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**MM21/19 FRIENDSHIP CITY POLICY REVIEW - The Mayor,  
Councillor Jerome Laxale**

**File Number:** CLM/19/1/1/8 - BP19/997

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Recently, the City of Ryde has formalised Friendship city arrangements with Dongguan (China), Jongnogu (South Korea) and Stepanakert (Republic of Artsakh). These arrangements build on existing friendship city relationships both locally and internationally.

The intention of all agreements is to develop and enhance cultural ties and attract economic development and investment with each city with whom our city has a formalised relationship.

In order for arrangements to reach their full potential, and for our policy to be in line with community expectations, a review of our friendship agreements policy would be beneficial.

At this point in time, the Mayor of Jongnogu (South Korea) and a delegation are due to visit the City of Ryde in November 2019 to formalise our friendship agreement and commence a cultural and economic exchange. It is proposed, that in addition to staff presentations on Macquarie Park and the City of Ryde to the delegation, that a reception be held for this event at the Ryde Civic Hall inviting all Councillors, local businesses and members of the Korean-Australian community.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- (a) That the General Manager establish a temporary friendship agreements working party, made up of interested Councillors and Council staff, to;
  - (i) review the City of Ryde friendship agreements policy, with a report back to Council in time for the 2020/21 budget process
  - (ii) consider the establishment of a permanent Friendship City Committee to ensure that the City of Ryde receives benefit from local and international friendship agreements
  - (iii) plan for upcoming friendship city delegation visits to the City of Ryde
- (b) That the General Manager allocate \$15,000 from General Revenue, or an appropriate funding source, to fund the operational costs of the temporary working committee and any official events that may arise from friendship city visits to the City of Ryde during the period of policy review.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

Report Prepared By:

**Jerome Laxale**  
**Mayor**

