

Notice of Motion, Cr Mayne: Improved disclosure for council subsidiaries

Motion

1. That Council, noting the significant steps in recent years to improve transparency and open government at City of Melbourne, believes that these same standards should now apply consistently across all wholly owned council subsidiaries, and accordingly resolves:
 - 1.1 Commencing with the 2015-16 annual reports for Queen Victoria Market and Citywide, requests each organisation prepare an annual report for adoption in open session at a Future Melbourne Committee or Council meeting before November 30, 2015, which includes:
 - 1.1.1 Material figures from the audited financial accounts, including profit and loss, balance sheet and cash flow statements but excluding detailed revenue, expenditure, divisional or geographic breakdowns if this is regarded as market or stake-holder sensitive;
 - 1.1.2 Senior executive remuneration disclosure comparable to Council's as appears on P76 of the 2013-14 City of Melbourne annual report for those executives with a Total Employment Package valued at more than \$250,000 per annum;
 - 1.1.3 Non-executive director profiles which include professional background, qualifications, age, date of appointment, duration of current board term, committee positions, total remuneration paid in the 2015-16 financial year and other directorships currently held.
 - 1.2 Once the annual reports have been adopted by council, they are to remain publically accessible on the subsidiary company's website into the future.

Background

City of Melbourne prides itself on being one of Australia's most open and transparent councils. This motion aims to bring disclosure practices at council's two major wholly owned (but independently managed) subsidies into line with council.

Council's major role in relation to the subsidiaries is to appoint directors, who in turn appoint the key executives. It is important to have maximum disclosure on the credentials and contractual arrangements with the key personnel responsible for stewardship at these two important subsidiaries.

Both are material operations in the context of council with Citywide's revenues comprising more than one third of council's total consolidated turnover, whilst the \$200 million-plus Queen Victoria Market renewal project will be the biggest capital investment in council's history.

Council has traditionally received detailed quarterly financial reports from its wholly-owned subsidiaries which are approved in confidential sessions at council meetings.

Citywide and QVM personnel also attend City of Melbourne's year end audit committee meeting where the annual financials are signed off.

Approving high level financial information in an annual report at open council will give the community better visibility into the performance and operations of these two important businesses.