

Management report to Council

Agenda item 6.5

City of Melbourne C40 City Advisor

26 August 2014

Presenter: Krista Milne, Manager Sustainability

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to provide a grant to C40 Climate Leadership Group (C40) as a contribution to the employment of a City of Melbourne C40 City Advisor for two years.
2. C40 recently sought applications from member cities for C40 funded City Advisors that would be placed in cities to advance a specific sustainability project or initiative.
3. City of Melbourne (CoM) has received significant value from its membership in C40 since 2005, and in particular, C40 staff allocated to CoM during this period.
4. The allocation of C40 City Advisors is now done on a competitive basis per C40 sub-region. C40 has allocated funding for one City Adviser for C40's South East Asia and Oceania region.

Key issues

5. CoM submitted an application for a City Advisor to support Council's sustainable infrastructure development initiatives, specifically the Queen Victoria Market renewal and the City North Structure Plan (with a focus on the Melbourne University Carlton Connect Initiative and development).
6. CoM's application was one of two successful applications from the SE Asia Region. C40 offered both successful cities part funding (50 per cent) of the salary and associated costs, provided the City funds the other 50 per cent, valued at \$70,000 per year for two years.
7. This expenditure can be accommodated this financial year within the existing budget by:
 - 7.1. Aligning existing approved resources for sustainability initiatives at the Queen Victoria Market project with the C40 sustainability objectives; and
 - 7.2. Reallocating a small proportion of salary savings achieved from the City Planning and Infrastructure Divisional restructure in 2013–14 which was approved after the 2014-15 budget was developed.
8. The allocation required for 2015-16 requires council to pre-commit \$70,000 from the 2015-16 budget if the proposal is approved.
9. If approved, key deliverables for the City Advisor would include:
 - 9.1. Providing advice and project management for sustainability initiatives as part of the Queen Victoria Market renewal team.
 - 9.2. Identifying investment ready applied research to deliver on Melbourne's urban renewal priorities, in partnership with local researchers, including for example, through CoM's membership of the Low Carbon Living Cooperative Research Centre.
 - 9.3. Negotiating for energy efficiency and renewable energy infrastructure to be included in infrastructure and building designs in urban renewal precincts.

Recommendation from management

10. That Council:
 - 10.1. accepts the offer of a City of Melbourne C40 City Advisor and notes that a \$70,000 grant will be made to C40 from the existing budget for 2014–15 and pre-commits \$70,000 from the 2015-16 budget.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment
2. Correspondence: C40 Cities – Climate Leadership Group

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. The CoM C40 City Advisor would be employed by C40. A grant agreement will be negotiated with C40 to manage legal responsibility associated with the position.

Finance

2. Management proposes to fund this grant through reductions in salary budget allocated for these two initiatives. As such this expenditure can be accommodated from within the existing Financial Year 2014–15 budget.
3. This proposal requires a forward allocation of \$70,000 for Financial Year 2015–16.

Conflict of interest

4. 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.

Stakeholder consultation

5. No external stakeholder consultation has occurred in the development of the application.
6. Provided Council approves the grant, once employed, the City Advisor will consult with relevant stakeholders, including the Queen Victoria Market and University of Melbourne, in the project planning phase to inform prioritisation of projects and initiatives.

Relation to Council policy

7. The CoM C40 City Advisor will advance the following 2013–17 Council Plan four year priorities:
 - 7.1. support the provision of sustainable infrastructure as part of the urban renewal process
 - 7.2. update and continue to implement our Zero Net Emissions Strategy
 - 7.3. develop low carbon and renewable energy infrastructure through structure plans and planning approvals
 - 7.4. support the development of knowledge precincts and innovative hubs as part of the City North Structure Plan.

Environmental sustainability

8. The C40 City Adviser will directly contribute to reducing the environmental impact of Council assets through the identification of sustainability initiatives for the Queen Victoria Market urban renewal project. It will also support other city developers to achieve sustainable infrastructure delivery through its advisory role.



4 August 2014

C40 Chair: Mayor Eduardo Paes
Rio de Janeiro

C40 Board President: Michael R. Bloomberg
Former Mayor of New York City

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Mr Geoff Lawler and Ms Krista Milne

City of Melbourne
City Planning and Infrastructure Division
Town Hall, 90-120 Swanston Street
Melbourne, VIC, 3000, Australia

Dear Mr Lawler and Ms Milne

It is my pleasure to inform you and Melbourne City Council that your application for a C40 City Adviser has been favorably reviewed, and we are pleased to offer Melbourne the opportunity to host a City Adviser for a period of up to two years.

However, there were two applications from the Southeast Asia and Oceania region that were considered to be of equal merit, and consequently C40 has proposed that the funding for this post should be shared between these two cities. C40 is therefore proposing to offer to co-fund the salary of a City Adviser up to US \$45,000 per year (plus half of the additional costs commensurate with employing a person in Australia). Based on initial computations of additional costs given the proposed salary base and translating to local currency, the total approximate request for co-funding from the city would be AUD 70,000 per year.

We are eager to support Melbourne's sustainable urban development of Queen Victoria Market and Carlton Connect by providing a dedicated City Adviser, who will help to drive efforts on the ground, connect Melbourne to international best practices, and provide third-party perspective and expertise.

I would be grateful if you could notify Milag San Jose- Ballesteros, Regional Director for Southeast Asia and Oceania, or Jared Pruzan, City Adviser Programme Manager, whether Melbourne will be prepared to accept C40's offer. We will then be in a position to begin hiring this important member of staff.

On behalf of the C40 Chair Mayor Eduardo Paes, the C40 Executive Director Mark Watts, and the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, I congratulate you on Melbourne's selection and thank all of the city officials who participated in the application process.

We look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Austin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Austin
Director Initiatives, Regions and Events