

Management report to Council

Agenda item 6.6

2020 City of Melbourne business mission, China and Japan

10 December 2019

Presenter: David Livingstone, Director International and Civic

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek determination on which Councillors will accompany the Lord Mayor, Sally Capp in leading a City of Melbourne business mission (Mission) to China (Chengdu, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Nanjing, Taipei and Tianjin) and Japan (Osaka and Tokyo) in late March/early April 2020.
2. Council on 26 November 2019, endorsed the business case and proposed program for the Mission and approved participation by the Lord Mayor. Council also resolved that up three Councillors may accompany the Lord Mayor and the nominated participants will be determined at a future Council meeting.

Key issues

3. As reported to Council on 26 November, the Mission will provide an opportunity for the City of Melbourne to strengthen engagement in the key markets of China and Japan and will offer the following areas of focus.
 - 3.1. The China leg of the Mission will focus on further enhancing relations between Melbourne and its long-standing sister city Tianjin, as well as partner cities of Chengdu, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Taipei and Nanjing. A key component of the China visit will be the celebration of the 40th Melbourne Tianjin sister city relationship which is a significant milestone in Australia's China engagement.
 - 3.2. The Japan visit will strengthen Melbourne's relations with Osaka in the areas of start-ups, health and innovation, and Tokyo in best practice in waste management and sports collaboration. This will include business matching and site visits taking place in Osaka, Melbourne's sister city. Tokyo enjoys a strong reputation and expertise in a number of areas of priority to City of Melbourne which will provide collaboration and learning opportunities.
4. To advance preparations for the Mission, Council is now requested to resolve on the matter of Councillor participants. This will provide the time needed to progress arrangements and other logistical requirements to support the comprehensive program for the Mission.

Recommendation from management

5. That Council nominates up to three Councillors to accompany the Lord Mayor, Sally Capp in leading the 2020 City of Melbourne business mission to China and Japan in 2020.

Attachment:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 2)

Supporting attachment

Legal

1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Finance

2. Council on 26 November 2019 approved an amount of up to \$37,500 to cover the cost of participation by the Lord Mayor and up to three Councillors.

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.

Health and Safety

4. Mission participants will undertake standard personal safety and awareness precautionary steps associated with international travel.

Relation to Council policy

5. The General Manager City Economy and Activation has confirmed that the proposed travel accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
6. The trip aligns with Council Plan 2017-2021, Goal: A Prosperous City, where global city to city engagement and other partnerships will contribute to the city's prosperity.

Environmental sustainability

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