

Community Wellbeing Strategy – Draft for Public Consultation

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

Tuesday, 3 February 2026
City Community Services and
Culture Committee

Program Contact:
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Approving Officer:
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Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy (Strategy) (**Attachment A**) for the purpose of public consultation.

The Strategy has been developed through a series of stakeholder and community engagement activities held from October to December 2025, which have been summarised in a report (**Attachment B**). The consultation was undertaken in partnership with the Centre for Social Impact, Flinders University (CSI), who produced a detailed recommendations report (**Attachment C**).

The development of the Strategy addresses the need to review and refresh the current Wellbeing Plan and Active City Strategy, as identified within Council's Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

We are a capital city of almost 30,000 people with an ambition to grow toward 50,000 residents by 2036. To ensure success, we must build a resilient and healthy community that is vibrant, connected and inclusive and where people who live, work and visit are supported to thrive across all life stages.

In building the Strategy, the challenges our community faces (demographic shifts, community resilience and social cohesion, housing affordability and cost of living, global disruption, economic shifts, and climate change) were also considered. To achieve wellbeing outcomes alongside sustainable growth, it is recommended that we prioritise:

- Social wellbeing
- Create inclusive and accessible spaces
- Facilitate learning and recreational experiences
- Foster community resilience and participation
- Manage environmental sustainability.

Public consultation on the Strategy is proposed to occur between March and April 2026. Feedback from our community will inform the final Strategy, costed Implementation Plan and a one-year Action Plan, which will be presented to Council by June 2026 for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 10 February 2026 for consideration

THAT THE CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CULTURE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL
THAT COUNCIL

1. Adopts for the purpose of public consultation the Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy, as contained in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 3 February 2026.
2. Notes the community and stakeholder workshops and research analysis already undertaken to build the Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy contained in Attachment B and Attachment C to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 3 February 2026.

3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor and technical amendments to the documents contained in Attachment A, Attachment B and Attachment C to Item XX on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 3 February 2026, for the purposes of finalising the documents for public consultation.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

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| City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan | Strategic Alignment – Our Community An interesting and engaging place to live, learn and visit. An inclusive, equitable and welcoming community where people feel a sense of belonging. |
| Policy | The final Community Wellbeing Strategy will replace the Active City Strategy 2013-2023 and Wellbeing Plan 2020-2025. |
| Consultation | <p>Consultation was undertaken from 3 November 2025 to 3 December 2025 to inform the development of the Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy. A summary of the consultation is provided in Attachment B.</p> <p>Consultation on the Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy is proposed to take place from 2 March 2026 to 7 April 2026, via online engagement through Our Adelaide, emails to key stakeholders, and focus groups with priority groups.</p> |
| Resource | Not as a result of this report |
| Risk / Legal / Legislative | Not as a result of this report |
| Opportunities | <p>The Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy identifies current and emerging challenges to community wellbeing, defines the City of Adelaide's role, and provides a framework for aligning services, partnerships, and investment.</p> <p>It is possible that the draft Strategy could also meet the requirement for a Regional Public Health Plan as outlined in the <i>Public Health Act 2011</i> (SA). This would need ministerial approval prior to any Public Consultation and would delay deliver of the plan by approximately 3 months.</p> |
| 25/26 Budget Allocation | Consultation costs will be covered by the existing operating budget. |
| Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation | To be considered through a costed Implementation Plan to be presented with the final Strategy in June 2026. |
| Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset | The Community Wellbeing Strategy will be reviewed in four years. |
| 25/26 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. Community wellbeing is a holistic concept reflected in the conditions that allow individuals, families, and groups to thrive. It spans social, environmental, economic, physical, mental, emotional, cultural, and spiritual dimensions, and is deeply connected to a sense of belonging and connection to the natural world.
2. In Australia, local government plays a distinct, place-based and enabling role in public health and community wellbeing by creating healthy environments, fostering social connection, and supporting community-led prevention initiatives. Its role complements (rather than duplicates) the policy, funding and service-delivery roles of state and federal government by promoting equity and resilience at the community level.
3. Community wellbeing underpins sustainable city growth and economic development, which are essential to achieving the city's 50,000 population target. Businesses thrive when the city feels safe, welcoming and inclusive, and when high-quality public spaces and climate resilience encourages people to spend time here. Students, workers and visitors are attracted to cities that feel connected and supported, with strong social and wellbeing ecosystems. Investing early in connection, safety, inclusion, active recreation and climate resilience also reduces long-term costs associated with poor health and crisis response.
4. The City of Adelaide (CoA) Strategic Plan 2024-2028 includes the following targets, which have provided the direction in developing the Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy):
 - 4.1. (Our Community) Develop a Community Development and Wellbeing Plan by 2026
 - 4.2. (Our Community) Review the Active City Strategy by 2025
5. At its meeting on 14 November 2023, Council approved the development of a Community Development Strategy and implementation plan to support the delivery of an impactful community development approach in this term of Council.
6. At its meeting on 13 February 2024, Council noted the Community Development Discussion Paper ([Link 1](#)), which identified key challenges that the CoA needs to consider to ensure residents are well and living connected lives as members of a diverse community and support the population growth target of 50,000 residents by 2036.
7. At its meeting on 7 October 2025, a City Community Services and Culture Committee workshop was held to provide input to the Administration's approach to the development of a Community Wellbeing Strategy that consolidates the strategic commitments and Council decisions outlined above.

Draft Strategy

8. The Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy) is provided as **Attachment A**.
 - 8.1. Our Community Wellbeing Vision is 'A vibrant, connected and inclusive city, where people who live, work and visit are supported to thrive across all life stages.'
9. From Council workshops, stakeholder and community engagement activities and from research undertaken, Administration has developed core principles that will underpin the work identified in the Strategy:
 - 9.1. Empowerment, self-determination, inclusion, social justice, capacity-building, partnerships and active participation in civic life
 - 9.2. Strengthen social capital and social infrastructure
 - 9.3. Build resilience through people and place
 - 9.4. Advance a wellbeing economy for current and future generations.
10. To ensure successful delivery of the Strategy, six goals have been developed:
 - 10.1. Goal One: People feel welcome and connected
 - 10.2. Goal Two: People are active and healthy
 - 10.3. Goal Three: People can shape their community
 - 10.4. Goal Four: People can adapt and recover
 - 10.5. Goal Five: People keep learning throughout their lives
 - 10.6. Goal Six: People feel safe where they live, work and spend time
11. The Strategy also identifies current and emerging challenges to community wellbeing, defines the CoA's role, shares case studies of work completed and provides a guide to how the Strategy will be monitored.

Summary of consultation and research which informed the Strategy development:

12. A period of key stakeholder engagement occurred from 3 November 2025 to 3 December 2025, with a total of 133 people. Feedback was also sought at an internal stakeholder workshop with staff and through presentations to the Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel, Reconciliation Committee and the CBD Volunteer Management Network. A consultant team from the Centre for Social Impact, Flinders University (CSI), supported the consultation.
 - 12.1. Key Stakeholder Workshops: Over 69 people from 51 organisations attended three external stakeholder workshops held on 25 and 26 November 2025 at the Adelaide Town Hall. The workshops were co-designed and facilitated by the Administration, in partnership with the Centre for Social Impact. Key stakeholders were grouped according to the themes:
 - 13.1.1 Creating Inclusive Spaces for Learning, Connection and Community Wellbeing
 - 13.1.2 Many Voices, Shared Leadership: Advancing Community Wellbeing Together
 - 13.1.3 Sport, Recreation and Resilience: Strengthening Community Wellbeing.
 - 12.2. Focus Groups: Three priority group focus groups were co-hosted alongside community leaders to connect with people who had lived experience as refugees and asylum seekers, international students and LGBTIQ+.
 - 12.3. Advisory Meetings: Feedback was sought at an internal stakeholder workshop with Administration and through presentations to the Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel, Reconciliation Committee and the CBD Volunteer Management Network.
13. A summary of the stakeholder and community engagement activities that were held from October to December 2025 is provided in **Attachment B**.
14. The CSI team produced a Recommendations Report (**Attachment C**) based on their analysis of the consultation data, sector trends and research. These recommendations have been embedded throughout the Strategy and peer-reviewed by the CSI team. The next stage of consultation presents an opportunity to seek feedback on the Strategy and co-design the Action Plan.

Next steps:

15. Public consultation on the Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy is proposed to occur from 2 March 2026 to 7 April 2026 (five weeks, including Easter) via online engagement through Our Adelaide, emails to key stakeholders who participated in the November 2025 workshops and focus groups with priority groups. Feedback gathered will inform the final Strategy, costed Implementation Plan and a one-year Action Plan for presentation to Council within the 2025/26 financial year.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – Community Development Discussion Paper

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy

Attachment B – Public Consultation Summary Report

Attachment C – Recommendations Report, Centre for Social Impact, Flinders University

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