

Report to Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 6.8

Proposed travel by Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillor Rohan Leppert: Sydney, April 2021

20 April 2021

Presenter: Alison Leighton, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillor Rohan Leppert to participate in a two-day business mission to Sydney which will involve meetings with a series of councillors and senior officers from the City of Sydney and site tours of major urban development projects.
2. The Deputy Lord Mayor is Council's Lead, Planning portfolio and Deputy Lead Finance, Governance and Audit and Heritage portfolios.
3. Councillor Rohan Leppert is Council's Lead, Heritage portfolio and Deputy Lead, Planning and Sustainable Building portfolios.

Key issues

4. The objective of the mission is to learn from our counterparts in the City of Sydney and other agencies to enhance our knowledge and approach on the following topics:
 - 4.1. Achieving design excellence in planning and development
 - 4.2. Connecting open, green and recreation spaces to the community
 - 4.3. Successful implementation of major urban redevelopment projects and precincts
5. The Deputy Lord Mayor will be meeting with executive officers from the City of Sydney to understand the trends in finance and opportunities for revenue sustainability.
6. The mission will include in-depth conversations with senior officers from the City of Sydney regarding Sydney's COVID recovery plan and the impacts the pandemic has had in the CBD.
7. The Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillor Rohan Leppert will be accompanied by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Alison Leighton.
8. The cost to Council is estimated at \$1,714.64 per Councillor and covers the cost of airfares, accommodation, ground transportation and incidental expenses.

Recommendation

9. That the Future Melbourne Committee approves the Deputy Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece and Councillor Rohan Leppert's proposal to travel to Sydney in April to participate in a business mission at a cost to Council estimated at \$1,714.64 per Councillor.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 2)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

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

Finance

2. The cost associated with travel is estimated at \$1,714.64 per Councillor. This includes airfare (\$1,042.64), accommodation for two nights (\$372) and incidental costs (\$300).

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 material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Health and Safety

4. Councillors travelling to Canberra will undertake standard personal safety and awareness precautionary steps which apply to interstate travel including any COVID-19 restrictions current at the time of travel.

Relation to Council policy

5. The Deputy Chief Executive Alison Leighton has confirmed that the travel proposal accords with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Council Expenses Policy
6. The objectives of the proposed travel align with the Council Plan 2017-21, Goal: A City Planning for Growth.

Environmental sustainability

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