

IMAP Implementation Committee

Briefing Paper

StreetCount 2018 Update

BACKGROUND

1. At the IMAP Implementation Committee meeting of 24 February 2018, the Committee resolved to undertake a joint rough sleeper StreetCount in June 2018 across member municipalities. A StreetCount is a point in time observational count and survey of people sleeping rough in parks, streets and other areas across inner-Melbourne.
2. The joint StreetCount will create a baseline of the number and attributes of rough sleepers across the IMAP area. This data will be used to:
 - improve program and response planning to address homelessness
 - improve understanding of the transient nature of rough sleepers
 - support IMAP advocacy to the Victorian Government and Opposition.

DISCUSSION

3. Launch Housing has been appointed Project Manager of StreetCount 2018. Total cost for project management and related activities is \$67,245 + GST. Launch Housing has conducted previous StreetCounts and has extensive agency partnerships across the inner-regions.
4. On 23 April 2018 Hon. Martin Foley MP, Minister for Housing, approved a contribution of \$50,000 to the joint StreetCount project on the understanding that relevant staff from the Department of Health and Human Services are invited to participate in project planning and governance to ensure alignment with the Victorian Government's Action Plan. On 15 May representatives from the IMAP project group met with DHHS representative to discuss the department's involvement. The Minister has himself volunteered to undertake the count and DHHS staff have been invited to participate too. DHHS communications officers will also support the developing program around the joint release of the count data.
5. A weekly project working group chaired by Launch Housing is ensuring that each Council is progressing and supported in their StreetCount coordination. Issues such as risk management, transport arrangements, training, GIS mapping and volunteer recruitment are all being rigorously planned. The recruitment of volunteers has proven challenging given the scale of the undertaking and anticipated attrition on the night.
6. Safety for all volunteers conducting the count as well as the rough sleeping community is paramount. Safety procedures will be outlined in the volunteer manual as well as the compulsory training sessions. Volunteer teams will be equipped with radios, torches and wearing high vis. vests. Launch Housing is also working closely with Victoria Police and social service agencies such as The Salvation Army to ensure latest intelligence of known hotspots ahead of the count and response planning on the night.
7. The City of Melbourne has secured corporate partnerships and donations for the 'thank you' bags gifted to rough sleepers who participate in the StreetCount survey demonstrating how willing the corporate sector is to engage and participate in working towards solutions for homelessness.
 - a) Public Transport Victoria - 1000 Myki day-passes,
 - b) Carmen's - 1000 muesli bars,
 - c) St Vincent's - 500 clothing vouchers worth \$25 each, and
 - d) Wilsons Carparks - free car parking at various locations around the CBD for volunteers to use on the morning of the count.
8. Consideration is being given to the release of the StreetCount data. The IMAP Community Steering Group has approved the appointment of specialist staff to develop detailed communications and an agreed advocacy approach that will include liaison with the State Government in light of their funding contribution.

RECOMMENDATION

9. That the IMAP Implementation Committee notes the progress report on the 2018 StreetCount.