

Report to Council

Agenda item 7.1

Participation in meeting with Bloomberg Philanthropies, Lord Mayor Sally Capp, New York, USA, October 2019

10 December 2019

Presenter: Lord Mayor, Sally Capp

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the meeting that the Lord Mayor Sally Capp undertook with Bloomberg Philanthropies in New York, United States of America whilst on private travel in October 2019. Councillor Cathy Oke who was also in New York on private travel, participated in the meeting.
2. The City of Melbourne (CoM) has a Council endorsed relationship with Bloomberg Philanthropies through participation in the Partnership for Healthy Cities initiative. Through this partnership, CoM has received \$100,000 USD to support work that promotes walking and cycling in Melbourne's urban environment.
3. CoM officers are continuing to work with Bloomberg Philanthropies and Vital Strategies to improve the delivery of smoke-free areas across Melbourne.

Key issues

4. On 15 October 2019 the Lord Mayor and Councillor Oke met with representatives from Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Health Program and Vital Strategies.
5. The following topics were discussed during the meeting, with further detail in Attachment 2:
 - 5.1. Strengthening existing ties between Bloomberg Philanthropies and CoM
 - 5.2. Greater assistance being provided to support CoM's delivery of smoke-free areas across Melbourne
 - 5.3. The need for robust data to underpin health and liveability strategies and plans
 - 5.4. Information sharing and collaboration to reduce homelessness in urban environments
 - 5.5. The Bloomberg Mayor's challenge.
6. Following the Lord Mayor's meeting, CoM officers have held discussions with Bloomberg Philanthropies and Vital Strategies and are working towards closer collaboration on shared issues.
7. There was no cost to Council associated with the travel by the Lord Mayor as it was privately funded.

Recommendation

8. That Council notes the report by Lord Mayor Sally Capp on outcomes from her meeting with Bloomberg Philanthropies in New York, United States of America whilst on private travel in October 2019.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 4)
2. Meeting minutes and follow up letter (Page 3 of 4)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

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

Finance

2. There is no cost to Council associated with this travel proposal as the Lord Mayor Sally Capp personally funded her travel.

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. The travel advice of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was be noted and appropriate safety and awareness precautionary steps were undertaken by the Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

Relation to Council policy

5. The Manager Governance and Legal has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
6. The objectives of the proposed travel align with the Council Plan 2017-21, Goal: A People City where people are healthy and well.

Partnership *for* Healthy Cities Melbourne Meeting at Bloomberg Philanthropies

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 10:00 am – 11:00 am EDT

Attachment 2
Agenda item 7.1
Council
10 December 2019

Participants

Lord Mayor Sally Capp, Councilor Cathy Oke, Kelly Henning, Kelly Larson, Adam Karpati, and Valencia Lyle

Meeting Overview

Following the recent, successful launch of Melbourne's 11th smoke-free area, Lord Mayor Sally Capp and Councilor Cathy Oke visited the Bloomberg Philanthropies office to discuss current and future health policy objectives. Meeting participants received a holistic overview of Melbourne's chief public health priorities, and subsequently discussed current milestones and planned next steps regarding Melbourne's expansion of smoke-free areas. The Partnership *for* Healthy Cities (PHC) team will continue the conversation with Melbourne's PHC technical leads to support the team on their course to achieving some of the ambitious public health programmatic and policy objectives discussed.

Discussion Topics

Key areas of interest

- Homelessness and housing
 - Homelessness is an increasingly salient issue in Melbourne
 - Request to connect Melbourne and Los Angeles to share effective solutions to reducing homelessness
- Climate Change and the environment
 - Councilor Oke, Chair of the Environment Portfolio, is interested in intersection between the environment and the smoke-free areas
- Food waste and access to healthy foods
 - 93% of Melbournians believe they are not eating enough vegetables – desire to investigate the barrier to healthy foods. Melbourne is also working with food stores to reduce food waste

Updates on Melbourne's smoke-free initiative

- Prior to designating Bourke Street as the most recent smoke-free area, a community consultation discovered that 82% of survey participants and 39% of smokers supported the smoke-free areas
- The city is exploring mechanisms for incorporating vaping into existing smoke-free areas
 - Request for additional information on vaping prevalence, health consequences, and effective policies to dissuade use and uptake
- To strengthen support for policies such as expanding the smoke-free areas and including e-cigarettes in tobacco control policies, there may be a need for additional public health data specific to Melbourne
 - The city will consider conducting a Melbourne specific health survey in which behavioral risk factors, tobacco, food environment, and physical activity could be assessed
 - PHC related support for implementing this health survey will be discussed with Melbourne technical leads
- In order to support policies expanding smoke-free areas and including e-cigarettes, additional data may be needed. Will consider a Melbourne specific health survey

Interest in innovative health policy interventions

- Interest in effective policy development and implementation and request for policy innovations among cities in PHC network in areas such as road safety, surveillance, and tobacco control

Next Steps

- Vital Strategies will share a document containing innovative policies implemented by cities in the PHC network
- Vital Strategies will share examples of New York City specific health surveys
- Next meeting with Melbourne's technical leads will include discussion on Melbourne specific tobacco-use data



The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of Melbourne

29 October 2019

Dr Kelly Henning
Public Health Program Lead
Bloomberg Philanthropies
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Dear Kelly

Thank you for welcoming myself and Councillor Cathy Oke to Bloomberg Philanthropies on 15 October 2019.

The quality of our meeting reflected the great work undertaken by your team, not to mention further areas for collaboration, to ensure a highly worthwhile visit. Councillor Oke and I returned home to Melbourne better informed and very inspired as a result of our time with you.

Please pass on our appreciation to everyone involved including Kelly Larson, and also Valencia and Adam from Vital Strategies.

There were many points of potential collaboration raised in our discussions, and I am keen to follow up and add substance to those possibilities. In particular - how, with your help, we can enhance our capacity to deliver a smoke free Melbourne; how we can better address and strengthen efforts around homelessness; and how we can work with Bloomberg Philanthropies to improve the health and liveability of our cities through Melbourne-specific surveys and analysis.

Another area offering great prospects is the Bloomberg Mayor's Challenge and we hope to be able to work with you to organise a challenge in Oceania in the future.

Kelly, thank you once again for your generous reception and welcome. We look forward to continuing our valuable work with Bloomberg Philanthropies and Vital Strategies to benefit the liveability of our growing communities. We hope to welcome you and the team to Melbourne in the near future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sally Capp".

Sally Capp
Lord Mayor of Melbourne

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