

	<b>PAPER NO: PC.04(12)</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Property Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>29 February 2012</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Preliminary Investment Case for Old Nursery</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Lara Martin, Project Manager of The Confucius Institute and Liu Min, Executive Director, Confucius Institute for Traditional Chinese Medicine</b>
<b>Executive sponsor:</b>	<b>Bev Jullien, Pro Vice Chancellor (External)</b>
<b>Recommendation by the Executive:</b>	That the Property Committee support progression to a business case submission to renovate the Old Library for the Confucius Institute, using funding provided by the Hanban of approximately £990,000, if LSBU is nominated as a Model Institute in March/April

**Executive summary**

1. The Confucius Institute plays a key role in strengthening the position of London South Bank University as a leading professional University in London, by offering the unique differentiator of access for all our students to Chinese language and culture education and qualifications, alongside their main studies. A unique portfolio of award-bearing programmes is being developed, and students from across the university can benefit from scholarships to spend time in China.
  
2. The Institute also contributes to our recruitment and community outreach agendas, through their work in primary and secondary schools, and the Chinese New Year and Wellbeing Roadshows; it supports the international agenda through status in China, and membership of the CI network worldwide, and contributes positively to the overall reputation of the University, for example through engagement with the All Party Parliamentary Group for China, and engagement with business
  
3. The Confucius Institute is funded by the Chinese equivalent of the British Council, the Hanban

4. The Institute has been awarded an Excellence Award for the last 3 years in competition with 360 Universities globally, and has been shortlisted for nomination as a Model Institute – of which there will be less than 30 worldwide. This status would unlock funding for a building to house the institute, and would ensure priority is given to the institute for project funding for the foreseeable future.
5. Positioning the Institute in a separate building would strengthen its visibility as a leading centre for Chinese culture and language in South London. This would enable expansion of services, and facilitate development of independent funding streams. The Institute has set itself the target of being fully self-sustaining financially within the next 5-10 years
6. The Old Library is a Grade 2 listed building which formerly housed the Nursery, and for which the University has no defined use in the Estates Strategy
7. It is anticipated that funding from Hanban could be available for about £1m, and that it would be released as a lease payment of £200,000 per year over 5 years. A provisional estimate obtained by Estates and Facilities from the University's framework quantity surveyor indicates that this is sufficient to renovate the building to a fit-for-purpose level, although detailed work would need to be undertaken to provide robust and comprehensive costings
8. The university will be expected to demonstrate that it is matching this funding through contribution in kind, and the business case will include detail of this, as well as proposed terms of the lease
9. This creates the opportunity for the University to further strengthen the identity of LSBU as a leading modern University in the provision of Chinese culture and language to its staff, students and the community as well as to renovate a piece of the estate.
10. A decision from the Hanban on whether or not LSBU is in the first wave of Model Institutes is expected in March/April, and support is sought to proceed to a business case at that time, if funding becomes available
11. A preliminary case is being prepared for the Executive on March, 18<sup>th</sup>, which will also include identification of new income streams which a dedicated building could unlock, full project development costs, and outline project plan to take into consideration detailed planning, planning consent and legal matters. The project

will only be put forward to the next stage if the University Executive approves that paper

### **Supporting information : Performance of the Confucius Institute to date**

- **Student Success: Curriculum / extra-curricular opportunities**
  - M.CM/BSc Acupuncture,
  - MSc Research and Evidence Based Chinese Medicine,
  - MBA Chinese Business Practice
  - Chinese business skills module within MBA and MSc programmes
  - Chinese language classes – 4 levels
  - Summer School in China
  - Scholarships to study in China
  - Cultural exchanges – for example, Drama students with Shanghai Normal
  - Employability lecture series
  
- **Student Choice**
  - Work with over 30 primary and secondary schools, teaching Mandarin – link with LSBU student recruitment team
  - Total of 250000 people reached through Roadshow activities, always jointly branded with LSBU
  
- **Internationalisation**
  - China: strong relationships with Embassy in UK; Excellence Award enhances status with other Universities in China and Ministry of Education
  - Globally: CI network includes 360 top universities worldwide. Membership helps to open doors; CI target by end 11/12: to have collaborations in place with 15-20 Universities, providing potential to extend relationship within the University
  
- **Health Faculty**
  - Supports development of Acupuncture clinic
  - Acupuncture / (non herbal) TCM – part of wellbeing offering
  - Part of offering for community wellbeing applications for grants from Trusts, for example, Guys and St Thomas' Trust
  - Distinctive area of research contributing to REF
  - Wellbeing pack as part of “Change for Life” initiative

	<b>Board/Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>
Matter previously considered by:	Executive	Feb 2012
Further approval required?	Executive	March 2012
	Property Committee	April 2012

Communications – who should be made aware of the decision?	N/A
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