

Outbound Travel to George Town, Penang

Tuesday, 14 May 2024
Council

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Program Contact:
Michael Sedgman, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Public

Approving Officer:
Michael Sedgman, Acting Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In December 2023, the City of Adelaide (CoA) hosted 30 delegates from the City Council of Penang Island (CCPI). The delegation travelled to Adelaide and spent seven nights as part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Adelaide and George Town.

In July 2023 the Lord Mayor, Dr Jane Lomax-Smith, received an invitation from CCPI Mayor Dato Ir. Rajendran P. Anthony to visit Penang in late April 2024. Subsequent correspondence indicated travel would only be possible in the second half of 2024. Following this an updated invitation was received, which includes advice on events that the CCPI Mayor has committed to.

This report proposes that the Lord Mayor travel to Penang for four nights, from 7 to 11 August 2024. These dates coincide with Penang hosting the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing & Urban Development. Alternate dates in August, or later into the year may also be considered.

Stakeholders who have indicated their interest in joining the Lord Mayor will be invited to attend as part of a delegation, at their own expense. The Office of the Lord Mayor will liaise with interested parties and coordinate with the support of the International Relations team at the City Council of Penang Island.

An outbound visit from Adelaide to George Town and Penang will provide the opportunity to deepen the sister city relationship with George Town, and reciprocate the enthusiasm shown for collaboration shown by the December 2023 inbound delegation.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the invitation to the Lord Mayor to visit Penang Island as contained in Attachment A to Item 9.2 on the Agenda for the meeting of Council held on 14 May 2024.
 2. Approves the Lord Mayor's travel to Penang, Malaysia in August 2024 and the associated costs as contained within this report.
 3. Notes an itinerary for travel will be developed by the City Council of Penang Island, in conjunction with the Office of the Lord Mayor, which may include attendance at the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing & Urban Development.
 4. Notes that Councillors _____ have expressed their interest to join the delegation as stakeholders at their own expense.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Community Celebrate and honour community and cultures.
Policy	Not as a result of this report
Consultation	Ongoing discussion with the City Council of Penang Island, along with other interested stakeholders who wish to coordinate their travel arrangements to join for part of the City of Adelaide itinerary plan.
Resource	Subject to Council approval, the Acting Chief Executive Officer (A/CEO) will determine the appropriate support required from Administration. Travel, accommodation and associated costs for the Lord Mayor and staff are estimated at \$2,500 - \$4,000 per person, plus sundry expenses. The costs for this visit will be managed within existing budgets.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	An outbound visit from Adelaide to George Town and Penang will provide the opportunity to deepen the sister city relationship with George Town, and reciprocate the enthusiasm shown for collaboration shown by the December 2023 inbound delegation. Attendance at the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing & Urban Development is an opportunity to contribute to, and learn from, the discussion in our region on housing and urban development. Further key areas of focus include heritage preservation and restoration, circular economy and waste recovery, education, and UNESCO city designations.
23/24 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation	Provided for within the existing Office of the Lord Mayor International Relations and Travel budget allocations within the draft 2024/25 Business Plan and Budget.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
23/24 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

Background

1. As part of our ongoing International Relations schedule, several milestone events have been celebrated in the last 12 months.
2. A 14 March 2023 Council report detailed the milestone celebrations for Austin, George Town, and Qingdao [\[Link 1\]](#).
3. In December 2023 a delegation from the City Council of Penang Island (CCPI) visited Adelaide for seven nights as part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the sister city relationship.
4. Further information about the relationship can be found here [\[Link 2\]](#).
5. In July 2023, as part of his letter accepting the Lord Mayor's invitation to visit Adelaide, CCPI Mayor Dato Ir. Rajendran P. Anthony invited the Lord Mayor to visit at the end of April 2024 [\[Link 3\]](#).
6. In January 2024 the Lord Mayor wrote to the CCPI Mayor to indicate that she would delay any planned visit until the second half of 2024 [\[Link 4\]](#).
7. On 12 April 2024 the Lord Mayor received an invitation from the CCPI Mayor to visit Penang Island in the second half of 2024, with a list of events the CCPI Mayor has committed to **[Attachment A]**.
 - 7.1. Of particular interest to CoA is commitment 3, the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing & Urban Development being held in George Town.
8. The last time CoA representatives visited Penang was in July 2018 as part of the 45th anniversary celebrations. That itinerary also included travel to Singapore for the 6th World Cities Summit. Then Lord Mayor Martin Haese was accompanied by three staff from Administration: Director Growth, Manager City Growth, and a staff member from the Office of the Lord Mayor.

Planned Visit and Dates

9. Visiting George Town and Penang will provide the opportunity to deepen the sister city relationship with our sister city George Town.
 - 9.1. It is important to reciprocate the enthusiasm for collaboration shown by the December 2023 inbound delegation.
10. This report proposes that the Lord Mayor travel to Penang for four nights, from 7 to 11 August 2024.
 - 10.1. These dates coincide with Penang hosting the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing & Urban Development [\[Link 5\]](#).
11. Alternate dates within August could be considered, or travel later in the year, noting that heavier rainfall will occur later in the year, with the highest rainfall levels in Penang occurring in October and November.
12. Aside from the conference, key areas of focus include:
 - 12.1. Heritage preservation and restoration
 - 12.2. Circular economy and waste recovery
 - 12.3. Arts, culture, and festivals
 - 12.4. Education
 - 12.5. UNESCO cities connections.
13. An itinerary will be developed by the International Relations team at the City Council of Penang Island in collaboration with the Office of the Lord Mayor.

Costs

14. Costs can be met from within the proposed Office of the Lord Mayor 2024/25 budget for International Relations and Travel.
 - 14.1. Flights are anticipated at between \$1,200 and \$2,400 return per person.
 - 14.2. Four nights' accommodation is anticipated to be between \$1,100 and \$1,600 per person.
 - 14.3. Additional sundry expenses may be incurred.
15. Subject to Council approval for the Lord Mayor's travel, the A/CEO will determine the appropriate support required by the Lord Mayor, to be provided from the Administration.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1: [Recommendations of the City Community Services and Culture Committee](#)

Link 2: City of Adelaide Sister Cities - George Town, Malaysia

Link 3: July 2023 Letter from Mayor Rajendran - Acceptance and Invitation [SCAN2023/21768]

Link 4: January 2024 Letter from Lord Mayor - Delay in Adelaide Visit to Penang Island [ACC2024/5217]

Link 5: [Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing & Urban Development Website](#) - note that the 2024 information has yet to be released.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - April 2024 Letter from Mayor Rajendran - Invitation to Visit Penang Island

- END OF REPORT -