

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028 for Endorsement

Tuesday, 7 May 2024

City Community Services and Culture Committee

Strategic Alignment – Our Places

Public

Program Contact:

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Approving Officer:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the City of Adelaide Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028 (the Plan).

On 13 February 2024, Council endorsed the draft Plan for public consultation ([Link 1](#)). The consultation on the draft Plan ([Link 2](#)) was open for five weeks from 23 February to 2 April 2024.

The Plan was available in multiple formats for the consultation including easy English, and accessible formats (large print and screen reader).

Seventeen Your Say Adelaide survey submissions were received. Feedback was also received through drop-in sessions and a special meeting of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel. A summary of the consultation is provided in **Attachment A**.

The draft Plan, as contained in **Attachment B**, has been updated to reflect consultation feedback. A version of the Plan with track changes is provided for ease of reference ([Link 3](#)).

Preparing the Plan is a legislative requirement under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA)* and must demonstrate alignment with national and state disability inclusion plans.

The City of Adelaide has an Access and Inclusion Panel which provides the Administration with advice and oversight of the Plan's development, implementation and ongoing monitoring and reporting.

The Plan replaces the City of Adelaide Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2019-2022 and is drafted for alignment with the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 14 May 2024 for consideration

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

1. Receives the draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028 consultation summary contained in Attachment A to Item 7.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 7 May 2024.
2. Endorses the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028, contained in Attachment B to Item 7.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 7 May 2024.
3. Notes the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028 replaces the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2019-2022.
4. Authorises the Acting Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to make minor, typographical, syntactical and technical updates to the documents (including new photography) contained in Attachment B to Item 7.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 7 May 2024, to finalise the document.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Places Create safe, inclusive and healthy places for our community
Policy	It is a commitment of the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan to review the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.
Consultation	Public consultation on the draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028 was open for five weeks from 23 February to 2 April 2024.
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	It is a requirement of the <i>Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA)</i> for local governments to have a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.
Opportunities	The development of a new Disability Access and Inclusion Plan will articulate Council's role in access and inclusion including how it will Lead, Partner, Facilitate and Advocate for greater inclusion and access for all.
23/24 Budget Allocation	The 2023/2024 budget includes 0.5 FTE for a Senior Social Planner to support the development and implementation of the Council's access and inclusion programs. The operating budget for the Senior Social Planner and the Access and Inclusion Panel is \$99,100.
Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation	The implementation of the Plan is currently unfunded. The draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 includes \$440,000 above current service levels for implementation of the Plan, subject to Council approval, and is comprised of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$215,000 for strategic projects 2. \$125,000 service level change (operating budget) 3. \$100,000 capital projects allocation.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	The legislative requirement is for 4-year plans. The Plan is proposed to align with the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028 as a 4-year Plan. A resourcing plan for the Plan has been prepared and costed above current services levels to a value of approximately \$1,350,000 across the life of the Plan. This does not include service level changes or capital works projects. Funding for initiatives above existing service levels will be determined by Council annually through the City of Adelaide Annual Business Plan and Budget process.
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 13 February 2024, the Council endorsed the Plan for the purposes of public consultation ([Link 1](#)).
2. The Plan identified five goals, each with a four year focus area.
 - 2.1. Goal 1: Infrastructure that helps people to move around and navigate the city.
 - 2.1.1. Four Year Focus: Transport Strategy - Embed accessibility within the City of Adelaide city-wide Transport Strategy incorporating input from people with lived experience of disability by December 2024.
 - 2.2. Goal 2: Liveable neighbourhoods and communities that enable everyone to participate.
 - 2.2.1. Four Year Focus: Sensory Friendly Spaces - Investigate potential locations and cost for quiet/sensory friendly spaces in the city and develop a dedicated space by June 2028.
 - 2.3. Goal 3: Events and festivals for everyone to attend.
 - 2.3.1. Four Year Focus: Cultural Strategy - Provide opportunities for artists and people with disability to participate in arts and culture and embed in a City of Adelaide Cultural Policy by December 2024.
 - 2.4. Goal 4: Businesses that are welcoming to more customers.
 - 2.4.1. Four Year Focus: Business Access and Inclusion Program - Promote inclusive businesses to raise the standard to others and support people to identify places where they will experience fewer barriers by June 2026.
 - 2.5. Goal 5: Inclusive customer and employee experience that is embedded into everything the City of Adelaide does.
 - 2.5.1. Four Year Focus: Inclusive Council Meetings - Provide opportunities for more people to contribute to Council decision-making processes by June 2025.

Summary of Consultation

3. Public consultation on the Plan ([Link 2](#)) was open for five weeks from 23 February 2024 to 2 April 2024. The consultation summary report is contained in **Attachment A**. In summary:
 - 3.1. Seventeen Your Say Adelaide survey submissions were received.
 - 3.2. Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel Members shared the Plan with their respective networks and a subsequent special meeting of the Panel was held to share consultation feedback.
 - 3.3. Six drop-in sessions were held across multiple days and locations, including the Fringe Vibes on Hutt event, and at libraries and community centres. Over 100 people shared feedback at these sessions.
4. Key themes arising from the consultation are:
 - 4.1. Support from the City of Adelaide Access and Inclusion Panel for the Plan.
 - 4.2. Feedback to refine easy English and accessible formats of the Plan.
 - 4.3. Consultation support for the Plan including Goals, Four Year Focus areas and implementation items.
 - 4.4. Priorities for implementation, including:
 - 4.4.1. Investment in key infrastructure such as footpaths and signage to enhance accessibility.
 - 4.4.2. Wayfinding and access to and through the city.
 - 4.4.3. Clear paths of travel during events, construction, and associated with outdoor dining, e-scooters, bins and A-frames on footpaths.
 - 4.4.4. Provision of public toilets across the city and an increase in the number of Changing Places facilities.
 - 4.4.5. Transport provision and information including accessible car parking and public transport.
 - 4.4.6. Support for businesses and events to be more accessible and promote their accessibility.
5. The City of Adelaide incorporates Universal Design and *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth)* requirements in infrastructure and capital project delivery as per the priorities for implementation arising from consultation (identified in point 4.4).

Proposed Amendments to the Plan

6. Changes to the Plan arising from consultation include:
 - 6.1. Refinement of drafting to reflect the language of disability as person first and identity first.
 - 6.2. Inclusion of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) data.
 - 6.3. Safety has been included in the principles of the Plan.
 - 6.4. Additional or adjusted roles for the City of Adelaide, as follows:
 - 6.4.1. Goal 1 – Wayfinding – Facilitate the early adoption of building numbering to the left of business entrances ahead of legislative requirements coming into effect in 2025.
 - 6.4.2. Goal 1 – Public and Active Transport (amended) - Advocate for improvements in the storage and regulation of e-scooters to ensure safe pedestrian paths.
 - 6.4.3. Goal 2 – Community Buildings – Improvements to community buildings in the Adelaide Park Lands to consider accessibility and inclusion that supports participation in sport.
 - 6.4.4. Goal 3 – Events (amended) - Investigate opportunities to partner with the State Government on accessible and inclusive major events in the City of Adelaide.
 - 6.5. Minor editorial updates.
 - 6.6. Updated photography to represent a diverse population and demographic which will be actioned following Council endorsement including image descriptions for all photographs and production of an Easy English version.
 - 6.7. A track changes version of the Plan is provided for ease of reference ([Link 3](#)).

Resourcing Plan

7. A resourcing plan for the Plan has been prepared and costed above current services levels to a value of approximately \$1,350,000 across the life of the Plan. Funding for initiatives above existing service levels will be determined annually by the Council through the City of Adelaide Annual Business Plan and Budget process.
8. The 2024/2025 budget proposal for the Plan implementation includes:
 - 8.1. \$215,000 for strategic projects to increase business accessibility across the city and \$13,000 for AUSLAN and other interpreters for Council meetings.
 - 8.2. \$125,000 service level change (operating budget) to allocate a 1.0 FTE to the Social Planning and Reconciliation team to scope and cost quiet / sensory friendly spaces in the city, development of data and evaluation tools and to manage the Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel.
 - 8.3. \$100,000 capital projects for accessible technology for visit planning and navigation of the city, accessible rest stops in the Adelaide Park Lands and accessible technology improvements for Council meetings.

Next Steps

9. Pending Council decision, the Plan will be published on the City of Adelaide website and supersede the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2019-2022.
10. The Plan precedes an update to the State Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2019-2023. Administration will continue to work collaboratively with the State Government on alignment of the Plan with future directions for the State Plan.
11. Budget bids to support the implementation of the Plan have been submitted for consideration as part of the 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget process.
12. The Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel will continue to meet quarterly to support implementation and oversight of the Plan. Current membership and terms of reference for the Panel are available on the City of Adelaide website ([Link 4](#)).

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – [Agenda – City Community Services and Culture Committee, Tuesday 6 February 2024](#)

Link 2 – [Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028 for consultation](#)

Link 3 – Track changes version of the Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028 post consultation

Link 4 – [City of Adelaide website content – Access and Inclusion](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Consultation Summary on Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028

Attachment B - Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2024-2028

- END OF REPORT -