

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 6.6

Post travel report - World Cities Summit 2022

18 October 2022

Presenter: Evan Counsel, General Manager Strategy, Planning and Climate Change

Purpose and background

1. To report to the Future Melbourne Committee on the travel undertaken by the Lord Mayor to the World Cities Summit (WCS 2022) in Singapore for the period 31 July to 4 August.
2. On 31 May 2022, Council approved the proposal for the Lord Mayor to travel to Singapore for the period 31 July to 4 August to participate in the WCS 2022.

Key issues

3. The Lord Mayor's comprehensive program was anchored by the World Cities Summit (Summit) which is an exclusive platform for government leaders and industry experts to address liveable and sustainable city challenges.
4. This year was the first in-person Summit since 2018 as the cycle was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Participants were able to come together in a shared space where ideas, opinions and urban solutions could be shared openly and freely, connections were renewed and strengthened, and new contacts and partnerships could be forged.
5. Attendees to the Summit included:
 - 5.1. 72 senior delegates (Ministers, Mayors and City Leaders representing 56 countries & regions).
 - 5.2. Over 40 participating companies and government agencies in the Expo and at the City Innovators Stage.
 - 5.3. Over 2,500 delegates and trade visitors.
 - 5.4. 2,800 views on the Virtual Conference platform.
6. The Lord Mayor was invited to attend the Summit and give four keynote speeches to share best practice and promote investment in Melbourne priority projects. The key representation opportunities included:
 - 6.1. World Mayors Forum.
 - 6.2. Senior Leaders Roundtable.
 - 6.3. *Cities facing extremes: how do we adapt* plenary to discuss Melbourne's revitalisation.
 - 6.4. Geospatial to explain how Melbourne is using geospatial technology.
7. During the Summit the Lord Mayor met with a number of Ministers, Mayors and other stakeholders both formally and informally.
8. An overview of the key observations and outcomes is outlined as Attachment 2 to this report.
9. The costs associated with the Lord Mayor's participation were jointly funded by the Council (CoM), Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM) and Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC). Due to circumstances beyond the CoM's control, namely fluctuations in airfare and accommodation costs, this report seeks the Committee's approval to cover a variance amount of \$754.12.

Recommendation from management

10. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 10.1. notes the report summarising the key observations, lessons and benefits derived from the Lord Mayor's attendance at the World Cities Summit and ancillary meetings
 - 10.2. notes that the cost to City of Melbourne associated with the Lord Mayor's participation was \$6504.12 and approves coverage of the variance amount of \$754.12
 - 10.3. recognises the importance of participation in international fora and bilateral meetings to promote Melbourne and share best practice.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 6)
2. Overview of key observations and outcomes (Page 4 of 6)

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. The costs associated with travel by the Lord Mayor were funded jointly by CCCLM, CLC and CoM.
2. The cost to CoM total \$6504.12 and comprise:
 - 2.1. shared airfare costs with CCCLM (\$3051.41 being cost to CoM)
 - 2.2. shared accommodation costs with the CLC (\$3211.09 being cost to CoM)
 - 2.3. all incidental costs (\$241.62).
3. At the time of seeking approval, the estimated cost to CoM was \$5000. However, due to significant fluctuation in airfare and accommodation costs, the actual cost to CoM was \$6504.12. These circumstances were beyond the control of the CoM.
4. The Council Expenses Policy allows for a variance of 15 per cent between estimated and actual costs before being required to seek approval to cover additional expenditure. Accordingly, this report seeks approval for coverage of the variance amount of \$754.12.

Conflict of interest

5. 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.

Relation to Council policy

6. The Executive Officer Councillor Liaison has confirmed that the travel costs accord with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Council Expenses Policy.
7. Participation in the WCS 2022 and the ancillary program of meetings is aligned to Council Plan 2021-2025 and a number of Council's six strategic objectives including:
 - 7.1. Economy of the future.
 - 7.2. Melbourne's unique identity and place.
 - 7.3. Climate and biodiversity emergency.
 - 7.4. Access and affordability.
 - 7.5. Safety and wellbeing.

Environmental sustainability

8. The carbon emissions resulting from air travel to Singapore were offset with the purchase of credits.

World Cities Summit and ancillary meetings Singapore 31 July to 4 August, 2022

Overview of key observations and outcomes

1. World Cities Summit

Key learnings and outcomes of the sessions at the World Cities Summit included:

- 1.1. Cities are working to increase their green open space and improve their active transport options in order to improve liveability. Vienna was awarded the Lee Kuan Yew prize during the Summit.
- 1.2. The number of extreme weather events across the world will continue to increase due to climate change. Cities need to prepare for these events and build resilience.
- 1.3. Cities are often big emitters but they also have many levers to reduce emissions, which can also generate new jobs and investment.
- 1.4. Affordability is an increasing issue and governments at all levels need to do more to help reduce cost of living.
- 1.5. Maintaining cleanliness and amenity is a challenge across the world and a broad range of strategies are being used to keep cities clean including making it as easy as possible to report issues with new technology and systems and the involvement of volunteers to supplement contracted work.
- 1.6. Blended financing of infrastructure to build city resilience will be necessary to cater for future demands. Public, private, philanthropic and institutional sources all have an interest.
- 1.7. Sharing intelligence and resources assists in providing a global response to resilience issues, especially between richer and poorer countries.
- 1.8. Setting high level, ambitious goals attracts innovative companies and thinkers to work toward outcomes.
- 1.9. Digital twins assist in testing future outcomes of proposed actions, which can help avoid negative unintended consequences.
- 1.10. Monitoring and reporting is critical to drive change.
- 1.11. Confirmation that many of the goals, programs and actions City of Melbourne is pursuing, align with global objectives moving toward sustainability.



Image 1: The Lord Mayor with mayors, ministers and city leaders at the World Mayors Forum.



Image 2: The Lord Mayor addressing the World Mayors Forum.

2. Key meetings with dignitaries, officials and stakeholders

During the Summit the Lord Mayor met with a number of Ministers, Mayors and other stakeholders, both formally and informally. Formal bilateral meetings included:

- 2.1. Minister Sim Ann – Senior Minister for State for National Development, Foreign Affairs, Singapore.
- 2.2. Urban Redevelopment Authority - National urban planning authority of Singapore, a statutory board under the Ministry of National Development of the Government of Singapore.
- 2.3. Mayor of Christchurch – Lianne Dalziel.
- 2.4. Regional Director of C40 – C40 Cities is a global network of Mayors taking urgent action to confront the climate crisis and create a future where everyone can thrive.



Image 3: The Lord Mayor meeting with Minister Sim Ann.



Image 4: The Lord Mayor with the Mayor of Christchurch – Lianne Dalziel.

3. Meetings, site visits and events to promote Melbourne

The Lord Mayor also undertook a range of meetings, site visits and events outside of the World Cities Summit to promote investment in Melbourne. These included:

- 3.1. Hosting a group of Melbourne alumni at an event as part of the Melbourne Brunch Festival to promote investment in Melbourne.
- 3.2. Meeting with the Housing Development Board.
- 3.3. Keynote speaker at an Australia Chamber of Commerce event in Singapore to discuss Melbourne's revitalisation and economic growth.
- 3.4. Meeting with the Australian High Commissioner.



Image 5: The Lord Mayor with Australia's High Commissioner Will Hodgman.



Image 6: The Lord Mayor meeting with the housing development board.



Image 7: The Lord Mayor with Melbourne Alumni at the Melbourne Brunch Festival event.



Image 8: The Lord Mayor addressing the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Singapore.

4. Key learnings and outcomes from these engagements included:

- 4.1. Cities need to ensure there is affordable housing within cities, so that people with a broad range of occupations can live in cities including teachers and nurses.
- 4.2. There are a number of businesses who are looking to expand into Melbourne and officials from the City of Melbourne are now engaging with them following the Lord Mayor's meetings.