

Proposed travel, Hamburg and Brussels, October 2017

Council

Presenter: Kate Vinot, Director City Strategy and Place

29 August 2017

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Councillor Rohan Leppert to travel to:
 - 1.1. Hamburg as part of the World Cities project of the European Union (EU) managed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
 - 1.2. Brussels to participate in the 15th European Week of Cities and Regions (EWCR)
2. World Cities promotes the exchange of experiences and best practice between the EU and non-EU cities on the theme of sustainable urban development initially over a 12 month period. As part of this project, City of Melbourne has been partnered with Hamburg.
3. Five delegates from Hamburg spent five days in Melbourne from 8 to 12 May 2017. Delegates from Melbourne will spend five days in Hamburg in October. A final three day meeting will take place in Melbourne in the first quarter of 2018. The three visits are underpinned by ongoing exchanges online.
4. Delegations are led by the City Government but include other stakeholders as well to broaden the impact. The meetings in Hamburg will occur during the EWCR to be hosted in Brussels. The Melbourne delegation will also visit Brussels to participate in EWCR activities which includes approximately 130 workshops, networking events and projects visits under the theme of 'regions and cities working for a better future'.
5. Financial support from the EU includes economy class travel, accommodation, catering and other participation costs for one delegation of five people from Melbourne. Other potential delegates are likely to be from the City of Melbourne and the City of Port Phillip.
6. The outcomes from this 12 month partnership include the sharing of strategies, policies, best practice and tools used by both cities to support sustainable urban planning and innovation in integrating smart city approaches with strategic planning and governance for urban renewal as well as potential collaborative research and projects.

Key issues

7. The following areas for collaboration, exchange and learning were agreed between Hamburg and Melbourne delegates in May:
 - 7.1. **Planning, data and smart:** how we can use data to support better urban development, planning processes and decision making.
 - 7.2. **Digital community interface and living labs:** how we can use these to test ideas, make information accessible to community and support community engagement and participation.
 - 7.3. **Governance:** explore the topic of collaboration and exchange for projects with multiple stakeholders and across sectors.
8. The areas of collaboration align with the portfolio responsibilities of Councillor Leppert as Deputy Chair of both the Knowledge and the Planning portfolios. Councillor Leppert was part of the Melbourne experience in May and has established a relationship with the Hamburg delegates. This provides continuity and consistency in the delegation so initial conversations can continue.

Recommendation from management

9. That Council:
 - 9.1. Approves the proposed travel by Councillor Rohan Leppert to Hamburg and Brussels as part of activities associated with the European Union's World Cities Project and 15th European Week of Cities and Regions in October 2017 at an estimated cost to Council of \$7,450.
 - 9.2. Notes that Councillor Leppert will prepare a report for the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from travel.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. Financial support from the EU includes all economy class travel, accommodation, catering and other participation costs for one delegation of five people from Melbourne, likely to include two City of Melbourne officers, one City of Port Phillip officer and possibly one external stakeholder.
2. Additional incidental costs will be covered by City of Melbourne up to \$150 per day to cover Cr Leppert's costs.

Conflict of interest

3. 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

4. The Director City Strategy and Place has confirmed that the proposed travel accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
5. The objectives of the proposed study tour primarily align with initiatives contained under the following Goals;
 - 5.1. Goal 5 – A knowledge city
 - 5.2. Goal 8 – A city planning for growth

Environmental sustainability

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