



CITY OF HOBART

AGENDA

Special Economic Development & Communications Committee Meeting

Open Portion

Monday, 22 July 2019

at 4:45 pm

Lady Osborne Room, Town Hall

THE MISSION

Working together to make Hobart a better place for the community.

THE VALUES

The Council is:

about people	We value people – our community, our customers and colleagues.
professional	We take pride in our work.
enterprising	We look for ways to create value.
responsive	We're accessible and focused on service.
inclusive	We respect diversity in people and ideas.
making a difference	We recognise that everything we do shapes Hobart's future.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Business listed on the agenda is to be conducted in the order in which it is set out, unless the committee by simple majority determines otherwise.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- 1. CO-OPTION OF A COMMITTEE MEMBER IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY 4**
- 2. INDICATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST 4**
- 3. TRANSFER OF AGENDA ITEMS..... 4**
- 4. REPORTS 5**
 - 4.1 Invitation to Visit Friendship City of Xi'an..... 5

Special Economic Development & Communications Committee Meeting (Open Portion) held Monday, 22 July 2019 at 4:45 pm in the Lady Osborne Room, Town Hall.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Thomas (Chairman)
Zucco
Sexton
Dutta
Ewin

Apologies:

Leave of Absence:

NON-MEMBERS

Lord Mayor Reynolds
Deputy Lord Mayor Burnet
Briscoe
Denison
Harvey
Behrakis
Sherlock

1. CO-OPTION OF A COMMITTEE MEMBER IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY

2. INDICATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Ref: Part 2, Regulation 8(7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

Members of the committee are requested to indicate where they may have any pecuniary or conflict of interest in respect to any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which the committee has resolved to deal with.

3. TRANSFER OF AGENDA ITEMS

Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

A committee may close a part of a meeting to the public where a matter to be discussed falls within 15(2) of the above regulations.

In the event that the committee transfer an item to the closed portion, the reasons for doing so should be stated.

Are there any items which should be transferred from this agenda to the closed portion of the agenda, or from the closed to the open portion of the agenda?

4. REPORTS

4.1 Invitation to Visit Friendship City of Xi'an File Ref: F19/96104

Memorandum of the Economic Development Project Officer and the Director Community Life of 19 July 2019 and attachment.

Delegation: Council



City of **HOBART**

MEMORANDUM: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Invitation to Visit Friendship City of Xi'an

This memorandum relates to a potential international delegation to visit Hobart's friendship cities of Xi'an and Fuzhou in China in September 2019. A number of events and circumstances have coincided in both Xi'an and Fuzhou which will create strong outcomes for Hobart should representatives of the city attend. These include relationship building, information sharing, increased knowledge on the 'One Belt One Road' initiative, supporting a Hobart based sports club and discussing the future of the Xi'an relationship.

Invitation from Xi'an

The Lord Mayor on 08 July 2019 received an invitation to attend the 2019 Euro-Asia Economic Forum from 9-12 September (**Attachment A**) in Xi'an. Hobart has been invited to attend the economic forum because of its status as a friendship city to Xi'an. Attendance at the forum constitutes a friendship city activity. The forum is a platform for discussion of President Xi Jinping's economic focus – 'One Belt One Road' which he launched in 2013.

One Belt One Road (OBOR)

According to the [Parliament of Australia](#) OBOR is a 'Chinese economic and strategic agenda by which the two ends of Eurasia, as well as Africa and Oceania are being more closely tied along two routes – one overland and one maritime.' Hobart has a strong strategic position with respect to the overland and maritime silk roads as Xi'an is the start of the former and Fuzhou the start of the latter. Both of these Chinese cities are friendship cities of Hobart.

Economic Forum 2017

Alderman Thomas as part of his professional development program and one officer attended the forum and discussions in 2017. This forum was established in 2005 and has been staged every two years since. In 2017 1,000 people attended from around the world, with the most senior being one of only four Vice Premiers of China.

Discussions with other international cities

As an extension of the forum, a roundtable discussion was held for international partners. Alderman Thomas represented Hobart at this roundtable and was able to share information about the city to an international audience including other friendship cities of Xi'an - Kansas City (USA), Kragujevac (Serbia), Pompeii (Italy), Umea (Sweden), Istanbul (Turkey), Kagawa-Ken (Japan) and San Jose (Uruguay).

Attending Xi'an at this time provided an opportunity to forge face to face relationships with Xi'an officers and have a number of discussions with some of Xi'an's other friendship cities. Discussions included what projects other cities were working on with Xi'an, how often they visited each other / were in contact and how they measure the value of their relationships. Contacts made in 2017 are still proving useful to the City of Hobart in the international relations space.

Should a delegation visit Xi'an in September, this would be valuable in terms of learning more about Xi'an, the OBOR economic strategy and Xi'an's activities in other international relationships. This would be in line with the City's International Relations Action Plan (IRAP) stating that visits to friendship cities should be conducted every two years. Except for the forum in 2017, the last visit to Xi'an by a delegation from Hobart was 2015 to sign the friendship agreement.

Friendship City Discussions with Xi'an

It is also proposed that representatives of Hobart take this opportunity to travel to Xi'an to discuss the future of the relationship. The friendship city agreement was signed on 29 March 2015. Wording in the agreement states that it will be valid for five years and upon its expiration it will be reviewed by both sides. It is proposed that the City initiates discussions about the future of the relationship ahead of March 2020.

The Hobart – Xi'an connection has significant potential. Xi'an has a 3,000 year history, is the cultural capital of China and has a number of highly ranked educational institutions including the Xi'an University of Science and Technology and the Xi'an Conservatorium of Music which are connected to UTAS. It is felt however that this potential has not been reached and that officer to officer contact between the two cities and concrete projects beyond school and university links have been limited. Should the relationship be extended beyond 2020, more activity would be necessary.

Fuzhou

It is prudent when visiting one friendship city in China to visit the other as this saves the economic and environmental cost of long-haul travel. By chance, on 13 and 14 September Fuzhou is staging an international youth soccer tournament for its friendship cities. At this stage a team from Brazil, Japan, Hobart and Fuzhou are competing, with Hobart represented by a boys' under 15 team from South Hobart Football Club. Attendance by elected members from the City would increase the profile of the tournament and be a strong indication to Fuzhou of the value Hobart places on the relationship (which to date has been very active). It is likely that elected members would have an opportunity to visit key sites in the city and meet with the Fuzhou Government to discuss the relationship.

Costs

Elected members will be aware of section G of Council's Elected Member Development and Support Policy that states:

"Individual elected members may elect to participate in Council funded and approved international city relationship delegations, up to a maximum budget allocation of \$6,000, during their four-year term of office."

Should elected members seek nomination for this visit to Xi'an and Fuzhou, all costs associated with the visit will be deducted from their individual allocation of \$6,000.

Accommodation is budgeted at \$300 per person per night. It is estimated that the visit would be for 8 nights. Total accommodation = \$2,400.

A flight to Xi'an, an internal flight to Fuzhou and a return from Fuzhou economy class departing around Saturday 7 September and returning on Sunday 15 September will cost approximately \$2,000.

Other costs include elected member allowance \$40 p/d = 40 x 8 = \$320.

Meal budget \$25 p/d = 25 x 8 = \$200.

Transport = \$100.

Visa = \$235.

Total estimated cost of the visit per elected member is **\$5,255** and would be funded from the International Relationships line item within the Elected Member Allowance and Expense function of the 2019-20 Annual Plan. A total of \$36,000 is available in the budget.

RECOMMENDATION

- That:**
- 1. That the estimated costs of \$5,255 per elected member to travel to Xi'an and Fuzhou be noted.**
 - 2. Council seeks nominations for elected members to travel to Hobart's friendship cities of Xi'an and Fuzhou in September 2019.**
 - 3. The General Manager and /or his nominee also attend.**

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



Lucy Knott
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
OFFICER**



Tim Short
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY LIFE

Date: 19 July 2019
File Reference: F19/96104

Attachment A: Invitation - Xi'an Foreign Affairs Office - 2019 Euro-Asia Economic ↴

Dear Lord Mayor Councillor of Hobart City,
Ms. Anna Reynolds,

2019 Euro-Asia Economic Forum is scheduled to be held in Xi'an on September 9th-12th, 2019 under the theme of "co-building 'the Belt and Road' for high-level cooperation and high-quality development". This Forum is dedicated to strengthen pragmatic cooperation through all-round and multilevel in-depth dialogues, involving countries, local governments, international organizations and large enterprises.

In order to give full play to the role of the exchange and conversation of the Forum, the 7th International Joint Conference for Cities along the Silk Road Economic Belt will be held by Xi'an Municipal People's Government as part of 2019 Euro-Asia Economic Forum, aiming to enhance connectivity and realize win-win cooperation.

We cordially invite you and other 2 representatives from the City of Hobart to participate in this conference due to your strong support for the cooperation between the two cities. During the conference, the ideas about future cooperation and development between Xi'an and other international sister cities will be widely discussed. We are sincerely looking forward to your viewpoints and suggestions.

All the cost of your delegation in Xi'an will be taken over by us.

If you would like to take part in, please give us the feedback before July 26th, 2019 .

Sincerely yours

Director-general Qiang Sheng
Xi'an Foreign Affairs Office

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