

## Report to Council

Agenda item 7.4

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

15 December 2015

**Presenter:** Councillor Richard Foster

#### Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for Councillor Foster to participate in a series of forums in Wellington, New Zealand promoting smoke-free outdoor area policies between 9 and 12 February 2016.
2. The invitation to participate has been made by the Department of Public Health, University of Otago (University) and the ASPIRE2025 research group (ASPIRE2025),

#### Key issues

3. Following well received participation in the Cancer Society of New Zealand smoke-free forums in Auckland and Christchurch in September 2015, the University and ASPIRE2025 have invited Councillor Foster to participate in their promotion of smoke-free outdoor area policies at a series of events in Wellington.
4. ASPIRE2025 is a partnership between major New Zealand research groups carrying out tobacco control research to help achieve the Government's goal of a tobacco-free Aotearoa by 2025. It brings together leading tobacco-control researchers and health service groups in New Zealand and strengthens existing collaborations. ASPIRE2025 was awarded the status of a University of Otago Research Theme in November 2011. The Department of Public Health, University of Otago is a lead partner in this collaboration.
5. The objective of the visit by Councillor Foster is to further support the advancement of the smoke-free outdoor policies for different audiences. 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.
6. Councillor Foster has been invited to deliver a keynote presentation under the theme of 'Thinking big on smoke-free outdoor areas – Melbourne as an example of developing smoke-free lanes and streets: The processes involved, practical solutions and successes'.
7. As part of this visit, the University will be arranging various events with a target audience focussing on councillors, Local Government New Zealand staff and participants in the Public Health Summer School. A copy of the invitation and proposed program is included as Attachment 2.
8. The University proposes to cover the majority of expenses including an economy airfare, accommodation, meals and local transport. The cost to Council is estimated at \$800 being the variation between an economy and business class airfare.

#### Recommendation

9. That Council:
  - 9.1. approves the proposal by Councillor Richard Foster to participate in various smoke-free forums to be held in Wellington, New Zealand between 9 and 12 February 2016 at a cost of approximately \$800.
  - 9.2. notes that Councillor Foster will prepare a report to the Future Melbourne Committee or Council within 60 days of return.

#### Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment
2. Invitation and draft program , Department of Public Health, University of Otago

**Supporting Attachment**

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**Finance**

1. Participation in the smoke-free forums will be jointly funded by the University of Otago which will pay for economy airfares, accommodation, meals and local transport. The cost to Council is estimated at \$800 which provides for the variation between economy and business class airfares.

**Conflict of interest**

2. 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**

3. 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.
4. 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**

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



Councillor Richard Foster  
City of Melbourne

19 November 2015

Dear Councillor Foster,

The ASPIRE 2025 research group would like to invite you to a series of events in New Zealand promoting smokefree outdoor area policies, during February 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The principal events would be a meeting with regional local authority officials and councillors in Palmerston North on the 10<sup>th</sup>, a University of Otago Summer School day on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and a public seminar in Wellington on the 12<sup>th</sup> (see attached proposed program).

We are very much looking forward to having your expertise and experience in advancing smokefree outdoor policies available for the different audiences. Your contributions to the seminars in October at Christchurch and Auckland were very much appreciated by the organisations and audiences involved.

We would pay for all travelling expenses, including flights, hotels, meals and any taxis. While we will liaise with your Councillor Support Officer (Helena Campbell) regarding details, we assume that you will arrive in Wellington on Tuesday afternoon (9<sup>th</sup> February) and leave on Friday afternoon (12<sup>th</sup>).

Warm regards



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ASPIRE2025 Researchers for Tobacco-free Aotearoa <http://www.aspire2025.org.nz/>

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**DRAFT PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR VISIT BY COUNCILLOR FOSTER, 9 TO 12 FEBRUARY 2016**

Tuesday 9 February	Travel to New Zealand
Wednesday 10 February	Speaker at an ASPIRE2025 seminar aimed at the tobacco control sector, Councillors and Council staff.
Thursday 11 February	Presenting the keynote address at the University of Otago Public Health Summer School course, 'Smoke-free Urban areas'. Participation in various panels.  Participants would include councillors, local authority staff, health advocates and tobacco control researchers.
Friday 12 February	Meeting with a group of councils from central New Zealand at the behest of the Heart Foundation  Travel to Melbourne