

Draft Homelessness Strategy – Everyone’s Business

Tuesday, 7 November 2023
City Community Services and
Culture Committee

Strategic Alignment - Thriving Communities

Program Contact:
Sarah Gilmour, Associate
Director Park Lands, Policy &
Sustainability

Public

Approving Officer:
Ilia Houridis, Director City
Shaping

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present a Homelessness Strategy – Everyone’s Business (draft Strategy), for the purposes of public consultation. The draft Strategy has been prepared in response to recent Council directions.

The draft policy reflects a human rights approach to housing and supports a ‘housing first’ approach to ending homelessness. Concurrently, we will work to prevent homelessness through a community development approach that focuses on prevention and early intervention by linking people to support services while improving social connections and increasing community capacity at a local level.

The Strategy outlines four goals:

- (1) Housing – People have a place to call home.
- (2) Closing the Gap – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People have equitable outcomes.
- (3) Safety and support – People are safe
- (4) Wellbeing and connection – People are well and living connected lives.

Within each goal, there are role definitions for Council as Lead, Partner, Facilitator and Advocate; principles, targets and bold moves.

This report contains the information requested by the Council and seeks approval of the draft Homelessness Strategy – Everyone’s Business, as the basis for public consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 14 November 2023 for consideration

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

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Endorses the Draft Homelessness Strategy – Everyone’s Business contained in Attachment A to Item 7.5 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 7 November 2023, for the purpose of public consultation.
 2. Endorses the Draft Homelessness Strategy Engagement Plan contained in Attachment B to Item 7.5 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 7 November 2023, for the purpose of public consultation.
 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor and technical amendments to the documents contained in Attachment A and Attachment B to Item 7.5 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 7 November 2023, for the purposes of finalising the documents for public consultation.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

<p>City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Strategic Alignment – Thriving Communities</p> <p>Council will create a city that is welcoming, inclusive and accessible to all.</p> <p>Continue support for the Adelaide Zero Project and other initiatives to achieve functional zero homelessness.</p> <p>Support health and housing for vulnerable people and young people.</p> <p>Note: Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2028</p> <p>Strategic Alignment – Our Community</p> <p>Review of the Housing and homelessness Policy, defining the role of Council in providing solutions and creating and action plan.</p>
<p>Policy</p>	<p>This report presents a draft Homelessness Strategy – Everyone’s Business for the purposes of public consultation. Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council’s Community Consultation Policy dated 16 July 2019.</p> <p>The Homelessness Strategy, together with a Housing Strategy, will replace Council’s Homelessness, Social Housing and Housing Affordability Policy 2022-2025.</p>
<p>Consultation</p>	<p>The discussion paper presented to Council on 13 June 2023 and subsequently amended, will inform targeted engagement with key stakeholders, including the State Government, homelessness service providers and peak bodies. The Engagement Plan is provided at Attachment B.</p>
<p>Resource</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Risk / Legal / Legislative</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>The development of a Homelessness Strategy will clarify Council’s role in responding to homelessness including to Lead, Partner, Facilitate and Advocate for housing and homelessness services.</p>
<p>23/24 Budget Allocation</p>	<p>The 2023/24 budget includes 1.0 FTE for a Social Planner: Housing and Homelessness to support the development and implementation of Council’s housing and homelessness programs.</p> <p>The operating budget for the Homelessness and Vulnerable People Project is \$157,000 as per Council decision on 9 August 2022. City of Adelaide’s Homelessness response is supported in 2023/24 by two strategic budget allocations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$44,250 for Community Impact Grants; and • \$208,000 for Social Planning Homelessness and Adelaide Zero Project Resourcing.
<p>Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation</p>	<p>The final Strategy when presented to Council in February 2024 will include a resource plan which will inform budget proposals for 2024/25. The additional cost, above current service levels, for implementation of key initiatives over the life of the draft Strategy is estimated at \$1,000,000.</p>
<p>Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset</p>	<p>The draft Strategy is proposed to align with the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-28 as a 4-year strategy.</p>
<p>23/24 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>

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 present a draft Homelessness Strategy – Everyone’s Business (draft Strategy) for stakeholder and community consultation in response to Council’s decision to separate the existing Homelessness, Social Housing and Housing Affordability Policy, adopted in May 2022, into a separate housing policy and homelessness policy.
2. The draft Strategy in **Attachment A** has been prepared in consultation with key internal and external stakeholders noting broad sector involvement via the Lord Mayors Homelessness Roundtable held on 10 August 2023 and attended by 55 sector stakeholders. A summary of the key themes is available in Link 1 view [here](#).
3. The draft Strategy is informed by Council’s submission on the National Housing and Homelessness Plan Issues Paper endorsed by Council on 26 September 2023.
4. Feedback provided by key stakeholders in 2022 when consultation was undertaken for the Homelessness, Social Housing and Housing Affordability Policy, has continued to shape the Council’s roles in homelessness including to Lead, Partner, Facilitate and Advocate.
5. The following homelessness research projects have informed the preparation of the draft Strategy:
 - 5.1. [Everybody’s Business](#): What local government can do to end homelessness, Winston Churchill Trust, 3 May 2023.
 - 5.2. [Counting homelessness](#): working creatively to generate complex descriptive profiles of the health and demographics of people experiencing homelessness in Adelaide, Australian Journal of Social Issues Volume 58, Issue 3, September 2023.
 - 5.3. Council of Capital City Lord Mayors and Local Government Professionals Homelessness and Housing: Community of Practice Conference Outcomes Paper, 7-8 August 2023.
 - 5.4. State Government, SA Homelessness Outcomes Framework, 30 August 2023.

Strategy Scope and Approach

6. The proposed approach is the development of a consolidated Homelessness Policy and Strategy document (draft Strategy) (**Attachment A**).
7. The draft Strategy identifies the roles of the three tiers of government and specialist homelessness services, acknowledging an increased role for the City of Adelaide in homelessness through prevention and early intervention through a community development approach. That is, linking people to support services while improving social connections and increasing community capacity.
8. The draft Strategy identifies four goals, each with a bold move(s) in addition to service provision, and measurable targets:
 - 8.1. Goal 1: Housing – People have a place to call home.
 - 8.1.1. Target: Housing outcomes
 - 8.1.1.1. 29 State Government housing outcomes per month are provided in the City of Adelaide for people experiencing homelessness to 2026
 - 8.1.2. Target: Adaptive Reuse
 - 8.1.2.1. Deliver 50 dwellings annually, through adaptive reuse of underutilised buildings.
 - 8.1.3. Bold Move: Leverage Planning Policy
 - 8.1.3.1. Submit a proposal to amend the State Government’s Planning and Design Code by 2025 to facilitate improved housing supply and choice.

- 8.1.4. Bold Move: Housing Support & Tenancy Reform Program
 - 8.1.4.1. Partner to introduce a Housing Support & Tenancy Reform Program focused on legislative reform and early intervention for older people, renters and people at risk of entering homelessness by 2025.
- 8.2. Goal 2: Closing the gap – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equitable outcomes.
 - 8.2.1. Target: Housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
 - 8.2.1.1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people actively experiencing homeless in the City of Adelaide is less than a third of homeless people.
 - 8.2.2. Target: Employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
 - 8.2.2.1. City of Adelaide achieves an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment target of 2% of all City of Adelaide employees by 2024.
 - 8.2.3. Bold Move: Co-Design for Transitional Accommodation
 - 8.2.3.1. Co-design, co-lead and co-deliver with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other levels of Government, transitional accommodation solutions and identify long-term strategies to address housing outcomes.
- 8.3. Goal 3: Safety and support – People are safe.
 - 8.3.1. Target: City Amenities
 - 8.3.1.1. City of Adelaide managed public amenities including public toilets, drinking water, charging points and places of shelter are available to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week and located across a range of key city locations.
 - 8.3.2. Bold Move: Emergency Shelter
 - 8.3.2.1. Investigate in partnership with Alliance partners if City of Adelaide community facilities to be made available in extreme weather such as State Government announcements of Code Red and Code Blue in response to extreme heat and cold weather.
 - 8.3.3. Bold Moves: Annual Homelessness Roundtable
 - 8.3.3.1. Host an annual Homelessness Roundtable to acknowledge the sector workforce and partners and identify opportunities for celebration, action, and collaboration.
- 8.4. Goal 4: Wellbeing and connection – People are well and living connected lives.
 - 8.4.1. Target: Council Employees
 - 8.4.1.1. City of Adelaide frontline employees can identify the risk factors for homelessness and provide information on appropriate referral pathways and services.
 - 8.4.2. Bold Move: Social Workers in our Libraries
 - 8.4.2.1. From 2024 the City of Adelaide will have a social work service within our libraries whose role will include coordinating peer support programs.
 - 8.4.3. Bold Move: Extend Library and Community Centre Hours
 - 8.4.3.1. By 2026 City of Adelaide managed community facilities including libraries and community centres are open and resourced year-round and into the evenings.
- 9. A series of principles are included for each goal area to assist the City of Adelaide is determining its approach to implementation of the draft Strategy.

Next Steps

- 10. Pending decision by Council on the draft Homelessness Strategy for public consultation, targeted stakeholder and broader community consultation will commence from 22 November 2023 through to 10 January 2024 (**Attachment B**).
- 11. The updated Homelessness Strategy is targeting presentation to the City Community Services and Culture Committee for consideration in February 2024.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – Lord Mayor’s Homelessness Roundtable, Summary of outcomes

Link 2 – [Everyone’s Business: What local government can do to end homelessness](#)

Link 3 – [Counting homelessness](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Draft Homelessness Strategy – Everyone’s Business

Attachment B – Draft Homelessness Strategy Engagement Plan

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