

## Report to Council

Agenda item 7.2

### Post travel report by Councillor Richard Foster, participation in smoke-free outdoor forums, New Zealand, 9 to 12 February 2016

31 May 2016

**Presenter:** Councillor Richard Foster

#### Purpose and background

1. To report to Council on the travel undertaken by Councillor Foster to Wellington, New Zealand to participate in a series of forums promoting smoke-free outdoor area policies between 9 and 12 February 2016.
2. On 15 December 2015 Council approved Councillor Foster's proposal to travel to Wellington, New Zealand to participate in these forums.

#### Key issues

3. The New Zealand Government has set a goal that by 2025, less than five per cent of New Zealanders will be smokers. All councils in New Zealand are putting their 2015 – 2025 plans out for public consultation and smoke-free urban space is currently a much debated topic.
4. ASPIRE2025 is a partnership between major New Zealand research groups carrying out tobacco control research to achieve the New Zealand Government's goal. Councillor Foster was invited by the Department of Public Health, University of Otago and ASPIRE2025 to participate in the ASPIRE2025 Seminar 'Thinking big on Smoke-free Outdoor Areas'.
5. Following Councillor Foster's visit to Christchurch and Auckland in September 2015, the Heart Foundation, New Zealand also invited Councillor Foster to provide a keynote presentation at their Smoke-free Outdoor Urban Areas Forum to an audience of Councillors and council officers.
6. Councillor Foster also attended meetings with local Councillors, government representatives, hospitality businesses and the university and research sector to share and discuss the City of Melbourne's smoke-free experience. This discussion covered the strategies, cost and outcomes of implementing such initiatives and advocating the contribution of these programs towards a healthy community.
7. Councillor Foster was also a guest speaker at a number of forums and meetings. Attachment 2 provides a brief overview of the discussions held. These meetings provided participants with an insight into the value of stakeholders' engagement and feedback which was a feature in City of Melbourne's collaborative approach to responding to this issue. As per his earlier visit to New Zealand, Councillor Foster briefed officers on return from travel and shared key thoughts on policy discussions and contacts.

#### Recommendation from management

8. That Council notes:
  - 8.1. The report by Councillor Richard Foster on the visit to Wellington, New Zealand to deliver presentations, attend meetings with key representatives and discuss the strategies, approaches and outcomes of implementing smoke-free initiatives.
  - 8.2. That insights and contacts gained through meetings and other engagements outlined in Attachment 2 to this report have been shared with Council officers.

#### Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 5)
2. Key Meetings and Activities (Page 3 of 5)

## Supporting Attachment

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### Finance

1. The cost of participation in these forums was jointly funded with the Department of Public Health, University of Otago and the Heart Foundation. The Cancer Society funded economy airfares, accommodation for five nights and internal transfers.
2. The cost to Council is \$802.83 which covered the variation between economy and business class airfares.

### 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.

### Relation to Council policy

4. 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.
5. The concept of smoke-free environments is embedded in the Council Plan under the goal *A City for People*. The four-year priority provides that the Council will protect the community from passive smoking by expanding smoke-free areas.

### Environmental sustainability

6. The purchase of carbon offsets reduced the carbon emissions impact of the flights.

**KEY MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES****Background**

All Councils in New Zealand are putting their 2015 – 2025 plans out for public consultation. At the invitation of the Department of Public Health, University of Otago, Wellington and the Heart Foundation, New Zealand Councillor Foster participated in a number of meetings and presentations to share the evidence, learning and experience of the City of Melbourne Smoke-free initiatives.

<b>Tuesday 9 February</b>	Smoke-free Coalition	Dinner and engagement with Smoke-free Coalition executive members and regional executives. A meet and greet dinner was held to welcome Councillor Foster to Wellington and to brief him on the upcoming events, forums and meetings for the week.
<b>Wednesday 10 February</b>	Outdoor Urban Areas Forum, Convention Centre, Palmerston North - Keynote speaker Councillor Richard Foster.	<p>Attendees: Councillors and Council Policy Officers from six central New Zealand Councils, Dr Prudence Stone, Executive Director Smoke-free Coalition, Kerry Hocquard, Manawatu Cancer Society.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Councillor Lew Findlay, Palmerston North City Council</li> <li>▪ George Thomson, Public Health School Otago School of Medicine</li> <li>▪ The policy team at Palmerston North City Council</li> <li>▪ Councillor Richard Foster, City of Melbourne</li> </ul> <p>Palmerston North City Council have recently committed to requiring hospitality businesses to display smoke-free signage and not provide ash-trays as part of their permit conditions for outdoor dining, to be implemented in May 2016.</p> <p>Councillor Foster attended the public forum and presented on the progress of smoke-free Melbourne, sharing insights on details of policy, stakeholder management, overcoming resistance, communication strategies and results to date. A panel discussion was held following the presentations to address the questions and concerns of participants.</p>
	Meeting with Mayor Brendan Duffy, Horowhenua District Council and Councillors	Councillor Foster met with the Mayor of Horowhenua District Council and Councillors to share insight on the City of Melbourne's successful smoke-free experience and to discuss how the District may implement its own smoke-free initiatives. The Mayor was very supportive at the suggestion they could adopt the Melbourne smoke-free model in retail business areas of the CBD and believes it would be beneficial to his community and future smoke-free initiatives.

<p><b>Thursday 11 February</b></p>	<p>Smoke-free Urban Areas Symposium – Public Health Summer School.</p>	<p>Melbourne successes and planning for a smoke-free city: The vision and practicalities.</p> <p>Attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George Thomson, The Department of Public Health, University of Otago, Wellington.</li> <li>• Louise Marsh and Lindsay Robertson, University of Otago</li> <li>• Councillor Richard Foster, City of Melbourne</li> <li>• Councillors, health advocates, DHB and local authority staff.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Foster presented on the smoke-free areas journey and outcomes in inner city Melbourne. The Symposium was divided into four sessions and provided participants with an update on the growing evidence of the effectiveness of such policies in enabling successful quitting, and the experience of implementing new types of policies.</p> <p>The forum focussed on the increase in the types and size of smoke free outdoor areas detailed from a national and international state of play which included the success and benefits of various policy options, community engagement and consultation.</p> <p>Councillor Foster participated in panel discussions and answered questions about how smoke-free areas work, enforcement, communication and the level of success in inner city Melbourne.</p>
	<p>Meeting with the Hon. Peseta Sam Lotu-iiga, Minister of Local Government, Minister for Ethnic Communities, Minister for Pacific People and Associate Minister of Health.</p>	<p>The Minister was very positive about advancing further smoke-free initiatives in New Zealand, especially because of the disproportionate impact smoking and passive smoke has on ethnic and pacific islander communities. Whilst he was mindful that the New Zealand Government may be hesitant to agree to all of the suggestions of the Smoke-free Coalition, he was keen to understand more about how Melbourne has successfully progressed smoke-free zones, as well as the announced introduction by the Victorian State Government of state-wide smoke-free outdoor dining.</p>
	<p>Evening function at a local restaurant – hosted by the Smoke-free Coalition, New Zealand</p>	<p>An invitation was circulated to members, stakeholders and research communities to attend a meet and greet session with Councillor Foster. This was an informal gathering to encourage discussion about smoke-free outdoor areas, policy, and community engagement as an opportunity to bring the networks together.</p>

<b>Friday 12 February</b>	Meeting with Grant Robertson MP, Member for Wellington Central	Councillor Foster shared the Melbourne smoke-free experience, including the new State Government commitment to introduce state-wide outdoor smoke-free dining. They discussed how Councillor Foster might be able to support him in his efforts to lobby the New Zealand Government for increased action on smoke-free areas.
	ASPIRE 2025 Seminar – Thinking big on Smoke-free Outdoor Areas.	<p>Attendees: Wide range of academics and health sector representatives.</p> <p>ASPIRE2025 brings together leading tobacco-control researchers and health service groups in New Zealand and strengthens existing collaborations.</p> <p>Councillor Foster attended and participated in a general forum discussion which included sharing evidence with participants on the progress and highlights of creating smoke-free laneways and civic squares in Melbourne and the public response and business experience.</p>