

Response to Anti-Social Behaviour in the City

Strategic Alignment - Thriving Communities

Public

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City Community Services and Culture Committee

Program Contact:

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Approving Officer:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information about steps being taken by multiple agencies through the State Government's Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce to respond to reported levels of increased anti-social behaviour in the city.

This report contains the information requested by the Council decision on 27 June 2023:

“Request administration to provide an update to the elected body at the next appropriate committee meeting on any discussions (with stakeholders such as state government agencies, industry bodies, etc) and potential solutions on tackling the increasing anti-social behaviour taking place in the Adelaide CBD”.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT THE CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

1. Notes the response SAPOL has implemented to address increasing anti-social behaviour in the Adelaide CBD.
 2. Notes the Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce is actively planning for short, medium and long term responses to anti-social behaviour and safety in the city.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Enabling Priorities Action 5.3 Build on effective advocacy and partnerships locally, nationally and globally
Policy	City of Adelaide’s participation in the Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce aligns with Council’s Safer City Policy and Action Plan.
Consultation	Consultation is occurring with the Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce.
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	City of Adelaide continues to participate in the Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce to contribute to a multi-agency response to activity in the city and North Adelaide.
23/24 Budget Allocation	Participation in the Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce is within existing staff resourcing for 2023/2024.
Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
23/24 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

1. The Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce (the Taskforce) was established by Cabinet in March 2021 to support the health and safety concerns of visitors from remote Aboriginal communities who sleep rough and/or remain at overcrowded tenancies.
2. The Taskforce is led by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and has senior representatives from State and local government.
3. The Taskforce has been meeting regularly since mid June 2023 in response to heightened levels of anti-social behaviour being experienced along North Terrace, around the train station, and the Riverbank Precinct.
4. A younger cohort of remote visitors, primarily from Alice Springs and to a lesser extent Western Australia have been identified as congregating in these locations and using alcohol excessively.
5. The behaviours include theft from bottle shops and hotels in the CBD and surrounding suburbs and violent behaviours. The cohort involved are using SA Housing Authority tenancies across metropolitan Adelaide for accommodation, community to the city by bus or train.
6. SAPOL has commenced an escalated, assertive response to the behaviours in North Terrace, providing additional patrols to ensure a highly visible response. The additional resources complement the work of Operation Paragon members and will act as a circuit breaker to reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour.
7. In addition, SAPOL continues to work with the Licensing Commissioner and the Australian Hotels Association to enforce, educate and monitor the effectiveness of temporary alcohol sale restrictions in and around the CBD.
8. SAPOL advises that at this stage it is too early to comment on the effectiveness of the increased police response.
9. Through the Taskforce, SAPOL continues to be proactive in working with other support agencies and services to determine a long term strategy to address the issues of homelessness and displacement of vulnerable people.
10. The currently safety concerns are outside of considerations that are ongoing for remote and regional visitors in the Park Lands (southern Park Lands and Edwards Park), and homelessness support services.
11. The Taskforce is leading a coordinated response to Cabinet with recommendations about measures that can be implemented that will drive long term sustainable change and improved outcomes for the individuals. This may include suitable temporary accommodation such as hostels, culturally appropriate detox and rehabilitation and intensive case management.
12. City of Adelaide's commitment through the Taskforce is to identify a safe place/s to gather in the Park Lands. To date Council has supported short term responses in the Park Lands: Puti on Kurna Yerta in December 2021 located in Park 21 and the 2022/23 Summer Response in Park 23/Edwards Park.
13. Administration is finalising options for suitable sites with the appropriate infrastructure and amenity for further consideration by Taskforce and Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

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