

# Homelessness Strategy – Everyone’s Business

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

Tuesday, 6 February 2024  
City Community Services and Culture Committee

**Program Contact:**

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**Approving Officer:**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council approval of the draft Homelessness Strategy – *Everyone’s Business* (draft Strategy), which incorporates feedback from stakeholders and the community on the draft Strategy.

On 14 November 2023 ([Link 1](#)) Council endorsed the draft Strategy for public consultation which opened on 23 November for 8 weeks until 19 January 2024 (extended from 10 January 2024). Twenty written submissions and 30 YourSay survey submissions were received. A summary of the consultation is provided in **Attachment A**.

Key themes arising from consultation include:

- Overwhelming support for the Homelessness Strategy and targets proposed.
- Greater partnership approach in funding particularly core service funding needed for advocacy
- Intersectional responses are required
- Support for more low-barrier, short-term accommodation
- More permanent supportive housing e.g. Common Ground
- Consider alternative housing options with tiny homes frequently suggested
- Aboriginal identified positions in City of Adelaide to provide input and advice into the homelessness response
- Practical support needed such as food security
- Amenity improvements such as public toilets, showers, drinking fountains, lockers, bike storage.

There was strong overarching support for all the goals and targets in the draft Homelessness Strategy.

The consultation indicates strong alignment with key government and non-government agencies including, Salvation Army, South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services, South Australian Alliance to End Homelessness and the Adelaide Zero Project, Hutt Street Centre, State Planning Commission, AHA SA, and the South Australian Housing Authority.

Numerous submissions identified opportunities for partnership with the City of Adelaide, to progress outcomes of the Homelessness Strategy.

The draft Strategy has been updated to reflect consultation feedback and the final Strategy is now being presented to Council for decision and is contained in **Attachment B**.

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# RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 13 February 2024 for consideration

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

1. Notes the draft Homelessness Strategy – *Everyone’s Business*, Consultation Summary contained in Attachment A to Item 9.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 6 February 2024.
  2. Adopts the Homelessness Strategy – *Everyone’s Business*, contained in Attachment B to Item 9.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 6 February 2024.
  3. Authorises the Acting Chief Executive Officer or delegate to make minor, typographical or syntactical updates to the documents contained in Attachment A and Attachment B to Item 9.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 6 February 2024, to finalise the document.
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## IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	<p><b>Strategic Alignment – Our Community</b></p> <p>Work with partners to identify new and innovative ways to reduce rough sleeping and homelessness.</p> <p>Contribute towards achieving Zero Functional Homelessness.</p>
Policy	The Homelessness Strategy – Everyone’s Business, and the Housing Strategy (in progress), will replace the City of Adelaide Homelessness, Social Housing and Housing Affordability Policy 2022-2025.
Consultation	<p>Consultation was undertaken from 23 November 2023 to 19 January 2024 in accordance with the engagement plan endorsed by Council on 14 November 2023, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emails to key stakeholders</li> <li>• Individual meetings with key stakeholders</li> <li>• Online engagement through YourSay</li> </ul> <p>A summary of the consultation is provided in <b>Attachment A</b>.</p>
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	The Homelessness Strategy clarifies Council’s role in responding to homelessness including to Lead, Partner, Facilitate and Advocate for housing and homelessness services.
23/24 Budget Allocation	<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 Homelessness support 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"> <li>• \$44,250 for Community Impact Grants; and</li> <li>• \$208,000 for Social Planning Homelessness and Adelaide Zero Project Resourcing.</li> </ul>
Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation	The Strategy is not funded, but includes a resource plan that has informed budget proposals for 2024/25. The investment above current service levels to implement key initiatives in 2024/25 is estimated at \$410,000. Budget allocation for delivery of the Strategy is subject to the annual business plan and budget process for prioritisation by Council.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The Homelessness Strategy is proposed to align with the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-28 as a 4-year strategy.
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

## Background

1. On 14 November 2023 ([Link 1](#)) Council approved the release of the draft Homelessness Strategy – *Everyone’s Business* (draft Strategy) for public consultation.
2. Details about development of the draft Strategy for engagement was provided in the previous Council report ([Link 1](#)). A copy of the consultation draft Homelessness Strategy is provided in [Link 2](#).

## Summary of Consultation

3. Consultation ran from 23 November 2023 to 10 January 2024 with an extension until 19 January 2024. Direct emails seeking feedback on the draft Strategy were sent to a range of State Government agencies, community housing providers, development industry, community groups and not for profit organisations.
4. Online engagement was concurrently undertaken through YourSAy.
5. Individual meetings were held with the South Australian Alliance to End Homelessness and the Adelaide Zero Project.
6. Twenty written submissions and 30 YourSay survey submissions were received.
7. Key feedback received through the consultation was:
  - 7.1. Overwhelming support for the Homelessness Strategy and targets proposed.
  - 7.2. Greater partnership approach in funding particularly core service funding needed for advocacy
  - 7.3. Intersectional responses are required
  - 7.4. Support more low-barrier, short-term accommodation
  - 7.5. More permanent supportive housing e.g. Common Ground
  - 7.6. Consider alternative housing options with tiny homes frequently suggested
  - 7.7. Aboriginal identified positions in City of Adelaide to provide input and advice into the homelessness response
  - 7.8. Practical support needed such as food security
  - 7.9. Amenity improvements such as public toilets, showers, drinking fountains, lockers, bike storage.
8. A detailed summary of the consultation process and response to submissions is included in **Attachment A**.

## Amendments to the Strategy resulting from consultation

9. Based on the feedback received through the consultation process the following changes have been made and are shown in the updated draft Homelessness Strategy in **Attachment B**. [Link 3](#) view [here](#), contains an annotated version of the draft Strategy showing the amendments made as a result of consultation, summarised as follows:
  - 9.1. Goal 1, target 1 has been changed to ‘A whole of system response to supplement the SA Government committed housing and reach functional zero by 2025’.
  - 9.2. Changes to Goal 3: Safety and support – People are safe, to include ‘and have access to support’.
  - 9.3. Changes to Goal 4: Wellbeing and connection – People are well and living connected lives, to include ‘within their communities’.
  - 9.4. Language changes to increase strengths-based language and other suggestions such as sleeping out rather than sleeping rough.
  - 9.5. Reinforcing the importance of people with lived experience of homelessness creating solutions.
  - 9.6. New activities relating to advocacy for connected homelessness services.
  - 9.7. Advocacy for flexible funding so people can be supported for longer and services are encouraged to look for innovation in service delivery.
  - 9.8. Commitment to investigate amenity improvements such as lockers to safeguard possessions for people experiencing homelessness.
  - 9.9. A commitment to provide leadership to other local councils on supports such as Street Connect.
  - 9.10. Commitment to improved decisions that impact Aboriginal people by engaging with the South Australian Voice to Parliament.

- 9.11. Commitment to partnering with the State Government to connect people to services.
10. Additional editorial and minor amendments have been made to the Strategy to improve readability.

**Next Steps**

11. Pending Council decision on the updated draft Housing Strategy, the document will be finalised and made public on the City of Adelaide website.
12. Implementation of the outcomes sought in the Strategy will commence, noting delivery of the Strategy is subject to the annual business plan and budget process for 2024/25.
13. Reporting of the Strategy and progress toward targets will be undertaken through the City of Adelaide's Annual Report.

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## DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Link 1** – [Council Meeting – Recommendations of the City Community Services and Culture Committee 7 November 2023 – Tuesday, 14 November 2023](#)

**Link 2** – [Draft Homelessness Strategy for engagement](#)

**Link 3** – Annotated Version of Homelessness Strategy

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## ATTACHMENTS

**Attachment A** – Summary of Draft Homelessness Strategy Consultation

**Attachment B** – Homelessness Strategy – Everyone's Business

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