
ELECTED MEMBER TRAVEL

1. Purpose of report

This report seeks the approval of the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee for elected member travel to represent the city.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Note that an invitation has been received from St Kilda's Football Club for the Mayor or an elected Wellington City Council representative, to attend a game and associated business networking forum in Melbourne in June 2014.*
3. *Note that the Mayor has received an invitation from the Mayor of Warsaw to attend the 70th anniversary commemorations of the Warsaw Uprising in Poland in August 2014.*
4. *Note that the Mayor is undertaking a private visit to Europe, and agree that the invitation to attend the Warsaw commemoration can be accepted at no cost to Council.*
5. *Note that the Mayor has a stopover in San Francisco as part of her private travel, and agree that this opportunity be used to represent the city.*
6. *Agree that the Deputy Mayor accepts the invitation on behalf of the Mayor to travel to Melbourne, the costs of such attendance to be met by St Kilda's Football club.*
7. *Note that attendance at these occasions will be reported back to this committee, consistent with Council Policy.*

3. Background

The Governance, Finance and Planning Committee has the delegation to approve the attendance, and associated costs, of Elected Officials representing the city at overseas events. This report seeks approval for the city to be represented at events in Melbourne, San Francisco and Poland at no cost to Council.

4. Discussion

4.1 Melbourne, Australia

St. Kilda's AFL Club have played "home games" at Wellington's Westpac Stadium on ANZAC Day in 2013 and 2014. There is an opportunity to use these games and the relationship with St Kilda's and the AFL to advance business and city-to-city networking opportunities with Melbourne.

St Kilda have issued an invitation for the Mayor, or an elected Wellington City Council representative, to attend an AFL game in Melbourne on 28 June 2014 and a high calibre business forum to advance economic growth possibilities between the two cities. The costs of attendance would be met by the St Kilda Football Club.

4.2 Warsaw, Poland

An invitation has been received from the Mayor of Warsaw for the Mayor to attend the 70th anniversary commemorations of the Warsaw Uprising. As the Mayor will be in Europe at this time as part of a private visit, the invitation can be accepted at no cost to Council. The City of Warsaw will meet the accommodation costs of the Mayor while she attends.

The Warsaw uprising commenced on 1 August 1944 with the aim of liberating the city from the occupying Nazi forces. It was eventually defeated two months later, amidst great suffering, destruction and loss of life. Nevertheless, it was a significant event during the final year of World War Two and one that is commemorated by Poles as an important step in the eventual liberation of their country.

There are a number of links between Wellington and Poland, including the Polish Children's Camp in Pahiatua. On 9 June 1943 the US transport ship *Hermitage*, carrying a group of 706 Polish refugees from Iran to Mexico, anchored for a short time in Wellington, the wife of the Polish Consul, Countess Maria Wodzicka, visited them and conceived an idea of bringing some of the other Polish orphans from Iran to New Zealand. This led to the establishment of a refugee camp that cared for Polish children during the Second World War and beyond.

4.3 San Francisco, USA

The Mayor will also have a stopover in San Francisco en route to Europe. Council's International Relations Policy (2013) commits Council to explore opportunities to strengthen institutional and agency connections between Wellington and the wider West Coast of the United States, and in particular, to pursue a relationship with San Francisco with a focus on supporting the digital and earthquake technology sectors. Potential opportunities for the Mayor to engage with these sectors during her stopover are being investigated by the International Relations team. Any meetings or work programme undertaken by the Mayor will be reported back to this committee.

5. Consultation and Engagement

No consultation or engagement is required.

6. Financial considerations

There are no significant financial considerations for the Mayor, or Deputy accepting these invitations.

7. Climate change impacts and considerations

There are no climate change considerations associated with accepting the recommendations in this report.

8. Long-term plan considerations

There are no LTP implications associated with accepting the recommendations in this report.

9. Conclusion

Opportunities to advance business and civic relations with Melbourne, Australia, Warsaw, Poland and San Francisco, USA have been received. It is recommended that Mayor and Deputy Mayor accept invitations and pursue these opportunities, noting there is no cost to Council.

Contact Officer: *John McGrath, Chief of Staff.*

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

The elected member travel recommended in this report will support the aims of Council's Economic Development Strategy and International Relations Policy.

2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

N/A.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty implications.

4) Decision-making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General consultation

No consultation was required for this report. The NZ Embassy in Poland will be informed of the Mayor's attendance in Warsaw.

b) Consultation with Maori

No consultation with Mana Whenua was required for this report.

6) Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7) Consistency with existing policy

The recommendations in this report are consistent with Council's Economic Development Strategy and International Relations Policy.