

**Report to the Future Melbourne Committee**

**Agenda item 7.3**

**Proposed travel by Councillor Richard Foster, Washington D.C. and New York, USA, 29 June to 8 July 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 hold Council business related meetings with government officers in Washington D.C. and New York whilst on private travel between 29 June and 8 July 2015.

**Key issues**

2. Councillor Foster proposes to hold meetings with government officers to gain an insight into the strategies and programs employed by large cities aimed at dealing with homelessness and city safety.
3. While in New York a number of relevant urban design interventions will be visited and where possible meetings arranged to enable Councillor Foster to gain a better understanding of how the city is addressing these important opportunities.
4. The costs associated with travel by Councillor Foster will be privately funded. Assistance by Council officers will be provided in arranging meetings with relevant officers.

**Recommendation**

5. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
  - 5.1. approves the proposal by Councillor Foster to hold meetings with government officers in Washington D.C. and New York between 29 June and 8 July 2015
  - 5.2. notes that Councillor Foster will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from travel.

**Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment

**Supporting attachment**

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**Finance**

1. There is no cost to Council associated with Councillor Foster's travel proposal. All costs will be privately funded.

**Conflict of interest**

2. 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**

3. 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.
4. The matters proposed for discussion with government officials align with key objectives contained in the Council Plan 2013-17 with particular connection with Goal 1: *A City for People*.
5. In 2014, the Council adopted the following key strategies aimed at tackling issues associated homelessness and a safer city.
  - 5.1. *Pathways: Homelessness Strategy 2014-17*
  - 5.2. *Beyond the Safe City Strategy 2014-17*

**Environmental sustainability**

6. The carbon emission resulting from air travel to attend the Conference will be offset with the purchase of credits.