

## Management report to Council

Agenda item 6.4

Council

### Proposed participation in the World Cities Summit, Singapore, June 2024

30 April 2024

**Presenter:** Mans Bassi, Chief Operating Officer

#### Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the Lord Mayor Sally Capp to travel to Singapore to participate and present at the 2024 World's Cities Summit (WCS) between 2 and 5 June 2024.
2. The Minister for National Development of Singapore, Desmond Lee, has invited the Lord Mayor to attend the 2024 WCS, themed "Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Rejuvenate, Reinvent, Reimagine". A copy of the letter of invitation is included as Attachment 2 of report from management.

#### Key issues

3. The biennial World Cities Summit (WCS) is an exclusive platform for government leaders and industry experts to address liveable and sustainable city challenges, share integrated urban solutions and forge new partnerships. The WCS has been held since 2008, is jointly organised by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority, and will be held in conjunction with the Asia Infrastructure Forum.
4. The Lord Mayor's presence at the WCS will provide a crucial opportunity to secure greater support for a number of City of Melbourne's (CoM) climate, sustainability and resilience projects, as well as include the following opportunities:
  - 4.1. Showcase Melbourne as an international leader in resilience and sustainability. This will involve delivering the keynote address at the 'Future of Liveability' session, participating in the C40 Mayoral Convening and speaking on a number of panel sessions.
  - 4.2. Promote key CoM projects in the space of climate change and resilience including Power Melbourne, Retrofit Melbourne, Urban Forest Strategy and our work to align the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to our Council plans and strategies.
  - 4.3. Advocate for, and better understand financing instruments for sustainable urban infrastructure.
  - 4.4. Promote Melbourne as an investment destination, and meet with philanthropic and commercial funders to explore opportunities for funding of CoM projects.
  - 4.5. Engage with city and national leaders from the Australasia, Asia Pacific region and globally to learn more about successful projects in their jurisdictions.
  - 4.6. Attend a convening of the Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize Alumni.
5. The Lord Mayor attended the WCS in 2022 and participated in a number of sessions with Ministers and city leaders. Insights included enhanced tree management systems, and ways technology can be used to manage rubbish and graffiti offences.
6. As the city's most senior officer, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Alison Leighton will accompany the Lord Mayor to WCS. This provides the CEO an opportunity to nurture existing and forge new relationships with other CEOs, mayors, business leaders and urban experts.

7. Participation in WCS supports the delivery of major initiatives within the CoM Council Plan 2021-2025 with specific connection to Major Initiative 28: Global leader on climate and biodiversity action.
8. The WCS organisers will cover the majority of costs associated with the Lord Mayor's travel. It is proposed that CoM provide an amount towards incidental costs.

**Recommendation from management**

9. That Council:
  - 9.1. Approves the Lord Mayor's proposed participation at the World Cities Summit to be held between 2 and 5 June 2024 at an estimated cost to Council of \$900
  - 9.2. Notes that a report will be prepared for the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from travel.

**Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 4)
2. Letter of invitation to Lord Mayor (Page 4 of 4)

**Supporting Attachment**

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**Finance**

1. The costs associated with travel proposed by the Lord Mayor will be jointly funded. The WCS organisers will cover the majority of costs including airfare, accommodation, registration and some incidentals. The CoM will provide \$900 towards incidental costs.
2. Costs will be met from the existing budget allocation.

**Conflict of interest**

3. The opportunity to visit Singapore at Council expense has the potential to benefit the Lord Mayor. Consequently, a material conflict of interest may exist. The outcome of the matter therefore has the potential to benefit the Lord Mayor in a pecuniary form. As such, section 128(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 would appear to be engaged.
4. The Chief Executive Officer who was involved in the preparation of this report has a conflict of interest requiring disclosure under Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Melbourne City Council.
5. In accordance with the Governance Rules, the Chief Executive Officer has provided written notice to the Lord Mayor disclosing the conflict of interest and explaining the nature of the conflict of interest.

**Health and Safety**

6. In travelling to Singapore, the Lord Mayor will adhere to, and be guided by, international health, safety and security measures including those identified by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

**Stakeholder Consultation**

7. No external stakeholder consultation was required in the development of this report.

**Relation to Council policy**

8. The Executive Officer Councillor Liaison has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Council Expenses Policy.
9. Participation at WCS is aligned to Council Plan 2021-2025 and major initiatives in the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Declaration.

**Environmental sustainability**

10. The carbon emissions resulting from air travel will be offset with the purchase of credits



MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTER-IN-CHARGE OF SOCIAL SERVICES INTEGRATION  
SINGAPORE

12 January 2024

The Right Honourable Sally Capp  
Lord Mayor, City of Melbourne  
Commonwealth of Australia

Dear Lord Mayor Capp,

### INVITATION TO THE WORLD CITIES SUMMIT 2024 IN SINGAPORE

It is my pleasure to invite you to the 9<sup>th</sup> World Cities Summit (WCS), to be held in Singapore at the Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre from **2 to 4 June 2024**.

2 WCS is a global platform for government leaders and industry experts to address liveable and sustainable city challenges, share integrated urban solutions and forge new partnerships. In its 9<sup>th</sup> edition since 2008, themed *"Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Rejuvenate, Reinvent, Reimagine"*, WCS 2024 will bring together mayors, business leaders and urban experts to discuss the opportunities and solutions to achieve smart, resilient and regenerative cities now and in the future, cities with heart that deliver on the good life for all.

3 WCS will also be a very good occasion to share the many achievements of Melbourne, and we propose for your consideration that you:

- i. speak at the WCS Mayors Forum;
- ii. speak at the WCS Plenary on Sustainable Financing of Cities; and
- iii. attend a convening for Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize (LKY WCP) Alumni.

4 Many global leaders and dignitaries have attended past editions of the WCS, including German Chancellor Olaf Scholz (as First Mayor and Prime Minister of Hamburg), and Ms Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) [as President, Municipal Council of Seberang Perai and Mayor of the City Council of Penang Island, Malaysia]. Collectively, they have enriched the community of practice and friendship amongst the city leaders.

5 Your valuable insights will enrich our discussions on how we can make our cities more liveable and sustainable. We will also be pleased to initiate liaison with your office on site visits and meetings with relevant agencies during your time in Singapore.

6 I would like to take the opportunity to convey my best wishes for 2024 and hope to host you in Singapore. My colleagues Ms Sherry Ng ([sherry\\_ng@mnd.gov.sg](mailto:sherry_ng@mnd.gov.sg)) and Ms Ruth Chong ([ruth\\_chong@mnd.gov.sg](mailto:ruth_chong@mnd.gov.sg)) are ready to answer any questions you may have and to follow-up on hospitality arrangements to support your participation. We look forward to hearing from you by **29 February 2024**.

Yours sincerely,

DESMOND LEE