

Report to the Council

Agenda item 7.1

Proposed travel, Councillor Philip Le Liu, World Chinese Economic Forum, Malaysia, November 2018 and New Year Music Festival, China, December 2018/January 2019

**Council
30 October 2018**

Presenter: Councillor Philip Le Liu

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for Councillor Philip Le Liu to participate in the following:
 - 1.1 The World Chinese Economic Forum 2018 ('Forum') to be held in Malaysia in November 2018
 - 1.2 A Victorian delegation to attend the New Year Music Festival and Trio Mundi Performance by the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music at Monash University, in Chengdu and Mianyang cities, Sichuan Province, in late December 2018 and early January 2019.
2. Councillor Le Liu has received invitations to attend both events and proposes to attend in his capacity as Chair of the International Engagement portfolio.

Key issues

3. The 2018 Forum, a two day event, has a theme of 'Towards a Common Future: Enhancing New Opportunities in a Changing World'. The Forum program includes a number of parallel breakout sessions involving discussion by a panel of international government and business leaders. Councillor Le Liu has been invited to participate as a panellist in Session 1, 'Renewable Energy and Climate Change – Revolutionizing and Sustaining our Changing Planet.' The session will explore opportunities and challenges in growing the renewable energy sector and will look at the role of government and business in growth of clean energy and climate change mitigation.
4. Councillor Le Liu proposes to share Melbourne's approach to renewable energy, citing the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project, as well providing an insight into Melbourne's broad range of leading strategies and approaches aimed at mitigating the impact of climate change. Councillor Le Liu also proposes to identify any innovative ideas or opportunities shared during the Forum which could be considered by City of Melbourne.
5. At the invitation of Sichuan National Music Development Association, Councillor Le Liu proposes to join a Victorian delegation to attend the New Year's Eve concert and Trio Mundi Performance. Participation in the delegation is aimed at fostering, through music, stronger cultural exchanges and economic ties between the Sichuan Province and Victoria. This presents opportunities to enter into dialogue on a range of areas including trade, investment and education. The event is supported by the Chengdu office on Invest Victoria.
6. The majority of costs associated with Councillor Le Liu's travels will be met by sponsoring organisations, namely the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute for the Forum in Malaysia and the Sichuan National Music Development Association for the concert and performance in Chengdu and Mianyang, China. The cost to Council will be an amount for incidentals for each travel.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment

Recommendation

7. That Council:
 - 7.1. Approves Councillor Philip Le Liu's proposed participation in the World Chinese Economic Forum to be held in Malaysia in November 2018 at a cost to Council of \$250 for incidentals.
 - 7.2. Approves Councillor Le Liu's participation in the Victorian delegation to the New Year Music Festival and Trio Mundi Performance by the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music at Monash University in the Cities of Chengdu and Mianyang, China in late December 2018 to early January 2019 at a cost to Council of \$500 for incidentals.
 - 7.3. Notes that Councillor Le Liu will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from the travel to China.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 3)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

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

Finance

2. Participation by Councillor Le Liu at the World Chinese Economic Forum will be jointly funded by Council and the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Institute). The Institute will fund a return economy airfare and accommodation costs for the duration of the Forum. The cost to Council will be approximately \$250 and will cover meals and incidentals.
3. Councillor Le Liu participation in the New Year Music Festival and Trio Mundi Performance will be jointly funded by Council and the Sichuan National Music Development Association (Association). The Association will fund return economy airfare tickets, accommodation for the cities of Chengdu and Mianyang, Sichuan Province, China. The cost to Council will be approximately \$500 and will cover some meals and incidentals.

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.

Occupational Health and Safety

5. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade offers the following advisory statement in relation to travel to Malaysia and China

“Exercise normal safety precautions: Exercise common sense and look out for suspicious behaviour, as you would in Australia.”

6. Councillor Le Liu has noted the advice.

Relation to Council policy

7. 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.
8. Participation in the Forum provides the City of Melbourne with the opportunity of demonstrating leadership in strategy and policy in areas of climate change mitigation and development of the renewable energy sector.
9. Participation also provides the opportunity to foster global business relationships and investment attraction. It also supports the principles that underpin Council’s *Melbourne: Doing Business Globally*, which seeks to increase trade and investment opportunities for businesses from Council’s international activities.

Environmental sustainability

10. There are no environmental sustainability impacts associated with the recommendation in this report.
11. The purchase of carbon offsets reduced the carbon emissions impact of the flights,