

COM 04	Mayoral Attendance at the 5th Annual Aerotropolis Conference, 7-8 May 2025 in Hong Kong
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Strategic Objective	Evolving, Prosperous, Innovative Promote and deliver an innovative, thriving and internationally recognised city
File Ref	031906.2025
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Ned Mannoun has been invited to speak at the 5th Annual Aerotropolis Summit, to be held on 7-8 May 2025 at the Harbour Grand Kowloon, Hong Kong.

This Summit offers a platform to discuss the driving factors, challenges and trends on regional airport markets. Summit organisers Trueventus have approached Mayor Mannoun to speak at this conference on “Transforming Western Sydney: Innovative strategies powering the rise of a global airport city”. This presentation offers an opportunity to highlight Liverpool on a global scale and demonstrate the broad cultural, economic and social impacts of an airport and aerotropolis on our city.

The cost of the Mayor’s return airfares, 2 nights’ accommodation, daytime meals on conference days and other conference-related expenses will be met by the event organisers. The cost of another Council delegate to attend this conference would be met through Council’s American Express Rewards Points and the ‘Councillor Conferences Fees and Costs’ funds in the Civic and Executive Services business unit budget.

Section 4.10 of Council’s Civic Expenses and Facilities Policy outlines Council’s position on overseas travel for Councillors. This Policy states that any overseas travel for Councillors must be approved by a meeting of the full Council prior to a Councillor undertaking a trip.

This report outlines the full policy requirements relating to this travel and considers Mayor Mannoun’s and a Councillor delegates’ travel to Hong Kong to present at the 5th Annual Aerotropolis Summit.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Notes the invitation from the event organisers;
2. Provide a determination for the attendance of Mayor Ned Mannoun to Hong Kong to present at the 5th Annual Aerotropolis Summit from 7-8 May 2025; and
3. Nominate a Council delegate to accompany Mayor Mannoun to Hong Kong for the 5th Annual Aerotropolis Summit from 7-8 May 2025.

REPORT

Background

The Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Ned Mannoun has been invited to speak at the 5th Annual Aerotropolis Summit, to be held on 7-8 May 2025 at the Harbour Grand Kowloon, Hong Kong.

This Summit offers a platform to discuss the driving factors, challenges and trends on regional airport markets. Summit organiser Trueventus has approached Mayor Mannoun to speak at this conference on “Transforming Western Sydney: Innovative strategies powering the rise of a global airport city”. This presentation offers an opportunity to highlight Liverpool on a global scale and demonstrate the broad cultural, economic and social impacts of an airport and aerotropolis on our city.

Benefits to Liverpool

In 2018, Council adopted the 2019-2023 International Engagement Strategy that had been developed to support the announcement of the new Western Sydney International Airport and the surrounding Aerotropolis. Council had an ambition to be recognised as domestically thriving, globally known regional economy that would prioritise innovation, investment attraction and strategically align growth industry sectors to meet Council’s CSP strategy of Generating Opportunity.

The development of an international airport (the first in Australia after decades of domestic airport development), the 20-year vision of Bradfield City and the Aerotropolis and over \$10 billion worth of planned supporting infrastructure triggered an unprecedented change for Liverpool’s regional economy. In 2014, Liverpool’s GDP was \$10 billion and has gone on to surpass \$16 billion in recent months due to an annual growth rate of 2.4% and rolling inward investment of \$1 billion+ annually.

Healthy global cities are necessary for population, learning and developing, talent pathways and long-term community wealth building. Liverpool has been pro-actively securing and developing an ecosystem in education (as Sydney’s only University City), Health and

Innovation through the Liverpool Innovation Precinct, transport and logistics through the Moorebank Intermodal which all form the ingredients for international recognition and growth.

The role of Council is to step up and take a leadership position in establishing a regional identity on a global stage, promoting industry excellence, facilitating multiple pathways to export with our Federal and State government partners and connecting our local businesses to global market opportunities and partnerships that could potentially add another \$4-5 billion of new investment into Liverpool's economy over the next 5 years.

Civic Expenses and Facilities Policy

Section 4.10 of Council's Civic Expenses and Facilities Policy outlines Council's position on overseas travel for Councillors. The policy states:

4.10.2: Overseas travel – Councillors should avoid international travel, unless direct and tangible benefits can be established for Council and the local community.

4.10.3: Overseas travel must be approved by a meeting of the full Council prior to a Councillor undertaking a trip. Travel must be approved on an individual basis. Council will not allow retrospective reimbursement of overseas travel expenses, unless prior authorisation of the travel has been obtained. Travel proposals shall be included the Council business papers. All Council business papers relating to travel requests by Councillors will need to include the purpose of the travel and that tangible benefits can be established for the Council and the local community.

4.10.4: After returning from overseas, Councillors must provide a detailed written account to Council on the aspects of the trip relevant to Council business and/or the local community.

4.10.5: Details of overseas travel must also be included in the Council's Annual Report.

In addition, section 4.9 of the same Policy, outlines that:

4.9.1: All reasonable travel costs will be met by the Council where the expenses incurred are of the following nature:

- a) Attendance at conferences, seminars and workshops as specified in clause 6(a) of this Policy.*

The cost of the Mayor's return airfares, 2 nights' accommodation, daytime meals on conference days and other conference-related expenses will be met by the event organisers, Trueventus. The cost of another Council delegate's flights, accommodation and airport transfers will be met by Council's American Express Rewards Points. The registration costs for conference attendance by the delegate, totalling approximately \$3200 should a Councillor be nominated (fees provided in US Dollars), will be covered under the 'Councillor Conferences Fees and Costs' budget, held by the Civic and Executive Services business unit.

Conclusion

Considering the broad cultural, economic and social impacts of the upcoming WSI Airport and Bradfield City Centre, the Mayor's attendance at this conference provides an opportunity to highlight and promote Liverpool on a global scale. Further, it aligns with Council's International Engagement Strategy 2019 – 2023 to support Council's ambition to be recognised as domestically thriving, globally known regional economy that would prioritise innovation, investment attraction and strategically align growth industry sectors to meet Council's CSP strategy of Generating Opportunity.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications relating to this report are approximately \$3200 (fees provided in US Dollars). This amount is available in the 'Councillor Conference Fees and Costs' funds, part of the Civic and Executive Services business unit budget.

All other costs associated with this report are covered by the conference organisers and Council's American Express Rewards Points.

CONSIDERATIONS

Economic	<p>Further develop a commercial centre that accommodates a variety of employment opportunities.</p> <p>Facilitate economic development.</p> <p>Facilitate the development of new tourism based on local attractions, culture and creative industries.</p>
Environment	There are no environmental and sustainability considerations.
Social	There are no social and cultural considerations.
Civic Leadership	<p>Undertake communication practices with the community and stakeholders across a range of media</p> <p>Operate a well-developed governance system that demonstrates accountability, transparency and ethical conduct.</p>
Legislative	There are no legislative considerations relating to this report.

Risk	There is no risk associated with this report.
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ATTACHMENTS

Nil