

ITEM 4. GRANT – CITY OF SYDNEY C40 CITY ADVISOR**FILE NO: S123538****SUMMARY**

The City of Sydney is a founding member of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40), which was established in 2005 as a network of large cities taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while addressing climate risks and impacts.

C40 recently sought applications from member cities for C40 funded City Advisors to advance specific sustainability projects and initiatives.

The City of Sydney submitted an application and was one of two successful cities in the South East Asia and Oceania region. C40 has offered approximately half funding of the salary and associated costs for a City of Sydney C40 City Advisor, provided the City funds the remaining costs over two years.

The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group will publicly advertise the position and manage the recruitment process. The C40 City Advisor will be located in the City of Sydney offices.

The C40 City Advisor will be involved in the development of environmental sustainability plans focussed on business and the community. The Advisor will also provide key input into the development of the City's overarching Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

In accordance with the City's Grants and Sponsorships Policy, applications for sponsorship are considered by Council on an ad-hoc basis and Council may approve grants and sponsorships outside the Policy as it sees fit.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council accept the offer from C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) to host a C40 employed City of Sydney C40 City Advisor for up to two years, to develop a suite of targeted environmental sustainability plans focussed on business and the community as detailed in the subject report;
- (B) Council note that C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group Inc are making a contribution of up to approximately \$164,000 to appoint the City Advisor;
- (C) Council approve making a grant of up to \$166,000 in direct funds and a value in-kind contribution of up to \$30,000 (City to host the position) to C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group Inc to activate the offer; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer a grant agreement with C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group Inc for the co-funding and hosting of the C40 employed City Advisor position, on terms acceptable to the City.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Advice of successful application for C40 Sydney City Advisor

BACKGROUND

1. The City of Sydney is a founding member of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40), which was established in 2005 as a network of large cities to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while addressing climate risks and impacts.
2. The City is currently involved in eight C40 Networks and has benefited significantly from the opportunities for leadership, knowledge provision and exchange and support associated with membership of these networks and the C40 group.
3. C40 recently sought applications from member cities for C40 funded City Advisors to be placed in cities to advance specific sustainability projects and initiatives. The C40 City Advisor program presents the opportunity to host a C40 employed staff member to help drive efforts on the ground, connect to international best practices, and provide third-party perspective and expertise.
4. Earlier this year, the City of Sydney submitted an application for this position as a member of the C40 South East Asia and Oceania region in order to accelerate development of a suite of targeted environmental sustainability plans focussed on business and the community.
5. These plans will help inform Council as to the most effective and efficient actions that can be taken to achieve the environmental targets of Sustainable Sydney 2030, particularly Objective 2.4 - City residents, businesses, building owners, workers and visitors improve their environmental performance.
6. The City of Sydney and the City of Melbourne were two cities in the region that were successful in their applications.
7. The offer of a C40 City Advisor is a unique opportunity for Sydney and can only be provided by C40.
8. On 1 August 2014, C40 offered both successful cities part-funding (50 per cent) of the City Advisor salary and associated costs, provided they each fund the remaining 50 per cent over two years. Since that time, the offer has been revised to allow the salary of the position to be commensurate with local employment rates. The current offer provided by C40 would see the City pay slightly more than 50 per cent of total funding as outlined in the 'Budget Implication' section of this report.
9. The City of Melbourne Council has endorsed a co-contribution to funding their City Advisor position. Co-contribution from the City of Sydney is now sought.
10. The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group will publicly advertise the position and coordinate the recruitment process. Sydney City Advisor candidate applications will be shortlisted by C40, with interviews being undertaken by a panel of representatives from C40 and the City of Sydney.
11. The C40 City Advisor will be recruited and managed by Milag San Jose-Ballesteros, C40 Regional Director for Southeast Asia and Oceania, with the successful candidate located in the City of Sydney offices at Town Hall House. Pending Council acceptance of this offer, it is anticipated that the Advisor will commence work in late December 2014.

12. The City has commenced development of environmental sector sustainability plans, with the residential apartment sector being the initial focus. Key deliverables for the City Advisor will be the development of a further five sector sustainability plans.
13. In parallel, an overarching Environmental Sustainability Strategy will be developed to integrate the key outcomes from these sector plans and the City's suite of Master Plans. The C40 Advisor will also provide input into this process. These are key actions toward fulfilling Objective 2.4 of Sustainable Sydney 2030.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

14. *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is a vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. The part-funding of this position is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 1 - A Globally Competitive and Innovative City – the City Advisor will connect Sydney to international best practices through the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and provide a unique opportunity to showcase the work the City is doing to an international audience.
 - (b) Direction 2 provides a road map for the City to become A Leading Environmental Performer – the City Advisor will be involved in the production of environmental sustainability strategies and plans that will explore opportunities for sector transformation within the City of Sydney Local Government Area (LGA) through development of sustainability opportunities and case studies, implementation guidance, and measurement and verification of outcomes and savings. The plans will also outline possible advocacy opportunities.
 - (c) Direction 9 - Sustainable Development, Renewal and Design – energy used by buildings in Sydney is the primary contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Opportunities to implement sustainability strategies such as energy efficiency measures, major refurbishments and renewal areas are critical for achieving the City's energy and emissions targets.
 - (d) Direction 10 - Implementation through Effective Governance and Partnerships – the City cannot meet the ambitious targets of Sustainable Sydney 2030 alone. The Sustainability Sector Strategies to be developed by the City Advisor provide a key opportunity for the City to partner with stakeholders to implement programs and initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the LGA. They also provide an opportunity to showcase the City's own vision, programs and initiatives.

Organisational Impact

15. This position provides a unique opportunity for the City to benefit from a partnership with C40 in the provision of a resource to assist in the production of sustainability sector strategies.

16. Sector plan development is a key part of the City's strategic framework for delivering on its environmental commitments in Sustainable Sydney 2030. The environmental sector plans would have been developed in-house and with the assistance of an external consultant. The offer of a co-funded position to undertake this work is a cost and resource effective way of delivering these plans.

Risks

17. To mitigate any potential risks associated with management of the position, the successful candidate will report on a day-to-day basis to the Sustainability Director. Any staffing related concerns will be managed by the City and C40 in partnership. The candidate will be expected to comply with all standard City of Sydney employment conditions.

Social / Cultural / Community

18. The environmental sustainability sector plans provide an opportunity for the City to work with key stakeholders to develop programs and initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance liveability and reduce costs for businesses and tenants across the City LGA.

Environmental

19. The C40 City Advisor will directly contribute to reducing the environmental impact of the City LGA through the development of environmental sustainability sector plans.

Economic

20. The development by the C40 City Advisor of environmental sustainability sector plans will identify opportunities for cost savings and cost effective investments for businesses and tenants across the City LGA. The associated programs and initiatives will provide opportunities to investigate and implement clean technology solutions and increase investment in this fast growing industry.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

21. C40 is making a contribution of up to approximately \$164,000 to appoint the City Advisor, and the City will provide a co-funding contribution to C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group Inc of up to \$166,000 in direct funds and up to \$30,000 value in-kind (desk, phone, IT, support and training) to host this C40 employed staff member over two years.
22. The City's contribution is slightly more than half of the total cost for the position in recognition of higher local market rates to engage a person of sufficient qualification and experience to deliver the stated objectives. This extra funding by the City is provided predominantly via value in-kind through hosting the position at Town Hall House.
23. The City's 2014/15 contribution of grant funds (approximately \$42,000) will come from existing operational budgets. The remaining funds will be required to come from future year's Council budgets.

24. If this C40 offer to host a C40 City Advisor was not made, the development of these works would have to be fully funded by the City. As C40 will be contributing funding to host the C40 City Advisor, this in effect nearly halves the cost to deliver sector strategies and hence provides significant value for money for the City.
25. The C40 Cities Group is an international organisation and the GST requirements for the City's contribution are currently unresolved. If GST is payable, it will amount to 10 per cent of the total cash and value in-kind contributions. The City of Sydney would be able to reclaim the amount back from the Tax Office as an input credit on business undertakings.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

26. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

27. Whilst there are no critical dates associated with this request, the Sustainability Strategy and Sustainability Programs teams are keen to progress recruitment and appointment of this position as soon as possible, with a view to the successful candidate commencing in the role in December 2014.

KIM WOODBURY

Chief Operating Officer

Chris Derksema, Sustainability Director

Kirsten Woodward, Manager Environmental Projects