1. PURPOSE

1.1 To consider whether Council should retain its membership of Council’s 19 strategic memberships.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Council is a member of 19 organisations (strategic memberships) that provide knowledge sharing, advocacy, policy development, policy implementation and other support. Strategic memberships can contribute to the delivery of Council priorities in the Council Plan and core strategies, including: Move, Connect, Live, Act and Adapt, Art and Soul and Don’t Waste It.

2.2 Strategic memberships can be highly resource intensive.

2.3 Council officers have reviewed each strategic membership to understand:

2.3.1 the alignment of each membership with Council priorities

2.3.2 the level of Council engagement / resources required to maintain each membership, and

2.3.3 where more than one organisation deals with a Council priority, which organisation(s) is best placed to deal with the issue.

2.4 Attachment 1 is an overview of each strategic membership. It contains information publicly available on the organisation’s webpage, annual reports etc and the findings of Council officers.

2.5 Council will continue to undertake an annual review of strategic memberships to ensure there is sufficient rigour and oversight around the benefit each strategic membership provides to Council and the resources allocated to them.
3. RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION PART A
That Council resolves:

3.1 to maintain its membership of:
- Association of Bayside Municipalities
- Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities
- Green Building Council of Australia
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Partnership Program
- Local Government Professionals
- Mainstreets Australia
- Metro Transport Forum

3.2 not to renew its membership of:
- Committee for Economic Development of Australia
- Economic Development Australia
- International Association for Public Participation
- Place Leaders Asia Pacific
- Resilient Melbourne
- Victoria Chamber of Commerce & Industry

3.3 to maintain its membership of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), but does not renew its subscription to the MAV Technology Group.

RECOMMENDATION PART B1
3.4 to maintain its Committee for Melbourne membership.

RECOMMENDATION PART B2
3.4 to maintain its Committee for Melbourne membership, but change membership category from a Foundation Member ($13,000 + GST) to a Corporate Member ($6,500 + GST).

RECOMMENDATION PART B3
3.4 to not renew its Committee for Melbourne membership.

RECOMMENDATION PART C1
3.5 to maintain its Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum membership, providing an opportunity to test recent changes to the governance arrangements to see if they deliver greater alignment of projects with Council priorities and reduce the current resource commitment from Council (financial and staff time).

RECOMMENDATION PART C2
3.5 to not renew its Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum membership.

RECOMMENDATION PART D1
3.6 to maintain its Inner Melbourne Action Plan membership, subject to seeking improved governance arrangements, greater alignment of projects with Council priorities and a reduced resource commitment from Council (financial and staff time).

RECOMMENDATION PART D2
3.6 to not renew its Inner Melbourne Action Plan membership.

RECOMMENDATION PART E1
3.7 to maintain its South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCA) membership.

RECOMMENDATION PART E2
3.7 to defer its decision on its South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCA) membership and request officers investigate alternative strategic membership organisations, which support Council’s position on climate change and contribute to Council’s climate change priorities.

RECOMMENDATION PART E3
3.7 to not renew its South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCA) membership.

RECOMMENDATION PART F1
3.8 to maintain its Victorian Local Government Association membership.

RECOMMENDATION PART F2
3.8 to not renew its Victorian Local Government Association membership.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

4.1 Council priorities are identified in the Council Plan and core strategies, including: Move, Connect, Live, Act and Adapt, Art and Soul and Don’t Waste It. They create an ambitious agenda for the next 10 years, delivery of which requires that Council maximises organisational efficiency and focus.

4.2 The Council Plan includes working with inner Melbourne councils and other partners to deliver Council priorities, for example:

- collaborating on regional sport and recreational planning and delivery;
- partnering to provide a consistent wayfinding strategy for pedestrians and public transport users;
- working with inner Melbourne councils on an innovative waste management strategy for the inner region.

4.3 Council is a member of 19 organisations (strategic memberships) that provide knowledge sharing, advocacy, policy development, policy implementation and other support. Strategic Memberships allow Council to leverage pool resources to deliver shared priorities.
4.4 Strategic Memberships can be highly resource intensive and have agendas of varying relevance to the delivery of Council priorities. The total cost of strategic membership fees is over $300,000 per annum. This does not include Councillor and officer time and additional financial contributions for specific projects.

4.5 Council has reviewed its strategic memberships to memberships to understand:

4.5.1 the alignment of each membership with Council priorities including those in the Council Plan and core strategies. Does each membership assist in the delivery of Council priorities?

4.5.2 the level of Council engagement / resources (both financial and staff time) required to maintain each membership, and

4.5.3 where more than one organisation deals with a Council priority, which organisation(s) is best placed to deal with the issue. This considers recent State Government initiatives to establish consultative mechanisms like the Inner Metropolitan Partnerships.

4.6 The Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum (ISSMF) is an example of the level of council resourcing that can be required. Every month the CEO attends an ISMMF meeting, with every second month being the Mayors forum. When preparation, travel time and attendance are considered, ISMMF meetings can require between half-day to a day of the attendee’s time. In addition, several officers across Council are involved in working groups, which require preparing briefings, reviewing and delivering policy documents and attending meetings. Recognising that this level of resourcing is an issue, the ISMMF is considering a scaled down work schedule and quarterly meetings.

4.7 Considering Council has limited resources to deliver its priorities, the review focused on identifying (among the 19 Strategic Memberships) which memberships deliver outcomes that support Council’s priorities (in an efficient manner).

4.8 Council will continue to undertake an annual review of strategic memberships to ensure there is sufficient rigour and oversight around the benefit each strategic membership provides to Council and the resources allocated to them.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 As part of the review, around 30 officers were consulted.

5.2 The 19 strategic membership organisations were advised of the report prior to the Council meeting and were advised of their ability to attend the Council meeting and ask questions.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Council officers will provide the notice required to each Strategic Member where a decision is made to not continue a membership.
6.2 Council will continue with all existing memberships until current memberships expire.

6.3 Any decision made by Council will come into effect when membership fees are due at which time, in line with the Council decision, the membership fee will not be paid.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

7.1 See Attachment 1 for the estimated annual cost of each Strategic Membership.

7.2 Not renewing a memberships / subscriptions will result in a financial saving.

7.3 Further savings are also expected in terms Council and officer time.

8. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

8.1 Several of the organisations maintain an environmental focus and pursue actions that support the environment. Should Council decide not to renew one of these organisations, officers will seek alternative means to progress any environmental priorities set out in the Council Plan and Core Strategies, which are being progressed with the support of a strategic membership. See Attachment 1.

9. **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

9.1 Attachment 1 identifies for each organisation any community impact.

10. **ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

10.1 See Attachment 1, officer comments under each Strategic Membership.

11. **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

11.1 **TIMELINE**

11.1.1 See Attachment 1, for upcoming renewal dates for each Strategic Membership.

11.2 **COMMUNICATION**

11.3 Where appropriate, the CEO will notify the strategic membership organisations of the outcome of the Council meeting.

12. **OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Council's Strategic Memberships