millar to plan his speech at an event in Xi'an on October 27<sup>th</sup> where he will join the Liverpool Women's Hospital and the new Fengdong Hospital.

## **Fengdong Hospital MoU Preparation Meetings - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – Xi'an**

A 2 hour preparation meeting Councillor Millar about the signing of an MoU between Fengdong Hospital and Liverpool's Women's Hospital the following day (on Friday 27/10/2017).

## **Speak at & Witness Xi'an Taikang Hospital MoU with Liverpool's Women Hospital – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017**

Councillor Millar visited the site of the new hospital and finished with a visit to the offices of Xi'an Taikang Hospital Management Co., Ltd. He thanked Dr Tain Yingying Strategy Director China Design Centre and Ms Wang Pei Deputy General Manager at Xi'an Taikang Hospital Management Co. Ltd. for looking after him. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting during this trip not related to the Confucius Institute – the first 3 being the University of Liverpool and Kaplan International Pathways/Liverpool International College.

During his speech Councillor Millar spoke of his honour to speak at and witness the signing of this memorandum of understanding between Xi'an Taikang Hospital Management Company and Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust at their Cooperation Agreement Signing Ceremony. He also thanked Ma Zhaoming Medical Director of XTHMC for Chairing the ceremony and to the other speakers including ZHANG Yunfeng Chairman of the Board of Taikang, Andrew Loughney Medical Director of Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and WANG Fei Deputy Director of XiXian New District Administration Committee and Member of the XiXian New District Party Committee. This signified great opportunities for an excellent start to the sharing of best practice, expertise and technology leading to more active engagement between Liverpool City Region's life science industry Xi'an, XiXian and Fengdong New Town. Additional dialogue took place with Alder Hey and the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen Hospital Trust.



## **Visit Fengdong New Town Exhibition Hall – Friday 27th October 2017 – Fengdong New Area**

Councillor Millar visited the Fengdong New Town Exhibition Hall. A completely immersive experience showing the history, the present and the future of this new district. A number of the delegation experienced vertigo as they felt they were floating or flying above an emerging city. The entire floor below and the wall in front displayed a 3D type cinematic experience rarely seen. Councillor Millar has recommended a similar exhibition space in Liverpool City Region and is convinced it would be the first in the UK.

## **Visit to the Offices of Xi'an Taikang Hospital Management Co., Ltd – Friday 27th October 2017 – Fengdong New Area**

Councillor Millar was invited to lunch and received an unexpected and beautiful gift on behalf of the City of Liverpool – a model Terracotta Army carriage! The carriage was actually kept by the hosts and sent to Liverpool the following year in time to be displayed during the signing of the Friendship Agreement between Liverpool and Xi'an in February 2018.

At the end of this trip rather than return to the UK Councillor Millar and then return to China on 1<sup>st</sup> November Councillor Millar paid to stay on in China and visited Guangzhou to complete his follow-up on this particular trip and to visit the Canton Fair before joining the Invest Liverpool team in Shenzhen on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **2nd - 11th Nov 2017 - Shenzhen/Qingdao/Jinan/Hangzhou/Suzhou/Shanghai**

The Liverpool Team travelled over 14,000 miles to help secure academic partnerships; launched and promoted the 2018 International Business Festival (IBF) and secured 6 delegations and one 3-week long significant marketplace exhibition space at IBF; spoke in front of over 2000 people; and opened a new Liverpool City Region "Liverpool Center" Showcase.

Vice Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Millar was asked to promote the UK's International Business Festival 2018 to a Chinese audience in all 6 cities visited during this 8 day trip. He was also asked to speak at the Global City Informatization Forum (GCIF) and co-launch the International Business Festival with UK International Trade Minister Baroness Rona Fairhead and Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry MP. Councillor Millar was also asked to visit Qingdao to cut the opening ribbon of a major Liverpool Showcase in Qingdao. This new venue is within Qingdao's International Economic Co-operation Zone.

All travel, accommodation and food costs were covered by Liverpool City Council/Liverpool Vision.

**Results:** Examples include, 57 Chinese senior delegations visited Liverpool in 2018 including 25 delegations attending IBF2018 as a direct result of this and other promotional visits by Councillor Millar in China. These delegations brought trade, cultural, academic, sports and health sector interest and Potential FDI investment. They helped create business, health and academic partnerships and increased civic engagement not just in Liverpool but across the UK. Plus, the Qingdao Government promote Liverpool as a business and academic destination and are seeking to further strengthen our bonds.

## **CHINA WEEK 3 – Guangzhou & Shenzhen**

29th October to 4th November 2017

Councillor Millar enjoyed a short break before joining the INVEST Liverpool delegation. From the afternoon of the 28th to the morning of November 2nd he chose to remain in China rather than spend 24 hours returning to Liverpool and then spending a similar amount of time returning to Shenzhen in China in time for his first meetings on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Instead he flew from Xi'an to Guangzhou and allowing him to visit the famous Canton Fair. Guangzhou is only 90 minutes away from Shenzhen by bullet train so he paid for my own hotel for 5 nights and paid his own rail fare.

### **2nd November 2017 - Shenzhen (3 meetings)**

The Liverpool delegation stayed at the Futian Shangri-La Hotel for two nights and attended 7 meetings, 2 working lunches and 2 working dinners.

### **Tianyi Bao - 2nd November 2017 - Shenzhen**

Councillor Millar was collected from Shenzhen Train Station by Tianyi Bao (former President of the Chinese Business Society at the University of Manchester) before having a meeting to discuss his promotion of the 2018 International Business Festival. He advised that he had created interest from a number of companies across a number of sectors.

### **ZTE Corporation - 2nd November 2017 - Shenzhen**

Councillor Millar, and Invest Liverpool Officers visited the ZTE Corporation in Shenzhen for a tour of their headquarters. Councillor Millar later introduced them to Liverpool's Sensor City and the Material's Innovation Factory and Councillor James Noakes. Their work in 5G, pre-5G, Smart City Solutions, Wireless Car Charging, modular data farms and a host of new technologies. The Liverpool delegation witnessed first-hand the production of printed circuit boards. They met with Marketing Director for Integrated Solutions Dept. Europe & America and Solutions Director for Smart City Product Dept. Strategy & Marketing. This meeting was organised by Invest Liverpool

### **Chinese Power Women - 2nd November 2017 - Shenzhen**

The Liverpool delegation met with a fantastic team of women making things happen in Shenzhen and across South China. They included Shenzhen Convention & Exhibition Center Management Co. Ltd and the China Hi-Tech Transfer Center; the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Shenzhen Sub-Council (CCPIT Shenzhen); China Britain Business Council (CBBC); from the Shenzhen Outbound Alliance. They had a collective interest in the UK Government's 2018 International Business Festival being hosted in Liverpool in June 2018. This meeting was organised by Invest Liverpool.

### **3rd November 2017 - Shenzhen (4 meetings)**

### **Huawei – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 - Shenzhen**

The Liverpool team experienced a day of Smart City technologies that began with a tour of Huawei's exhibition hall. Ground-breaking technology, sensors galore, cloud computing, fast phones & chips and breath-taking speeds. Plus, they demonstrated 8k digital output on a 100 inch LED screen. The team thanked Vice President of Global Public Affairs for his support and interest in the 2018 International Business Festival. He in particular was keen to reach out to Councillor James Noakes, Liverpool's then Mayoral Lead for Smart Cities. He also expressed interested in Liverpool's new Sensor City partnership and hopefully getting involved in some research. This meeting was organised by Invest Liverpool.

### **BYD – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 - Shenzhen**

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Councillor and the Liverpool team met with BYD and Managing Director European Auto Sales Division and Senior Marketing Manager European Auto Sales Division. This is an interesting company that started only 1993 and employs over 220,000 staff. BYD is a high tech company specialising in 4 industries: IT, Automobile, New Energy and Rail Transit. Interesting to note that BYD as a result of Liverpool Vision's introduction in 2014, BYD went on to supply a fleet of electric buses in Liverpool. This was partially as a result of Invest Liverpool hosting a tour with BYD in late 2014 and his introduction to Merseytravel's low carbon team and to the University of Liverpool. During this visit in 2017 Councillor Millar was given the honour of being introduced to the founder and chairman of BYD. This meeting with BYD was organised by Invest Liverpool.

### **Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI) – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 - Shenzhen**

The Liverpool team met with some of the leadership team at Beijing Genomics Institute in Shenzhen. This included Chief Development Officer, General Manager Europe and Regional Director BGI Genomics Co. Ltd. However it was particularly an honour to meet one of BGI's co-founders. The next stage for Liverpool by way of follow-up is to help explore is an agreement to potentially partner with Liverpool's Knowledge Quarter including the University of Liverpool's Health & Life Sciences Faculty, the School of Tropical Medicine, our new Royal Liverpool and Clatterbridge Cancer hospitals and also because of their need for mass analytics of information with the Sci-tech Big Data Hub and the UK's fastest and best supercomputer based in Daresbury near Runcorn. This meeting was organised by Invest Liverpool.

### **Yeefung Technology - Intelligent Parking – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 - Shenzhen**

Councillor Millar was asked to see first-hand this Smart City automatic and intelligent vehicle parking technology. Vice President of Shenzhen Yeefung Automation Technology explained that they can reduce carbon emissions and fuel consumptions and also save space and time by providing a flexible and convenient parking solution. This meeting was organised by Invest Liverpool

**However, it should be highlighted that although the Liverpool team enjoyed visiting the above companies in Shenzhen they do not endorse any of their services or products.**

## **CHINA WEEK 4 - Hangzhou, Shanghai and Qingdao**

4th to 10th November 2017.

The final week of 4 productive weeks in China for Councillor Millar. First with the Confucius Institute and the University of Liverpool bringing together Liverpool and Xi'an schools and learning more about Chinese culture. I had also had meetings with the University of Liverpool and JYL and joined Kaplan International Pathways to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of their Liverpool International College. Before Councillor Millar took a few days off to visit the Canton Fair in Guangzhou he spoke at and witnessed the signing of a MoU between the Fengdong New Hospital and Liverpool Women's Hospital. After leaving Guangzhou in this 3rd week he visited Shenzhen to join Invest Liverpool and meet with Tianyi Bao, ZTE, CBBC, CCPIT, Dept. of International Trade, Huawei, BYD, BGI and Yeefung Technologies and as outlined above before moving on to Shanghai for the China International Industrial Fair and to speak at the Global City Informatization Fair, plus also to launch the 2018 International Business Fair in China with Baroness Rona Fairhead and Jake Berry MP the Minister for the Northern Powerhouse. Finally moving on to Qingdao to open the Liverpool City Region Showcase within the China-Britain Innovation Industry Park and to meet the Qingdao Clipper organisers and also Wanda. On the 10th he finally returned to Beijing to fly back to the U.K.

### **Sunday, 5th November 2017 Shanghai (1 meeting & 1 working lunch)**

#### **ZPMC - 5th November 2017 - Shanghai**

Councillor Millar visited ZPMC's production site and factory in Shanghai on Sunday. They supplied the new giant cranes at Liverpool 2 for Peel Ports. As a result of their technology and engineering, Liverpool has become the fourth largest port in the UK and the largest on the West Coast. During their visit the Liverpool team witnessed over 100 cranes being built - and each a different colour denoting which port they are destined for - red for Liverpool and pink for South Korea. The delegation also met to explore the opening of ZPMC's new offices in Liverpool and employment of staff. In fact, ZPMC now has offices and staff in Liverpool. It was interesting to learn about the size of their business - it supplies over 70% of the world's container cranes; has almost 40,000 staff; supplied all the steel for the new Queensferry Bridge in Scotland; helped build the longest bridge and tunnel system in the world; fabricates offshore equipment, builds tunnels, supplies intelligent parking systems; has an investment arm; and creates technology for smart cities.

Councillor Millar met ZPMC's senior management team including:-

- Executive Board Member & Vice President of ZPMC
- ZPMC Assistant President / Managing Director of ZPMC International Group:  
Executive Managing Director of ZPMC International Group
- Vice General Manager of ZPMC CX
- Quality Manager of ZPMC CX
- ZPMC Investment Group Deputy General Manager
- ZPMC Smart Group General Manager
- Deputy General Manager of ZPMC UK LTD

## **Monday, 6th November 2017 (3 meetings & 1 working dinner)**

### **ProAIM - 6th November 2017 - Hangzhou**

Met with Managing Director ProAIM.

### **Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office - 6th November 2017 - Shanghai**

Councillor Millar met with, Director-General of the Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office with who headed up part of the 2018 International Business Festival from Connect China. We met to discuss: involvement in the Business Festival; outcomes from my signing of a new MoU with Vice Mayor Xie Kunlin in May 2017; and Liverpool's Sister City relationship with Shanghai. The Shanghai FAO attendees were:-

- Deputy Director-General of the Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office
- Director of European and African Affairs Division of Foreign Affairs Office

### **Opening and Award Ceremony of the China International Industry Fair (CIIF) - 6th November 2017 - Shanghai**

Following two major meetings in Liverpool earlier this year Councillor Millar was asked to attend one of China's largest industry conferences (one that attracts over 150,000 delegates). Because of Liverpool's sister city relationship with Shanghai Councillor Millar was also asked by the organisers and by the UK Consul General in Shanghai to play a key role in ensuring that Liverpool (and on Councillor Millar's suggestion the Northern Powerhouse) were seen as key players at this conference and exhibition. Councillor Millar joined Baroness Rona Fairhead CBE Minister for Trade and Export at the Department of International Trade, Jake Berry Minister for the Northern Powerhouse at this Opening and Award Ceremony. At the Opening and Award Ceremony of the China International Industry Fair the Liverpool delegation also received an informative update on quality, trade and development leading up to the new campaign called "Made in China 2025" from Mr Miao Wei Chinese Minister of Industry and Information Technology; and from Mr Ying Yong Mayor of Shanghai Municipal People's Government. Councillor Millar was then invited to join a VVIP working dinner with the main delegates including UK and Chinese Government Ministers as well as the event's key organisers and Shanghai Government officials.

## **Tuesday, 7th November 2017 (2 keynote speeches, 4 meetings & 1 working dinner)**

### **Global City Informatization Forum 2017 - 7th November 2017 - Shanghai**

Councillor Millar was asked to deliver a keynote speech on Smart Cities at the opening of the Global City Informatization Forum 2017 conference. During his apparently well received 15 minute speech he asked the 1000 delegates to download the 2018 International Business Festival Chinese brochure and asked them to add the 2018 International Business Festival to their diaries. He also highlighted that one of the days was about advances in Smart Cities. Interestingly, 10 delegations from Shanghai attended the Business Festival in 2018.

### **Invest Shanghai - 7th November 2017 - Shanghai**

Councillor Millar met with Mr Sun Xinhua, President of Invest Shanghai at the launch of 2018 International Business Festival. President Sun agreed to Councillor Millar's request to attend the Business Festival. In fact, Invest Shanghai later confirmed they will now have a presence at the Business Festival for an entire week

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### **Launch of 2018 International Business Festival - 7th November 2017 - Shanghai**

Councillor Millar co-launched the 2018 International Business Festival in China. After being introduced by the UK Deputy Consul General he gave a five minute speech on “Why Liverpool?” and updated the audience about Liverpool City Region’s key sectors and opportunities. Councillor Millar was followed by Baroness Rona Fairhead CBE Minister for Trade and Export at the Department of International Trade and Jake Berry Minister MP for the Northern Powerhouse.

### **Nanjing Municipal Government Investment Promotion Office - 7th November 2017 - Shanghai**

Councillor Millar also met with Xu Yong Director Nanjing Municipal Government Investment Promotion Office (Shanghai Office) and Hu Bin Vice-Director Nanjing Municipal Bureau of Commerce Foreign Investment Management Division at the launch of the 2018 International Business Festival.

### **Wednesday, 8th November 2017 (3 meetings & 1 working dinner)**

#### **Spokesperson of Shanghai Municipal Government - 8th November 2017 - Shanghai**

Councillor Millar met with Xu Wei Spokesperson of Shanghai Municipal Government and Director of Shanghai Information Office and his team. This was Councillor Millar’s second meeting this year with Spokesperson Xu Wei. It is important to stress that Spokesperson Xu Wei is one of Shanghai’s top government officials. He agreed to Councillor Millar’s request to be involved in the 2018 International Business Festival confirming during the meeting they will take a 4 x 4 metre exhibition space for 1 week at the beginning of the Business Festival. Plus, he and his team will work with Branding Shanghai. Who confirmed they will manage this space at the Business Festival, not just for one week but for all 3 week.

#### **Branding Shanghai - 8th November 2017 - Shanghai**

Jasmine Peng and David Fu from Branding Shanghai confirmed with Councillor Millar that they will hire a 4 x 4 metre exhibition space at the Business Festival for all 3 weeks in June 2018. They will work with Spokesperson Xu Wei, plus the Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office, Invest Shanghai, Invest Liverpool and Shanghai culture organisations to create a Shanghai marketplace at the 2018 International Business Festival (there space was then to called “Shanghai Dream” but later become “Amazing Shanghai”). It is also important to note that this relationship has grown with the help of Invest Liverpool – and significantly Councillor Millar.

#### **Qingdao International Economic Co-operation Zone (QIECZ) - 8th November 2017 - Qingdao**

Councillor Millar arrived in Qingdao for the launch of the fantastic new Liverpool Showcase created by the Qingdao International Economic Co-operation Zone and Government with the help of Liverpool Vision, Invest Liverpool and partners across Liverpool City Region. This is as a result of a MoU signed by Wirral Council Leader Councillor Phil Davies in October 2016 and witnessed by Councillor Millar others. Fantastic international work from Liverpool and City Region and thanks to the team at QIECZ. After a morning of meetings in Shanghai and a flight north to Qingdao we finally arrived at our UK themed hotel around 7pm before joining key government officials for a short working dinner and closing off the night with a late sneak preview of the new Liverpool Center. Councillor commented that he was impressed that the entire hotel displayed Liverpool’s promotional videos (including in the lift) and that they had even gone to the extent of theming each hotel bedroom with a splash of UK framed photos and union flag cushions.

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**Thursday, 9th November 2017 (3 visits, 2 meetings, 2 ribbon cuttings, 1 seminar & 1 working lunch)**

**Passive House - 9th November 2017 - Qingdao**

Councillor Millar visited Qingdao's Passive House. It is reported that it offers 92% energy savings using state of the art technology and research in a Chinese German partnership. Councillor Millar thanked the Qingdao International Economic Cooperation Zone for the tour (QIECZ)

**Beijing Genome Institute in Qingdao - 9th November 2017 - Qingdao**

Councillor Millar visited to BGI for a second time - the previous week was at their HQ in Shenzhen.

**Launch of Liverpool Centre - 9th November 2017 - Qingdao**

Councillor Millar and the Liverpool team were impressed by the reception for the Liverpool City Region delegation. Excellent work by District Mayor Li Fengli, Director Huang Yuefeng from the Department of European Affairs Ministry of Commerce and Mr. Zhao Shiyu, Director-General of Qingdao International Economic Cooperation Zone Administrative Committee and their team. As a result Liverpool City Region now has a landing stage and Chinese launchpad in the Qingdao West Coast New Area China-Britain Innovation Industry Park thanks to the Qingdao Government. The delegation were welcomed to a packed and enthusiastic house - and even some Beatles music. Councillor Millar was given the opportunity to speak at the event and cut the opening ribbon.

**Qingdao Administration Center of Sailing Sport and Clipper - 9th November 2017 - Qingdao**

Councillor Millar met with Deputy Director of the Qingdao Administration Center of Sailing Sport and his colleagues Head Marketing & International Communication Dept. and Head General Department and Clipper Ventures. They spoke about Liverpool visiting Qingdao 13th to 15th March 2018 to greet the arrival of the Clipper Race in Qingdao (Councillor Millar did return to welcome the Liverpool Team as promised – see next page). Both Liverpool and Qingdao have boats in the Clipper Race - as has the British Government.

**Wanda Studios - 9th November 2017 - Qingdao**

Councillor Millar and the Liverpool team met with Production Services Director from Wanda Studios and his colleague Emma Wang Production Services Deputy Manager. They discussed filming facilities in Liverpool, the 2018 International Business Festival, our Liverpool's new Film Studios and partnership working. They learned from this meeting that Liverpool is one of the most filmed in cities in the world including Fantastic Beasts and Sherlock Holmes.

**Liverpool Seminar and One-to-Ones - 9th November 2017 - Qingdao**

Councillor Millar's final visit of this four week visit to China was to welcome a host of Qingdao businesses looking to create links with Liverpool City Region Businesses (obviously after doing their own due diligence). He spoke for 10 minutes before dashing off to the airport to fly to Beijing to catch his flight home back to UK - and to Liverpool.

20th - 22nd March 2018 - Qingdao/Hong Kong

Vice Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Councillor Millar Millar was asked on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to make an overnight visit to Qingdao in March 2018 to welcome the Liverpool 2018 team as they arrived in Qingdao as a part of the Clipper Round the World Race. He was also asked by the Department of International Trade North West, the Mayor of Liverpool and Liverpool Vision to speak at the GREAT Festival of Innovation in Hong Kong to again promote the UK's International Business Festival 2018, but this time with government ministers

All costs were covered by Liverpool City Council/Liverpool Vision.

**Results:** Examples include, 57 Chinese senior delegations visited Liverpool in 2018 including 25 delegations attending IBF2018 as a direct result of this and other promotional visits by Councillor Millar in China. These delegations brought trade, cultural, academic, sports and health sector interest and Potential FDI investment. They helped create business, health and academic partnerships and increased civic engagement not just in Liverpool but across the UK. Plus, revisiting Qingdao strengthened Liverpool's links with the Qingdao Government.

## ITINERARY OUTCOMES

### GREAT FESTIVAL OF INNOVATION

HONG KONG 21-24 MARCH 2018 VENUE: ASIA SOCIETY HONG KONG

Vice Mayor Councillor Councillor Millar Millar and Officer attended the final two days as members of a Northern Powerhouse delegation coordinated by Philomena Chen, DiT North West.

### NOTES:

1. The Festival was not quite what was expected, comprising principally a series of presentations and panel discussions with keynote speakers and no focused exhibition area, except for the final day when the Universities had stands demonstrating their expertise and research in a range of creative activities, from fashion through to the application of augmented reality in forensic science - some amazing products at the development stage. The stands were consistent in design and looked good.
2. Councillor Millar and Officer attended a number of the keynote sessions and met DiT and Hong Kong Government officials during the networking sessions. DiT had a very strong presence: the reception at the close of Day 3 included a speech by Liam Fox and was attended by the HK Consul General (Andrew Heyn), Head of DiT in Hong Kong, Baroness Fairhead, Jake Berry and Antonia Romeo, DiT Permanent Secretary.
3. Councillor Millar also attended a lunch with Jake Berry (and others) hosted by Grant Thornton and attended by Hong Kong business people.
4. Officer attended a number of sessions. Highlights:-
  - Forces Shaping the Future: Chaired by Antonia Romeo, panel of Sir Martin Sorrell and founder and Chairman of Sanpower Group: Two major forces: Technology and Geography. Tech factors include growth of Chinese Tech companies (Tencent, Ali Baba, JD Sports) as rivals to the "Big 5 (Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google and Microsoft), China leapfrogging the west on relevant technology and the growth of

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voice-activated devices. Geog/market factors, with the fastest growth likely to come from Asia, Africa, South America and central/eastern Europe.

- Brilliant insight into how BBC is using technology to attract new audiences, based on BBC Earth/Planet Earth. Speaker was Jackie Lee-Joe, Chief Marketing officer BBC Worldwide. BBC Earth is working with various partners including Google Earth, Tencent and University of Berkeley California, the latter on the “Real Happiness Project”.
- Meet the Entrepreneur session on 24 March, featuring Dupsy Abiola, currently Head of Global Innovation at IAG (International Airports Group). Interesting background – fast track barrister who decided to leave Law to set up her own business
- University stands: De Montfort (Festival Sponsor), Leicester, Bournemouth, University of Surrey, Ulster University, Falmouth University and Coventry University.

5. Useful conversations also with:-

- Andrew Davis, Invest HK, London. He (and colleagues) confirmed they will attend the Business Festival. Potential interest also from Hong Kong Science Park.
- Maggie Palmer, Assistant Director of Trade, DIT Hong Kong confirmed that she was looking to attend the Business Festival with HK DIT team. Further discussions on details were actioned by Officers

#### 22nd - 26th Apr 2018 – Kunming

Vice Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Millar was asked by Kunming Municipal Government and Liverpool Football Club to attend and speak at the opening of the Liverpool FC International Coaching Academy in Kunming. Councillor Millar, together with Mayor Anderson, helped facilitate the partnership between Kunming and Liverpool Football Club. During this trip Councillor Millar was asked to promote the UK's International Business Festival 2018 and help strengthen Civic and academic links between Liverpool, Kunming and Yunnan.

Flight costs were covered by Liverpool City Council/Liverpool Vision and accommodation and food costs by the Kunming Municipal Government.

Results: Examples include, 57 Chinese senior delegations visited Liverpool in 2018 including 25 delegations attending IBF2018 as a direct result of this and other promotional visits by Councillor Millar in China. These delegations brought trade, cultural, academic, sports and health sector interest and Potential FDI investment.

#### 3rd - 11th Nov 2018 - Shanghai

Vice Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Millar again led a delegation to China. This time to attend the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai; co-host the Northern Powerhouse dinner; and meet various Civic Leaders and businesses. In particular, CIIE was then seen as China's newest and foremost import exhibition. Liverpool as a Sister City was expected to attend – particularly as we had been asked to consider attending as a follow-up to Shanghai's attendance at the 2018 International Business Festival. As a result Liverpool was recognised as “Honoured City”. Over a period of 7 days CIIE attracted over 800,000 visitors – Liverpool was the only UK city officially in attendance.

The Shanghai Municipal Government covered all accommodation, hotel and internal travel costs during CIIE, whilst Liverpool City Council paid for economy class return flights.

**Results:** Examples include Liverpool being awarded Honoured City status, not just at this CIIE conference, but also the following year's (2019) and at the China (Shanghai) Information Technology Fair (CSITF) in April 2019 (where Liverpool and the City Region saw its largest investment interest and success (estimated at £140 million over 5 days)). Another success included Councillor Millar obtaining permission from Shanghai leaders to bring the Shanghai International Film Festival to Liverpool to help celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liverpool-Shanghai Sister City relationship.

### 13th - 22nd April 2019: Shanghai/Suzhou

Vice Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Millar led a 21-strong organisation delegation with 35 delegates from the private, public and academic sector showcasing Liverpool at the China (Shanghai) Information Technology Fair (CSITF). During a previous trip Councillor Millar had asked for Liverpool to be recognised as an Honoured City during the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Liverpool-Shanghai Sister City relationship. During this trip Councillor Millar and the delegation also supported the University of Liverpool by visiting their partner university Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJLTU).

Economy class return flights were paid for by Liverpool City Council, but all accommodation, food and internal travel costs were covered by the Shanghai Municipal Government.

**Results:** Examples, Liverpool City Region delegation hails success of this Shanghai Trade Mission when evidence showed that Liverpool City Region could benefit from more than £139 million worth of investments following this trade mission to Shanghai led by Vice Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Millar, according to data revealed by the Liverpool China Partnership (LCP). Liverpool City Council, together with Invest Liverpool and the LCP sent a 21-business strong delegation to Shanghai from 15th-21st April as part of celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the twinning of the two cities. It's estimated that over £139 million potential financial value was generated by Liverpool City Region delegates during the trip. More than 140 meetings took place, with one Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed and 45 potential deals created. Three organisations have since moved on to set up offices in Shanghai. During the special visit, Liverpool was been invited by Shanghai government to be the Honorary Guest City for the 7th China (Shanghai) International Technology Fair. The city was provided with a free exhibition space in recognition of Liverpool and Shanghai's 20th Anniversary of the Sister City status.

Figures & highlights from this trip to Shanghai:

- 35 delegates from 21 organisations
- All 21 organisation gave feedback
- 100% found the trip very useful
- 100% believe the mission met/exceeded their expectations
- 100% interested in joining future China trips with China Partnership
- Over 135 meetings among the delegates
- 1 MoU signed during the week
- Over £139 million potential financial value
- 3 organisations to set up Shanghai office



Speaking about this recent visit, Vice Mayor Councillor Millar, said: “April’s delegation to Shanghai was one of our most successful trade trips to date and provided a fantastic platform to showcase the Liverpool City Region and facilitate those important introductions that allowed our delegates to take their next steps in seeking out new investment opportunities in China. This new data demonstrates the importance of seeking new partnerships, being explorers and more importantly creating jobs, new skills and relationships here in Liverpool and the City Region.”

*“Liverpool’s relationship with Shanghai is a very special one which goes back not just 20 years of Sister City status but 200 years of friendship and trading. It’s a partnership that we treasure and we’ll continue to cement these existing relationships and build for a golden future between our two great cities.”*

As a result of our Vice Mayor’s lead during this visit we gained further exclusive access to senior decision makers in Shanghai from across government, business and academia. In particular, our visit attracted the attention of the Mayor of Shanghai and other key government and state owned enterprise leaders.

#### 29th May - 4th Jun 2019: Shanghai/Kunming

Vice Mayor Cllr Councillor Millar was invited to lead a group of 70 students and academics from Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) to Shanghai and Kunming between 29th May and 4th June 2019. He attended 14 key meetings and has previously reported follow-up actions suggested where Vice Mayor Councillor Millar is able to provide further input or suggestions. 5 of these meetings were only able to take place because of Liverpool’s unique relationship with the Shanghai and Kunming Governments and the friendship already developed between the Vice Mayor and key individuals. Please note that many partners have been involved in developing inward investment and knowledge sharing in Kunming. Our successes started with Liverpool City Council signing a key Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2016. It is now estimated that at least £5 million in new business has since been obtained from Kunming from a variety of sectors (not just in education).

Officers in attendance: None.

LJMU covered all costs.

#### 2nd - 9th Nov 2019: Shanghai

Councillor Millar was again asked to lead a small delegation attending the China International Import Expo as it Honoured City. During a previous trip he had asked for Liverpool to be recognised as an Honoured City as part of Shanghai’s celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Liverpool’s and Shanghai’s Sister City relationship.

The Liverpool Team led by Vice Mayor Councillor Millar, included the Materials Innovation Factory (MIF), University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University. Travelling over 12,000 miles on the invitation of the Mayor of Shanghai as part of the Liverpool / Shanghai’s Sister City 20th Anniversary programme and to attend and speak at China’s biggest import event the China International Import Expo (CIIE) and to meet with University partners. Vice Mayor Millar attended 18 events and meetings over 5 days and met with over 400 people from 20 countries. These events and meetings attended by Vice Mayor Millar included:-

1. CIIE welcome event hosted by the Ministry of Commerce
2. Attending the opening ceremony of the second CIIE with President Xi Jinping

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3. Met Ambassador Sha Hailin President of the Shanghai Government's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries
4. Was a keynote speaker at Forum for Shanghai Sister Cities
5. Attending Sister Cities cultural activity
6. Yunnan Investment Bureau Event
7. Visit CIIE pavilions
8. Meet Shanghai Christmas Market organisers
9. Meet Shanghai Mayor Ying Yong and government leaders
10. Dinner with Shanghai Mayor
11. Visit East China University of Science & Technology with the University of Liverpool's Materials Innovation Factory
12. Visit Feringa Nobel Prize Scientist Joint Research Center
13. Co-host CIIE DiT Northern Powerhouse working dinner
14. Met British Consul General Chris Wood
15. Visit Shanghai Data Exchange Centre
16. Visit Sino British College, a joint institute between LJMU and Univ. of Shanghai Science and Technology
17. Meet LJMU Students at Sino British College
18. Host University of Liverpool Alumni Event

The Shanghai Municipal Government covered the cost of hotel, food and internal travel expenses.

Liverpool City Council paid for economy class return flights.

## **Aims & Objectives**

### **SHANGHAI**

- Attend the China International Import Expo 2019 (CIIE) as invited "Honoured City" guest of the Mayor of Shanghai
- Support the University of Liverpool with its partnership with the East China University of Science & Technology
- Support the Materials Innovation Factory with its ongoing partnership discussions and joint research work with the Feringa Nobel Prize Scientist Joint Research Center
- Support Liverpool John Moores University's partnership working with Sino British College and the University of Shanghai Science and Technology
- Support the University of Liverpool with its development of its Alumni members in Shanghai
- Strengthen high-level dialogue with Shanghai during the 20th anniversary of Liverpool-Shanghai sister city relationship (1999-2019)

### **27th Nov - 2nd Dec 2019: Chengdu**

Whilst Vice Mayor of Liverpool Councillor Millar was travelling to Kunming for the 4th Kunming International Friendship-city Seminar he was also asked to speak at the Sound in the Xity music industry conference in Chengdu and meet City Civic Leaders.

Officers in attendance: None.

The organisers Modern Sky covered all costs.

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**Results:** Liverpool has been asked to do more with the city of Chengdu and introduced Liverpool Hope University to the city to discuss potential partnership working relating to music and overseas studies. In addition, the Consul General for China based in Manchester has since expressed an interest in doing more with Chengdu – his home city.

## 2nd Dec - 7th Dec: Kunming

Supported by Liverpool China Partnership (LCP), Liverpool Vice Mayor Councillor Millar led an LCP education based delegation to the 4th International Friendship Cities Cooperation and Development Seminar in Kunming, 2-5 December 2019. The aims of the visit were to promote LCP's profile and help members access/develop Kunming education market.

Liverpool China Partnership delegates included:-

- China Engagement Officer, Liverpool John Moores University
- Account Manager, True Education Partnerships
- Founder, Sustainable School International Network (SSIN)
- China Manager, ConnectChina

Being part of the Vice Mayor's delegation allowed all LCP delegates to deliver key note speeches in the seminar to targeted audiences, and to access/strengthen relationships with high-level contacts in Kunming city and Yunnan province - from Kunming Party Secretary, Kunming Mayor, to Directors of Kunming and Yunnan Foreign Affairs Offices and Education bureaus. These relationships have helped delegates to be introduced to key business clients and partners, with whom follow up meetings have been arranged and concrete business outcomes have been achieved during the 3-day visit. Apart from the seminar, Councillor Millar supported delegates to visit key contacts in Kunming, including Kunming Blind and Deaf School, Yunnan University of Finance and Economics etc. The delegation has also accompanied Councillor Millar to meetings with Kunming and Yunnan Foreign Affairs Offices to shape Liverpool-Kunming/Yunnan collaboration plan for 2020 and beyond.

Officers in attendance: None.

The Kunming Municipal Government covered the cost of hotel, food and internal travel expenses for all delegates. The Liverpool China Partnership covered the cost of economy flights to and from China for Vice Mayor Councillor Millar. Modern Sky paid the internal flight from Chengdu to Kunming for Councillor Millar. The other delegates paid for their own flights and general expenses.

**Results:** As a result of the meetings, Kunming and Liverpool partners have agreed to work on the following key activities next year:

- March: potential civic and business delegation to Liverpool led by Yunnan Vice Governor (led by Liverpool City Council with support from Connect China and LCP)
- w/c 1 June: LJMU education delegation to Kunming (led by LJMU)
- Mid-June: Liverpool's attendance to Southeast Asia Export in Kunming, June 2020 – tbc, Yunnan to provide further detail
- End of June or July: Kunming Week in Liverpool (led by LJMU with support from Liverpool City Council and LCP members)
- October: Liverpool sustainable delegation to UN Biodiversity Conference in Kunming (led by SSIN)

- Tbc: Potential 'Explore Yunnan' event in Liverpool – tbc, Yunnan to provide further detail, hopefully to coincide with the Kunming week in Liverpool

As a follow up of the visit, Liverpool and Kunming will renew our three-year strategy partnership agreement signed in 2016, with a clear focus of collaboration on education, culture, sports and sustainability.

This concludes our response. No further information of relevance is retained, held or processed by the City Council.

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If you remain dissatisfied you may also apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision about whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner's website is [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk) and the postal address and telephone numbers are:- Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 123 1113. Email – [mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk) (they advise that their email is not secure)

We trust this information satisfies your enquiry.

Yours sincerely  
**Information Team**