

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X014468 **DATE:** 16 August 2019

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 6.5 – International Travel – 2019 Smart China Expo, Chongqing and 2019 Seoul Friendship Festival

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Purpose

This memo provides further information in relation to alignment of the proposed overseas travel with the Code of Conduct (the "Code") and information about the smart technologies and benefits to the City that will be discussed at the roundtable session.

Background

At the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on 12 August 2019, Councillors asked whether the proposed travel arrangements were in accordance with the Code and for further information on the smart technologies and benefits to the City that will be discussed at the roundtable session.

Code of Conduct Requirements

The Chief Executive Officer contacted the Office of Local Government ("OLG") in response to this request and provided the background to the request. An officer of the OLG confirmed that any travel to a conference or similar event as part of the official duties of a councillor does not constitute a gift or benefit.

Under the Code clause 6.2(c), references to gifts and benefits exclude "attendance by a council official at a work-related event or function for the purposes of performing their official duties". Examples provided to the City as to what constitutes official duties include making a speech, accepting an award and/or participating in a special event as a member of an official party. It is also noted that under clause 6.1 of the code a gift or benefit is something offered or received for the council official's personal use and enjoyment.

The OLG has previously advised that further guidance material in relation to the Code has been prepared and will shortly be released. We have been waiting for this further guidance for several weeks now. The Chief Executive Officer has written to the Deputy Secretary, Local Government, Planning and Policy to request that this guidance be provided as a matter of urgency.

Roundtable Session

Councillor Kok has advised he will discuss and promote the actions the City is taking to utilise smart technologies and will report on these discussions in his report to Council following the trip.

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.M. Barone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**MONICA BARONE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER**