

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 7.1

Proposed travel by Councillor Richard Foster, Participation in smoke-free forums in New Zealand, 21 to 24 September 2015

9 June 2015

Presenter: Councillor Richard Foster

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for Councillor Richard Foster to participate in meetings with the Cancer Society of New Zealand (Cancer Society) between 21 and 24 September 2015.

Key issues

2. Following discussions held during a visit to Melbourne in 2014, the Cancer Society has invited Councillor Foster to visit Christchurch and Auckland as part of its advocacy program for smoke-free community spaces.
3. The objective of the visit is to support the Cancer Society's advocacy strategies for more smoke-free community spaces in New Zealand focussed principally on the cities of Auckland and Christchurch.
4. As part of this visit, the Cancer Society will be arranging various meetings with the target audience being primarily councillors, council staff involved in policy making as well as staff from partnership agencies working with councils.
5. In 2011, New Zealand endorsed a goal to be a smoke-free country by 2025. Almost three quarters of councils in New Zealand now have policies that promote smoke free playgrounds, parks or sports grounds. However, to date, only a minority of councils have taken steps to extend these policies covering areas such as transport hubs or outdoor dining. With many partnerships between councils and agencies such as the Cancer Society and public health units around New Zealand, it is anticipated that the next few years will see more smoke-free community space created given the strength of public support.
6. In his capacity as People City portfolio chair, Councillor Foster has been invited to deliver keynote presentations related to the Melbourne experience on smoke-free initiatives at workshops organised by the Cancer Society with Councillors and key stakeholders from both Auckland and Christchurch councils.
7. A copy of the invitation and proposed program is included as Attachment 2.
8. The Cancer Society proposes to partially cover Councillor Foster's airfare and full accommodation costs. It is proposed that Council cover partial airfare costs and incidentals for five days totalling \$2577.

Recommendation

9. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 9.1. approves the proposal for Councillor Richard Foster to participate in various smoke-free forums and meetings to be held in New Zealand between 21 and 24 September 2015 at a cost of approximately \$2577.
 - 9.2. notes that Councillor Richard Foster will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment
2. Invitation , Cancer Society of New Zealand meetings, Auckland and Christchurch

SUPPORTING ATTACHMENT

Finance

1. The estimated cost to Council for travel to New Zealand is \$2577.
2. The Cancer Society of New Zealand will cover the cost of accommodation for five nights, internal transfers and flight and approximately \$850 towards an international return airfare. It is proposed that Council cover the difference between an economy and business class airfare (\$1252) and incidentals for five days (\$1325).
3. The cost associated with Councillor Foster's travel can be met from the existing budget allocation.

Conflict of interest

4. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Relation to Council policy

5. The Manager Governance Services has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
6. The concept of smoke-free environments is embedded in the Council Plan under the goal *A City for People*. The four-year priority provides that the Council will protect the community from passive smoking by expanding smoke-free areas.
7. In March 2015, the Future Melbourne Committee approved the areas known as Howey Place, Equitable Place and Block Place to be prescribed as smoke-free areas under Clause 3A.3 of the *Activities Local Law 2009*

Environmental sustainability

8. In addition to the health effects of second-hand smoke, the environmental impacts of cigarette butt litter is of significant concern and requires continued community focus and attention
9. The carbon emission resulting from air travel to attend New Zealand will be offset with the purchase of credits.



31 March 2015

Cr Richard Foster
City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1603
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Cr Foster

Further to our meeting in December and recent discussions with your office, I would like to formally invite you to visit the Cancer Society here in New Zealand as part of our advocacy programme for Smokefree community spaces.

Councils help in reducing the visibility of smoking in public places and the harmful effects of second hand smoke is vital if we are to achieve New Zealand's goal to be Smokefree by 2025. The leadership that Melbourne Council has demonstrated and in particular your commitment to Melbourne as a Smokefree city would be extremely valuable if we were able to share it with councils here in New Zealand.

At present I am working with Kristina Marckean, who you will remember from our meeting, to maximise the opportunity of any visit. Provisionally, your preferred week commencing September 21st is possible, however please can you allow us time to ensure that we can schedule meetings with councillors in both Christchurch and Auckland. Kristina and I spoke today and will be in contact immediately after Easter on this matter.

I do hope that this sounds acceptable and that we can arrange a really constructive visit for you and offer the same hospitality that you showed us.

I look forward to discussing again soon.

Yours sincerely

Martin Witt
Manager, Health Promotion and IT Services

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