

Report to the Future Melbourne (Environment) Committee

Agenda item 6.9

Working for Victoria Grant – City of Melbourne Reactivation

8 December 2020

Presenter: Deb Cailes, Director Waste and Recycling

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to acknowledge the receipt of a Grant Agreement from the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) and seek formal endorsement for the program to commence.
2. In April 2020, an agreement was entered into between DJPR and the Council to provide additional sanitisation and cleaning as the city was impacted by COVID-19. This program was funded from the Working for Victoria initiative. The program concluded in September 2020 and led to the temporary employment of over 700 people.
3. Council held further discussions with DJPR regarding how to continue to support the city and create jobs.
4. On 27 November 2020, Council received a Grant funding offer with scope tailored towards reducing the burden on businesses with respect to maintaining outdoor dining and reopening safely.

Key issues

5. The Grant Agreement offers \$2,807,180 to be spent between 1 December 2020 and 22 April 2021. The funds must be used on directly attributed labour and operational costs.
6. The program will provide targeted support to businesses in the CBD to facilitate opening or reopening and assist with maintaining new outdoor dining areas. This approach will allow traders to focus on customers and business reactivation.
7. The Grant will provide over 100 part-time employment opportunities to displaced workers due to COVID-19 and provide certification training to improve ongoing employment opportunities.
8. The new roles will provide support material, contacts and COVID-safe advice, distribute face masks, promote safety information and ensure dining areas are safe and clean.
9. This investment will also boost support for on street dining by ensuring partitions, rubbish deposit facilities and temporary seating areas are clean for patrons and businesses.
10. Conditions of the Grant specify that the funding can only be used for works not currently covered under existing council contracts. The program will therefore complement but not overlap the existing contracts that provide waste management, street cleaning and graffiti management services to the municipality.
11. The program will be facilitated by a contracted service provider. Swift commencement of the program requires an exemption under Section 186 of the Local Government Act 1989 from the Minister for Local Government, to appoint a capable organisation without a tender process. A request for Ministerial exemption has been submitted.
12. It is intended for the program to commence mid-December 2020, subject to receipt of Ministerial Exemption.

Recommendation from management

13. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 13.1. Notes receipt of a Grant Agreement from Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions to undertake a program to reduce the burden on businesses with respect to maintaining outdoor dining and reopening safely.
 - 13.2. Endorses the program to commence pending successful receipt of Ministerial Exemption.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 2)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. Legal advice has and will continue to be provided in respect to grants from the Victorian Government related to the impact of COVID-19.

Finance

2. The State Victoria government has committed \$2,807,180 for the grant agreement excluding GST. This is to cover labour, allowances, material, consumables and other directly attributed costs with the program.
3. Administration of the program and management of the contract with the service provider will be undertaken by Council utilising existing resources.

Conflict of interest

4. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Health and Safety

5. The grant allows for improved Health and Safety measures and works throughout outdoor dining and returning business areas. All teams and subcontractors will adopt and comply with COVID safe work plans.
6. Included in the grant is the remove of dropped rubbish, facemasks, gloves and other material in and around reopening business areas will help promote Health and Safety measures against contamination.
7. The contract includes the requirement for Occupational Health and Safety Responsibilities and community health and safety including:
 - 7.1 An appropriate Occupational Health and Safety Plan/Framework which is underpinned by policies, procedures and safe systems of work and
 - 7.2 Project employees and a labour hire agency or sub-contractor comply with all applicable Laws including – *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic).

Stakeholder consultation

8. Although no formal stakeholder consultation was facilitated, the program will involve direct contact with businesses and has been designed in a way that is flexible to respond to business needs.

Environmental sustainability

9. The services within the agreement support environmental and sustainability items and have been considered with drafting the initial scope plan