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**REPORT 1**  
*(1215/11/IM)*

## **MAYORAL INVITATION TO VISIT HONG KONG IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2012**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

This report seeks Council approval for Mayor Wade-Brown to visit Hong Kong in late January and early February 2012. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government would cover all expenses associated with the invitation, including travel, food and accommodation. The World of Wearable Art will also make its debut at the Hong Kong Arts Festival on 28 January. There is a modest cost associated with the Mayor being in Hong Kong for this event debut.

### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Note that the Mayor has been invited to visit Hong Kong from 29 January - 4 February 2012 with all expenses to be paid by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government.*
3. *Note that the World of Wearable Art will make its debut at the Hong Kong Arts Festival on 28 January. Eight performances are scheduled.*
4. *Agree to the Mayor representing the city in Hong Kong from 27 January to 4 February.*
5. *Agree that the Mayor's costs for 27 and 28 January 2012 will be met by the International Relations budget.*
6. *Note that a detailed itinerary is currently being developed in association with relevant parties (see Appendix A).*
7. *Note that carbon offsets would be purchased for the Mayor's travel and these have been included in the estimated costs.*
8. *Note that a report-back will be presented to the appropriate Committee meeting in accordance with Council policy.*

### **3. Background**

#### **3.1. *Hong Kong Sponsored Visitors Programme***

The Mayor has been invited to take part in the Hong Kong Sponsored Visitors Programme from 29 January to 4 February 2012. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government will cover all expenses associated with the invitation, including travel, food and accommodation.

The purpose of the programme is to enable selected people from around the world to visit Hong Kong to be informed about the developments taking place, the opportunities Hong Kong offers, and the challenges it faces. The Mayor requested that this opportunity be timed to coincide with the World of Wearable Art (WOW) debut performance at the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

Other New Zealand participants in the 2011/2012 programme include Jon Mayson, Chairman of New Zealand Trade and Enterprise; Dr Robert Scollay, Director of the APEC Study Centre, Auckland University; and Maryan Street, Opposition Spokesperson on Trade.

The Hong Kong SAR Government will tailor the Mayor's programme in consultation with Wellington City Council and the New Zealand Consul-General to Hong Kong. The programme will comprise meetings, briefings and visits. The meetings will be with senior government officials and senior executives in the private sector.

#### **3.2. *World of Wearable Art***

The World of Wearable Art (WOW) is to perform internationally for the first time at the 2012 Hong Kong Arts Festival. The Arts Festival runs from 28 January to 8 March, with the WOW shows to be held from 28 January to 5 February 2012.

#### **3.3. *The Wellington – Hong Kong relationship***

The Wellington-Hong Kong relationship is based on digital technology and education cooperation, two areas of key strategic interest to Wellington.

In 2009 Mayor Prendergast addressed the Digital Entertainment Leadership Forum in Hong Kong and, on behalf of Council, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Digital Entertainment Creative and Business Collaboration with the NZ Institute of Screen Innovation, Cyberport Hong Kong, and the Internet Professional Association Hong Kong.

Wellington has established strong links with senior Hong Kong leaders. In 2009 Hong Kong Secretary for Development Carrie Lam visited Wellington as a guest of the government and met Mayor Prendergast to discuss urban development.

In 2010 Cyberport and the Wellington Institute of Technology (WelTec) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate in creative technologies. The

first step in collaboration is delivery of short courses in Hong Kong by WelTec's School of Creative Technologies. The first of the courses was successfully delivered this year. Planning has commenced to expand this programme in Hong Kong and Shanghai.

In July 2011 Mayor Wade-Brown led a business delegation to Hong Kong. The delegation met, among others:

- Cyberport Hong Kong on how it supports “start-up” digital companies located at the technology cluster
- Create Hong Kong on how Hong Kong plans to grow its creative digital sector
- Invest Hong Kong on Hong Kong’s strategy for attracting foreign direct investment
- ANZ Bank’s Head of Economic Research on the economic forecast for Greater China
- The Chairman of the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (HK) on potential cooperation between Wellington and Hong Kong.

#### **4. Discussion**

The Hong Kong Sponsored Visitors Programme provides Mayor Wade-Brown with an excellent opportunity to strengthen the Wellington-Hong Kong relationship and to learn about international best practice in a number of areas. Hong Kong is a key cultural and trading partner of New Zealand, recognised through the *New Zealand – Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership*.

The programme will also build on the connections Wellington has with government officials and business leaders. The connections will serve Wellingtonians looking to engage with Hong Kong in the business, education and creative digital sectors.

It provides an opportunity to tell the Wellington story and leverage off the WOW performance, showcase Wellington’s high-tech, arts and creative sectors. There will also be several opportunities for the Mayor to network and engage with key sectors, businesses and organisations on Wellington’s vision and priorities (e.g. economic development, digital strategy, arts and cultural strategy).

Hong Kong is a world leader in many fields, ranked highly for economic freedom, financial and economic competitiveness, quality of life, and human development. Hong Kong also has a world leading transportation network with a public transport use rate exceeding 90 percent. The visit to Hong Kong will enable Mayor Wade-Brown to learn about Hong Kong’s achievements, observe developments first-hand and consider how the knowledge gained might be usefully applied in Wellington.

#### **4.1. *Financial considerations - travel costs for the Mayor***

The estimated cost for the Mayor to travel to Hong Kong is \$1700. This would cover two night's accommodation, land transport and a daily allowance in accordance with Council policy, as well as emissions offset.

#### **4.2. *Climate change impacts and considerations***

The Mayor's travel would result in approximately 7.5 tonnes of CO2 emissions. The cost of offsetting these emissions is approximately \$74.50. This amount has been included in the estimated travel costs above.

### **5. Conclusion**

The visit provides the Mayor a great opportunity to build connections and learn best practice in Hong Kong, one of the most dynamic cities in the world.

Contact Officer: *Teena Pennington, Director Strategy, Planning and Urban Design.*

## **Supporting Information**

### **1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome**

*The recommendations in the paper are consistent with Council Policy – and in particular Council’s Wellington Towards 2040: Smart Capital, and the Draft Economic Development Strategy.*

### **2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long-term financial impact**

*No Financial Impact*

### **3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

*No direct implications for Treaty of Waitangi considerations.*

### **4) Decision-Making**

*This is not a significant decision.*

### **5) Consultation**

#### **a) General Consultation**

*None required*

#### **b) Consultation with Maori**

*None required*

### **6) Legal Implications**

*No legal implications.*

### **7) Consistency with existing policy**

*The recommendations in the report are consistent with existing policy.*

# APPENDIX A

## **Appendix A: Draft Programme for the Visit of Ms Celia Wade-Brown (26 January – 4 February 2012)**

### **26 January 2012, Thursday**

PM Depart New Zealand for Hong Kong

### **27 January 2012, Friday**

AM / PM Business meetings

### **28 January 2012, Saturday**

AM Business meetings

PM World of Wearable Art opening night

### **29 January 2012, Sunday**

AM Meeting with New Zealand Consul-General Robert Kaiwai

### **30 January 2012, Monday**

AM Meeting with Deputy Director of Information Services /  
representative

Meeting with Government Chief Information Officer /  
representative

*(on development of information and communications  
technology in Hong Kong)*

Noon Lunch hosted by Government Chief Information Officer /  
representative

PM Meeting with New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Hong  
Kong  
Meeting with Consul-General of New Zealand / representative

## **31 January 2012, Tuesday**

AM Meeting with Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs / representative  
*(on Basic Law and One Country Two Systems)*

Meeting with Commissioner for Innovation and Technology / representative  
*(on sustainable technology development in Hong Kong)*

Noon Free

Meeting with Secretary for Environment / representative  
*(on smart environment, sustainable development, environmental and conservational issues in Hong Kong)*

Visit to Cyberport

## **1 February 2012, Wednesday**

AM Meeting with Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption / representative  
*(on Hong Kong's anti-corruption policies and experience)*

Meeting with Head, Create Hong Kong / representative  
*(on development of creative industries in Hong Kong)*

Lunch/PM Free

## **2 February 2012, Thursday**

AM Meeting with Members, Legislative Council

Meeting with Chief Executive Officer, Mass Transit Railway Corporations / representative  
*(on Hong Kong's Light Rail system)*

Noon Free

PM Helicopter Briefing  
*(subject to the availability of flights)*

Meeting with Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development / representative

*(on bi-lateral trade between New Zealand and Hong Kong)*

Meeting with Executive Director, Hong Kong Trade Development Council / representative, followed by a tour of the Hong Kong SME Centre

Evening Attendance at a cultural performance or local group tour

### **3 February 2012, Friday**

AM Meeting with Head, Central Policy Unit / representative  
*(on ethnic minorities involvement in policy making)*

Meeting with Head, Efficiency Unit / representative

Lunch/PM Free

Meeting with Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury / representative  
*(on Hong Kong's position as an international financial centre)*

Meeting with Secretary for Justice / representative  
*(on Hong Kong's rule of law)*

### **4 February 2012, Saturday**

AM/PM Depart Hong Kong for New Zealand  
*(Flight details to be confirmed)*