

Community Facilities Policy for Adoption

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

Tuesday, 1 April 2025

City Planning, Development
and Business Affairs
Committee

Program Contact:

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Approving Officer:

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Shaping

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to note consultation feedback on the draft Social Infrastructure (Assets) Policy (**Attachment A**) and seek adoption of the policy as amended to respond to consultation feedback, retitled the Community Facilities Policy (**Attachment B**).

On 12 November 2024 Council resolved to endorse a draft Social Infrastructure (Assets) Policy, for the purposes of public consultation ([Link 1](#)). Public consultation commenced on 14 January 2025 and closed on 7 March 2025. A total of 123 submissions were received from key stakeholders and the community.

Key themes arising from the consultation are:

- Support for prioritised investment in public toilets across the city that are safe, clean, well maintained and meet a range of users including people with disability, women, and people with caring responsibilities.
- A desire for the delivery of community facilities to positively contribute to perceptions of safety, including lighting, street cleaning, crime prevention programs and support for homeless and vulnerable people.
- Respondents called for more public and active transport options and more walkable streets that support people's access to community facilities.
- Respondents identified the need to provide spaces that engage a range of people, particularly young people, who were identified as a potential gap in current service provision. Support for community facilities that provide options to participate in creative activities like music, art, and play was identified as a priority alongside sustainability and greening.
- Many respondents expressed appreciation for existing facilities such as libraries, community centres and public toilets but commented that some existing facilities are dated, small, have limited operating hours, or requested additional maintenance and resourcing.
- Respondents wanted to ensure that the facilities would be accessible to a diverse range of user groups and would contribute to inclusion and social cohesion.

The Community Facilities Policy (the Policy) provides criteria for Council in assessing and developing community facilities to ensure they meet agreed objectives and principles. The Policy guides investment decisions in new, upgraded or consolidated community facilities to meet current and future needs.

For the purposes of the Policy, community facilities include facilities such as:

- Community centres
- Libraries
- Public toilets
- Playspaces
- Skate and BMX facilities
- Recreational courts
- Dog parks

- Community gardens.

The City of Adelaide has separately progressed investment for community buildings in the Adelaide Park Lands through the development of an Adelaide Park Lands Community Buildings (Sport and Recreation) Policy and Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy. Therefore, community buildings in the Adelaide Park Lands are outside the scope of this Policy.

The Policy is proposed to be applied through a planning and investment framework that includes directions set through the City Plan – Adelaide 2036 and is consistent with the City of Adelaide's Strategic Plan 2024-2028 and Long-term Financial Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 8 April 2025 for consideration

THAT THE CITY PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL

THAT COUNCIL

1. Note the Social Infrastructure (Assets) Policy Consultation Summary contained in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee held on 1 April 2025.
 2. Adopts the Community Facilities Policy, contained in Attachment B to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee held on 1 April 2025.
 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, to make minor, typographical or syntactical updates to the document contained in Attachment A and Attachment B to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee held on 1 April 2025.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Community Develop a Social Infrastructure Policy by 2024 to support our current and emerging community needs.
Policy	The Policy is informed by a social infrastructure assessment, public toilets assessment, the City Plan – Adelaide 2036 and the Strategic Plan 2024-2028. The Policy guides investment decisions in new, upgraded or consolidated community facilities to meet current and future needs over and above what is currently outlined in the Asset Management Plans. The Building Asset Management Plan details the asset management priorities for the operation, maintenance and renewal of existing assets over the next 10 years.
Consultation	Public consultation on the draft Social Infrastructure (Assets) Policy commenced on 14 January 2025 and closed on 7 March 2025 and was undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Consultation Policy.
Resource	Implementation of the Policy will be considered through the proposed Community Facilities Planning and Investment Framework which will prioritise investment in the development, upgrade or consolidation of community facilities to meet current and future needs. The Planning and Investment Framework is a future stage of work and will be subject to a separate Council decision. Consideration is also being given to how to fund new community facilities.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	The Community Facilities Policy will clarify the role of Council, other levels of government, the community and the private sector in the planning and development of community facilities for the City of Adelaide.
24/25 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 25/26 Budget Allocation	Implementation of the draft Policy and proposed Investment Framework would be subject to prioritisation through the Annual Business Plan and Budget processes.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The Community Facilities Policy has a ten-year planning horizon.
24/25 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. The purpose of this report is to note consultation feedback on the draft Social Infrastructure (Assets) Policy (**Attachment A**) and seek adoption of the policy as amended to respond to consultation feedback, retitled the Community Facilities Policy (**Attachment B**).
2. On 12 November 2024, Council resolved to endorse the draft Social Infrastructure (Assets) Policy for the purposes of public consultation ([Link 1](#)).
3. Development of the Policy is a strategic target in the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028:
 - 3.1. *'Develop a Social Infrastructure Policy by 2024 to support our current and emerging community needs'.*
4. The City Plan - Adelaide 2036, was informed by a detailed social infrastructure assessment and identifies locations for social infrastructure based on factors such as population growth, accessibility, land availability, and integration with other land uses.
5. The City Plan defines social infrastructure broadly, based on definitions used in State Planning Policies and by Infrastructure Australia:
 - 5.1. *Social infrastructure is the interdependent mix of facilities, places, spaces, programs, projects, services and networks that maintain and improve the standard of living and quality of life in a community.*
6. For the purposes of the Policy, community facilities include facilities such as:
 - 6.1. Community centres
 - 6.2. Libraries
 - 6.3. Public toilets
 - 6.4. Playspaces
 - 6.5. Skate and BMX facilities
 - 6.6. Recreational courts
 - 6.7. Dog parks
 - 6.8. Community gardens.
7. The Policy was informed by a public toilet assessment which provided a geospatial analysis of current public toilet provision. A social infrastructure assessment also informed this Policy through the City Plan – Adelaide 2036.
8. The Policy provides criteria for assessing and developing community facilities proposals to ensure they meet agreed objectives and principles.
9. The City of Adelaide has separately progressed investment for community buildings in the Adelaide Park Lands through the development of an Adelaide Park Lands Community Buildings (Sport and Recreation) Policy and Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy. Therefore, community facilities in the Adelaide Park Lands are outside the scope of this Policy.

Consultation Summary

10. Public consultation on the draft Social Infrastructure (Assets) Policy commenced on 14 January 2025 and closed on 7 March 2025 and involved:
 - 10.1. Our Adelaide online survey.
 - 10.2. Information summary sheets and the Policy available online and at the Customer Centre, Libraries and Community Centres.
 - 10.3. Open invitation to meet with a member of Administration to discuss the content of the Policy.
 - 10.4. Internal consultation process.
 - 10.5. Workshop with the City of Adelaide Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel.
 - 10.6. Social media campaign.

11. A total of 123 submissions were received from key stakeholders and the community, as follows:
 - 11.1. 121 submissions via Our Adelaide online engagement platform.
 - 11.2. Two written submissions were received from the Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel and Garden East Residents Group.
12. A consultation summary report is provided in **Attachment A**. Key themes arising from the consultation included:
 - 12.1. Public Toilets - Support for prioritised investment in public toilets across the city that are safe, clean, well maintained and meet a range of users including people with disability, women, and people with caring responsibilities.
 - 12.2. Safety - A desire for the delivery of community facilities to positively contribute to perceptions of safety, including lighting, street cleaning, crime prevention programs and support for homeless and vulnerable people.
 - 12.3. Transport - Respondents called for more public and active transport options and more walkable streets that support people's access to community facilities.
 - 12.4. Multiuse - Respondents identified the need to provide spaces that engage a range of people, particularly young people, who were identified as a potential gap in current service provision. Support for community facilities that provide options to participate in creative activities like music, art, and play was identified as a priority alongside sustainability and greening.
 - 12.5. Existing Facilities - Many respondents expressed appreciation for existing facilities such as libraries, community centres and public toilets but commented that some existing facilities are dated, small, have limited operating hours, or requested additional maintenance and resourcing.
 - 12.6. Accessibility – Respondents wanted to ensure that the facilities would be accessible to a diverse range of user groups and would contribute to inclusion and social cohesion.
13. Amendments to the Policy following consultation are shown as strikethrough and red text in **Attachment B** and are summarised as follows:
 - 13.1. The Policy has been retitled to the Community Facilities Policy, and a statement has been included to clarify what community facilities are subject to the Policy.
 - 13.2. Additional explanation in the Policy statement about the type of community facilities addressed by the Policy.
 - 13.3. The Policy glossary is amended to define community facilities, remove former references to social infrastructure and integrated planning, and define 'priority groups'.
 - 13.4. Edits to clarify the meaning of objectives and principles such as sustainability including environmental sustainability, and inclusion of heritage and co-design.
 - 13.5. Plain English review of the document.

Next Steps

14. Pending Council's decision on the Policy (**Attachment B**), the next steps include:
 - 14.1. The adopted Policy will be published on the City of Adelaide website and take effect from the date of Council endorsement.
 - 14.2. All proposals for new, upgraded or consolidated community facilities will be assessed against the new Policy.
 - 14.3. Community Facilities already being considered by Council will be considered against the new Policy.
 - 14.4. Consultation feedback on the Policy will inform the development of a Community Facilities Planning and Investment Framework as a future stage of work that will be subject to a separate Council decision.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – [Agenda City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee, Tuesday, 5 November 2024.](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Consultation Summary Report – Draft Social Infrastructure (Assets) Policy

Attachment B - City of Adelaide Community Facilities Policy

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