

Management report to Council**Agenda item 6.5****Opportunity for international engagement****Council****31 May 2022****Presenter:** Justin Hanney, Chief Executive Officer**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the Lord Mayor to travel to Singapore to present at the World Cities Summit (WCS 2022) and ancillary meetings for the period 31 July to 4 August.
2. The Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC) has invited the Lord Mayor to attend the WCS 2022 and participate in the World Cities Summit Mayors Forum.
3. The Lord Mayor will participate in two key engagements, namely as a panellist on 'Cities facing extremes: How Do We Adapt' and deliver a presentation during the WCS Mayors Forum in her capacity as Deputy Chair of the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM), Australia. The Lord Mayor will also participate in two Plenary sessions with ministers and city leaders from across the globe on:
 - 3.1. Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Emerging Stronger
 - 3.2. Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Combating the Climate Crisis

Key issues

4. The Lord Mayor's participation will position Melbourne globally and facilitate opportunities for City of Melbourne to exchange knowledge and gain insight into world's best practice on creating liveable and sustainable cities. Participation in the WCS is aligned to Council Plan 2021-2025 and major initiatives in Council's Climate and Biodiversity Emergency declaration.
5. The Lord Mayor has also been invited by Indranee Rajah, Minister in the Singaporean Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for National Development, to participate in a Mayoral event.
6. The biennial WCS is a platform for government leaders and industry experts to address liveability and sustainability challenges, share integrated urban solutions and forge new partnerships. It is a flagship program of the globally recognised CLC.
7. The CLC was established in 2008 by the Ministry of National Development and the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, the CLC's mission is to distil, create and share knowledge on liveable and sustainable cities. It is recognised by governments and industry practitioners as leaders in knowledge and support needed to make our cities better. Singapore is renowned for its liveability and in 2022, Singapore cemented its 15 year reputation as the most liveable city in Asia.
8. An additional day of meetings is proposed for the Lord Mayor that will focus on Singapore's innovation and start-up ecosystem and city cleaning. These meetings will be beneficial for the following reasons:
 - 8.1. In the Start-up Blink Global Start-up Ecosystem Index, Singapore's start-up ecosystem is ranked 25th globally and Melbourne is 39th. Meetings will be sought to gain insight into initiatives to activate the start-up ecosystem and to facilitate connections between Melbourne and Singapore. This is directly aligned with Major Initiative 9 in the Council Plan. City of Melbourne plays a key role in supporting the city's innovation ecosystems, including emerging industries and knowledge sectors, and facilitating technology trials and international connectedness to enhance the city's resilience, global competitiveness and economic prosperity.
 - 8.2. City of Melbourne has increased activity and resourcing to tackle graffiti and street cleaning, to improve public spaces and ensure the city is sparkling as workers, students and visitors return. Singapore is one of the cleanest cities in the world and meetings are proposed on Singapore's graffiti removal and street cleaning programs

9. The cost of the Lord Mayor's travel will be jointly funded by the CCCLM, CLC and City of Melbourne. The estimated cost to City of Melbourne is \$5000.

Recommendation from management

10. That Council:
 - 10.1. Approves the Lord Mayor's proposed travel to Singapore to participate in the WCS 2022 and ancillary meetings between 31 July and 4 August.
 - 10.2. Approves an amount of \$5000 to cover part costs associated with the Lord Mayor's proposed travel.
 - 10.3. Notes that the Lord Mayor will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return from travel.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 3)

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. The costs associated with the Lord Mayor's travel will be jointly met by the CCCLM, CLC and City of Melbourne. This comprises the following:
 - 1.1. Airfare costs equally met by the CCCLM and City of Melbourne (City of Melbourne portion is \$2000)
 - 1.2. Accommodation costs jointly met by CLC and City of Melbourne (6 nights in total, City of Melbourne portion is two nights and estimated at \$600)
 - 1.3. Incidental costs for six days at approximately \$2400 being met by the City of Melbourne
2. This provides for an estimated cost to City of Melbourne of \$5000 and will be met from the existing budget allocation.

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. In developing this proposal, no occupational health and safety issues or opportunities have been identified.
5. In undertaking international travel, the Lord Mayor will adhere to and be guided by local and international health, safety and security measures including those identified by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Relation to Council policy

6. The Acting General Manager Andrew Wear, General Manager City Economy and Activation has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Council Expenses Policy
 - 6.1. Participation in the WCS is aligned to Council Plan 2021-2025 and major initiatives in Climate and Biodiversity Emergency.
 - 6.2. Ancillary meetings on Singapore's innovation and start-up ecosystems is aligned to major initiative 9 in Council Plan.

Environmental sustainability

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