

Management report to Council

Agenda item 6.8

Funding for additional Local Laws resources

Council

Presenter: Alistair Miller, Manager On-street Compliance Services (OCS)

28 February 2017

Purpose and background

1. At the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on 7 February 2017 part of the resolution relating to the Homelessness and Public Amenity report read: notes that the matter of additional resourcing will be referred to 28 February 2017 Council meeting for consideration.
2. The purpose of this report is to request funding for four additional staff and also for the cost of leasing a vehicle.
3. Local Laws Officers' usual operations in the past has involved walking the streets of the municipality identifying non-compliance which may include littering, dumped rubbish, trading on the streets without a permit, overhanging foliage, busking permits and camping.
4. Over the last few years there has been a significant increase in reports of illegally dumped rubbish, small litter and abandoned belongings all of which are perceived to be having a detrimental effect on the safety, amenity and accessibility of public spaces in the central city.
5. There have been over 650 negative media articles and over 220 Service Requests relating to illegally dumped rubbish affecting safety, amenity and accessibility of the city in 2016. Since the beginning of this calendar year there have been 55 Service Requests relating to these matters.

Key issues

6. Over the last year in particular, between two and four officers have been diverted on a daily basis from usual proactive patrolling to monitor compliance of camping, built structures, dumped rubbish and abandoned belongings.
7. Since July 2016, it is estimated that up to \$390,000 of revenue has been forgone due to officer time being diverted to the increased reports and related activity.
8. In order to meet the current workload requirement, management believes that an additional four officers and a vehicle are required.
9. The cost of these resources was unforeseen at the time of development of the 2016–17 budget and therefore management is requesting the additional resources to assist in the safety, amenity and accessibility of public spaces in the central city.
10. The request being made is for an additional \$110,000 in the 2016–2017 financial year and then on going funding for the four officer positions and a vehicle for at least the 2017–18 financial year. The cost of these resources for a 12 month period is approximately \$380,000.

Recommendation from management

11. That Council approves:
 - 11.1. Additional unbudgeted expenditure of \$110,000 for additional resourcing to support the Local Laws operation for the remainder of the 2016–17 financial year.
 - 11.2. The inclusion of \$380,000 in the 2017–18 budget for four officer positions and a vehicle to assist in maintaining the safety, amenity and accessibility of public spaces in the central city through the identification and enforcement of the local laws.

Attachment:

1. Supporting Attachment

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. There are no direct legal issues arise from the recommendation from management.

Finance

2. The cost of the four requested positions and the vehicle for the remainder of the 2016–17 is \$110,000. The labour component of this is \$76,000. The recommendation if approved would result in incurring additional unbudgeted costs.
3. The cost of the positions and the vehicle for a full year is \$380,000 based on current salary levels and will be included in the 2017-18 budget for Council consideration if the recommendation is approved.

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.

Stakeholder consultation

5. No external consultation has taken place as this is an internal resourcing and budget matter.

Relation to Council policy

6. This recommendation will strengthen Council's work in relation to its goals of 'A city of people' and 'A connected city':
 - 'A city for people' goal endeavours to provide safe, healthy and high-quality public spaces.
 - 'A connected city' goal guides how we manage movement in and around our growing city to help people move about safely and easily.

Environmental sustainability

7. In developing this proposal environmental sustainability outcomes have been considered.