

Thursday 22nd June 2017

The Lord Mayor
City of Hobart
Town Hall
50 Macquarie Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Lord Mayor

REQUEST FOR ALDERMANIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In accordance with Council's policy titled *Aldermanic Development and Support*, specifically Section C which deals with Aldermanic Professional Development, I hereby seek your consideration and approval of the following request to undertake Professional Development. I seek the maximum allocation of \$10000 for this term noting that to date I have nil expenditure.

Details are:

Details of Professional Development Activity:	Description:
<p>My study application is commensurate with the current decision of the council to develop as part of good corporate governance a series of measurement of the International Program. This will be centred on discussions with our sister cities in terms of what can and should be aspired to in return for the city's investment in the visit program and two way cultural exchange .</p> <p>The intention is to conduct interviews to establish what our sister cities current thinking is in terms of how we might better operationalize the connection, what they want from the relationship e.g. frequency and seniority of delegations, economic, social and cultural achievements including educational research and student mobility.</p> <p>From this work it is intended to produce a framework for council guidance on future planning and wherever possible tools to evaluate in both qualitative [the primary underlying reasons, opinions and motivations –trends in such relationships city to city] and quantitative [producing data or statistics which can allow a robust</p>	<p><u>Xi'an</u></p> <p>The friendship city agreement with Xi'an was signed on March 29, 2015 in Xi'an. Along with this agreement was an action plan that sets out the nature of the relationship. A delegation from Xi'an was received by the City of Hobart in May 2016 after which communications ceased due largely to a change in personnel in Xi'an. Contact has recently been received from a new government officer in Xi'an and an invite has been extended to the City of Hobart to visit Xi'an in September to attend a round table meeting under the 'One Belt, One Road' initiative relating to trade and foreign relations. Xi'an has also suggested that they would like to visit Hobart this year.</p> <p>It is clear that the relationship with Xi'an has lost momentum and that now, with a new contact officer in Xi'an, it is an ideal time to reinvigorate this. There have been no visits to Xi'an for two years and no discussion of the action plan that underpins this relationship. With the Council resolution above, I believe the time is right to discuss the action plan with Xi'an and potentially re-shape the agreement in order to build in quantitative and qualitative</p>

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<p>assessment of the value of what we are doing, have been doing or intend to do in this area of council activity.</p>	<p>measures for both sides. I am proposing that I lead these conversations on behalf of the Council. The council may wish to send an officer on this visit.</p> <p><u>Yaizu</u> The civic relationship with Yaizu is now 40 years old and the Council is planning to visit Yaizu in August in conjunction with this. Although the relationship with Yaizu has undoubtedly stood the test of time, there is little in the way of formal agreement about the nature of the relationship and measures of success. Given the 40 year anniversary, I believe this presents the City of Hobart with a timely opportunity to discuss the nature of the relationship face to face. I propose that I include a study of the most optimal way the benefits of the relationship can be quantified, both in terms of quantitative [unit measurement by numbers and mathematical calculation]results against expenditure] and qualitative outcomes[based on written and spoken narratives of what has been or is capable of being achieved by these relationships</p> <p><u>Portland</u> The city of Portland in the United States has been suggested as a potential sister / friendship city to Hobart on a number of occasions and other aldermanic colleagues have a similar interest. Portland has a population similar to the size of Greater Hobart, is coastally located, has a strong scientific presence through Portland State University, has vibrant arts and cultural sector and a thriving premium cuisine scene (restaurants, wine, craft beers, farmer’s markets etc). Portland is also regarded as one of the US’s greenest cities with a sustainable transport system including light rail and bike paths, the highest rate of biking to work of any U.S. city and active initiatives such as a plastic bag ban. My request and a visit is centred on the governance project. Portland also has a novel model for sister city relations that requires the community to establish a non-profit organisation that pledge to ‘keep the relationship active’ which includes raising supporting funds of \$10,000. With the</p>

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	<p>aforementioned Council resolution to re-consider the way in which we measure the value of our international relationships, it would be an opportune moment to discuss how Portland measures and manages the value of its relationships. Please note that supporting sister city committees in Portland will be approached and meetings arranged to get valuable intelligence on how these essentially privately sponsored friendship city relationships work in reality and whether such a model might be capable of applying to the City of Hobart .</p> <p><u>Benefits to Council and the Community</u></p> <p>It is apparent that face to face contact is valued highly in a number of Asian countries. This study tour will enable meaningful conversations to take place with Hobart’s friendship / sister cities of Xi’an, Fuchou and Yaizu at opportune moments about what both sides are seeking to achieve from the relationship and how this can be measured. Robust consideration of the measurement of value from these relationships and concrete commitments to outcomes will be beneficial to the community who will have a clearer line of sight from actions i.e. delegation visits Yaizu, to outcomes i.e. 30 students visit Hobart from Yaizu and increase cultural awareness in local school as well as spend in the local economy.</p> <p>Discussions with Portland in areas where more advanced thinking is demonstrated (governance of international relationships and sustainable transport) will benefit the community as the knowledge will be brought back and will enrich discussion on two topics that are particularly relevant to Hobart currently.</p> <p>Given our southerly location and island state status, it is vital that we go out and explore the world for best practice and the establishment of relationships. Few people drop in to Tasmania on their way to somewhere else; we are not a prime location for ‘passing trade’. Given my involvement in the international relations sphere as an Alderman, as a former Lord Mayor and in my role with UTAS, I have the skills and the knowledge to lay the foundations for new relationships as well as enriching existing ones.</p>

Details of Professional Development Activity:	Description:
	Name of activity: Visits ,discussions , collection of data and evidence
Between June [planning] and December2017	
Location of the activity:	Portland and Xi'an with communication with Yaizu and Fuchou
Cost of activity: (Cost should be all inclusive of registration, travel, accommodation, e.t.c)	10000
Please describe how participation in this activity will increase your capacity to perform your Aldermanic role, maintain and/or improve your skills or stay in touch with issues relevant to the Council.	The issue of value is central to any council activity and of interest to me is the governance aspect of evaluating value for activity and the expenditure of funds to support. I am not aware of any similar study on the point but believe that the Australian practice is most divergent on the maintenance of sister/friendship agreements. I hope that the work which will take a degree of time will assist this and future councils to plan and maintain the network and produce demonstrable public benefit .

I declare that the Aldermanic Professional Development of which I seek approval accords with the Council's policy provisions for professional development as per Section C of the Policy.

I also confirm that I will comply with the following requirements under the Council's policy.

Within 30 days of completion of the professional development activity I will provide a report in the following format:

- *Name and date of event;*
- *Brief overview of the event;*
- *Brief summary of the event; and*
- *Details of any outcomes which may be applied to the City of Hobart, if applicable.*

The report may be presented:

- *verbally to the relevant Council committee;*
- *in writing to the relevant committee;*
- *in writing and placed in the Aldermen's Lounge for information.*

Reconciliation of expenses:

Where I have arranged and paid for approved professional development activity, I will submit a reconciliation of all expenditure incurred in attending the activity, within 60 days of my return, except the airfares which I will seek reimbursement for before I leave.

The reconciliation will be in accordance with the requirements of the policy in that full documentation of expenses claimed including tax invoices and receipts will accompany my reconciliation.

Yours sincerely



ALDERMAN THOMAS

Professional Development Approval Form

Application sighted by the Lord Mayor:	Signed: <u><i>Sue Hickey</i></u> Lord Mayor Alderman Sue Hickey Date: _____
Application meets the guidelines as stipulated in the Council Policy:	Yes / No
The General Manager has confirmed the availability of funds from the Alderman's professional development allocation:	Current Balance of Funds: \$ Date: _____
Application Approved/Not Approved By the Lord Mayor:	Approved / Not Approved
Alderman notified in writing of the outcome: Copy of correspondence attached	Confirmed in writing on Date: _____ By: _____