

**Report to the Future Melbourne (Finance and Governance)  
Committee**

**Agenda item 6.6**

**Proposed travel, City of Sydney, July 2017**

**4 July 2017**

**Presenter:** Keith Williamson, Manager Governance and Legal

**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Councillors Rohan Leppert and Nicholas Reece to travel to Sydney as part of a two-day City of Melbourne study tour which will involve meetings with representatives from City of Sydney, State Government agencies and other organisations in areas associated with planning and development and creative industries.
2. The objective of the visit is to gain an insight into the lessons learnt by the City of Sydney in policy and approach which may then be applied to the further review work to be undertaken by the City of Melbourne in a number of related areas.
3. The areas of interest and proposed focus align with the portfolio responsibilities of Councillors, namely Councillor Reece as Chair Planning and Councillor Leppert as Deputy Chair Planning and Chair Arts, Culture and Heritage.

**Key issues**

4. Following the Central City Built Form Review (CCBFR), the adoption of Amendment C270 to the Melbourne Planning Scheme laid the foundation for improving public amenity by ensuring development enhances Melbourne's long-term liveability. This is particularly important as the City experiences rapid increase in quantity, density and scale of development.
5. The importance of this is recognised under the 2017-2021 Council Plan goal, *A City planning for growth* which identifies that the Council will work towards outcomes that demonstrate the City's built form as one which reflects high quality design, streetscapes and people-friendly environments. This builds on the 2016-17 Annual Plan initiative of considering CCBFR outcomes and opportunities for further City of Melbourne action to improve urban design standards.
6. The Council's 2017-2018 Annual Plan proposes a range of design policy review initiatives which seek to advance the objective of enhanced quality and amenity. In advance of this work, Council proposes to engage with the City of Sydney and other agencies to learn from their approach in the area of achieving design excellence in planning and development. Of particular interest is the competitive design processes prescribed in the *Sydney Development Control Plan 2012* and *City of Sydney Competitive Design Policy 2012*.
7. The study will also examine the City of Sydney's approach and support to creative industries. This will be informative as the City of Melbourne's Council Plan Goal, *A creative city* features an important 2017-2018 Annual Plan initiative of reviewing and improving the way support for the arts intersects with creative industries to contribute to creativity and prosperity.
8. Councillors Leppert and Reece will be meeting with counterparts and officers at the City of Sydney and other agencies involved in planning and development and creative industries. The Councillors will be accompanied by relevant Council officers.
9. The cost associated with Councillor Leppert and Reece's participation is estimated at \$1398.75 which includes airfare, accommodation and incidentals.

**Recommendation from management**

10. That the Future Melbourne Committee approves the proposed City of Sydney study tour to be undertaken by Councillors Leppert and Reece at an estimated cost of \$1398.75 per Councillor.

**Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment

## Supporting attachment

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### Legal

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

### Finance

2. The cost associated with participation by Councillors Leppert and Reece is estimated at \$1398.75 per Councillor. This includes airfare (\$755.65), accommodation for one night (\$290) and incidental costs (\$353.10).

### 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 objectives of the proposed study tour primarily align with initiatives contained under the following Goals;
  - 4.1. Goal 3 – A creative city
  - 4.2. Goal 8 – A city planning for growth

### Environmental sustainability

5. The carbon emission resulting from air travel to Sydney will be offset with the purchase of credits.