

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE (ASSETS) POLICY

Date this document was adopted

non-legislative

PURPOSE

This Policy guides strategic investment in social infrastructure assets to achieve outcomes aligned with agreed-upon objectives and principles, delivering community resilience, and social impact.

Social infrastructure is the interdependent mix of facilities, places, spaces, programs, projects, services and networks that maintain and improve the standard of living and quality of life in a community.

This Policy focuses on the buildings, enabling infrastructure and community spaces that facilitate the delivery of social services by governments and other service providers (social infrastructure assets). While assets are often considered individually, social infrastructure networks play a significant role in supporting liveability, sustainability, and the economy.

This Policy excludes Community Buildings in the Adelaide Park Lands which are informed by the Adelaide Park Lands Community Buildings (Sport and Recreation) Policy and Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy.

STATEMENT

This Policy acknowledges the role of social infrastructure in creating an equitable, inclusive and liveable city.

It aims to guide the planning and development of social infrastructure assets to better serve community needs and population growth through the timely delivery of, and equitable access to, social infrastructure.

Investing in social infrastructure assets in the right place at the right time will support community facilities that contribute to social fabric, identity, and connection.

Policy Objectives

1. **Place-based planning:** Take a place-based approach to planning and developing social infrastructure assets at the neighbourhood and city-wide scale to address community needs now and for future generations.
2. **Equitable access:** Ensure users' access to social infrastructure assets is convenient, easy, and affordable, recognising that marginalised and vulnerable populations benefit most from equitable access.

3. Coordination and delivery: Enable shared investment, programming, and timely delivery of social infrastructure assets to strengthen their community value and support sustainable city growth.

Policy Principles

<p>Responsive</p> <p>Responsive to current and future community need</p>	<p>Planning and addressing community need at a neighbourhood and capital city scale.</p> <p>Using population benchmarks, including population forecasts, to assist in determining facility level and floor space requirements.</p> <p>Recognising the role of social infrastructure in emergency management such as extreme weather response for people sleeping out.</p>
<p>Accessible</p> <p>Well located and designed for access and social inclusion</p>	<p>Sharing and integrating facilities through co-location, partnerships and a mix of services (such as social services with residential and/or commercial development).</p> <p>Using existing well-located infrastructure including reuse of buildings.</p> <p>Locating assets where there is access to active and public transport (such as centrally located within neighbourhood or main street settings), including end of trip facilities.</p> <p>Applying universal design and access principles to the design and management of community facilities (such as sensory spaces).</p>
<p>Adaptable</p> <p>Designed to be flexible and adaptable to changing needs</p>	<p>Ensuring that by design and management, social infrastructure assets are flexible and adaptable to changing needs.</p> <p>Enhancing visibility, comfort, and safety for access day and night.</p> <p>Connecting to the public realm, private and public outdoor spaces, and natural elements for enhanced user experience.</p> <p>Contributing to the provision of public amenities including public toilets, drinking water, technology, charging points and places to shelter; and spaces for functions including kitchen facilities, storage, loading areas and limited on-site car parking.</p> <p>Using public art and design elements for cultural expression and interpretation.</p>

<p>Sustainable</p> <p>Sustainable delivery and operation of facilities</p>	<p>Promoting sustainable practices in the development and management of social infrastructure, including financial responsibility, economic and social returns.</p> <p>Maximising the value of social infrastructure assets through programming, maintenance, and renewal.</p> <p>Staging the delivery of assets to enable timely responses to existing and future community needs.</p> <p>Enabling community-led approaches, capacity building and cultural recognition.</p>
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City of Adelaide Roles

Role	Description	Social Infrastructure Asset Type/Function
<p>Owner/Custodian/ Direct Provider</p>	<p>Provide funding, planning and operation of social infrastructure assets.</p>	<p>Community centres and libraries (community hubs), public toilets and playspaces</p>
<p>Leader</p>	<p>Lead policy settings to enable social infrastructure assets delivery through appropriate land use and land economics within the City of Adelaide.</p> <p>Adequate allocation of social infrastructure assets to enable economic delivery and thriving communities.</p>	<p>Social infrastructure assets</p>
<p>Partner</p>	<p>Partner with government, non-government, community and private sector partners to deliver social infrastructure outcomes.</p>	<p>Sport and recreation facilities, arts and culture facilities, community gardens, maker spaces, youth spaces</p>

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Facilitator	Facilitate social infrastructure outcomes through coordination, brokerage and support.	Sport and recreation facilities, arts and culture facilities, community gardens, maker spaces, youth spaces
Advocate	<p>The City of Adelaide, as the capital city, provides facilities for the Greater Adelaide region, which is also experiencing population growth.</p> <p>Advocate to the State and Federal government for social infrastructure asset outcomes within the remit of other levels of government.</p> <p>Represent community interests to influence social infrastructure outcomes.</p>	Early childhood education and care, education and training, primary and community health

APPLICATION

The City of Adelaide will implement this Policy through a policy framework (Appendix A) that includes:

1. Place-based planning and assessment
2. Community Facilities Investment Plan (proposed Investment Plan)
3. Service planning.

Place-based planning and assessment

The City Plan – Adelaide 2036 provides a long-term vision and strategic goals for the development and enhancement of social infrastructure, ensuring alignment with the city's overall objectives for growth and community well-being.

The City Plan integrates social infrastructure considerations into broader urban planning and development policies, ensuring that infrastructure development supports the city's strategic aims and recognises social infrastructure delivery as a city shaping investment.

The City Plan digital tool (CoADE) will be used to determine suitable locations for social infrastructure facilities based on factors such as accessibility, land availability, and integration with other land uses.

Community Facilities Investment Plan

The City of Adelaide will implement this Policy through the Community Facilities Investment Plan. The Plan will prioritise investment in the development, upgrade or consolidation of community facilities to meet current and future needs.

The Plan will include details on population and floorspace benchmarks, elaborate on design guidelines based on the agreed principles, and discuss funding and investment mechanisms such as government funding, developer contributions, public/private partnerships and social impact investment.

Service Planning

The City of Adelaide will plan services to address community needs, recognising marginalised and vulnerable population groups benefit most from equitable access.

The City of Adelaide recognises and that in a capital city context, it provides services at a regional, district and local level.

OTHER USEFUL DOCUMENTS

Related documents

- Active City Strategy
- Adelaide Park Lands Building Design Guidelines
- Adelaide Park Lands Community Buildings (Sport and Recreation) Policy (in development)
- Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy
- Assessment Management Plans
- City Plan – Adelaide 2036
- Economic Development Strategy – A thriving economy for all
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
- Future Fund and Investment Policy
- Homelessness Strategy – Everyone’s Business
- Housing Strategy – Investing in our housing future
- Property Strategy (In development)
- Public Toilets Operating Guidelines
- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Social Infrastructure Assessment (Internal)
- Public Toilet Assessment (Internal)

Relevant legislation

- *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*
 - *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (SA)*
 - *Public Health Act 2011(SA)*
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GLOSSARY

Adelaide Park Lands: Those areas of the Adelaide Park Lands defined by the Adelaide Park Lands Plan under the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005*, and including the City Squares and Gardens, roads running through or bordering the Adelaide Park Lands; and any other land vested in or under the care, control or management of, the Crown, a state authority or a local government body.

Integrated Planning: Integrated planning coordinates the strategic use of land with the necessary services and infrastructure.

Neighbourhood: The City Plan – Adelaide 2036 provides a Local Area Framework that describes the unique attributes and identity, place principles and investment priorities for thirteen neighbourhoods across the City of Adelaide, including key social infrastructure assets.

Main Street: The City Plan – Adelaide 2036 references creating a series of main streets to be the vibrant arteries of urban life in the city, serving as the heart of the city's commercial and social activity.

Social Services: Also known as human services, the formal services that provide support, advice, education and information to a wide range of groups within a community.

Social Infrastructure: Social infrastructure is the interdependent mix of facilities, places, spaces, programs, projects, services, and networks that maintain and improve the standard of living and quality of life in a community. (*Definition: State Planning Policies for SA*).

Social Infrastructure Assets: The buildings and spaces that facilitate the delivery of social services by governments and other service providers. While assets are often considered individually, social infrastructure networks play a significant role in supporting liveability, sustainability, and the economy (*Definition: Infrastructure Australia*).

ADMINISTRATIVE

As part of Council's commitment to delivering the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan, services to the community, and transparent information, all policy documents are reviewed as per legislative requirements. When no such provision is made, a risk assessment approach is taken to guide the review timeframe.

This Policy document will be reviewed every **five years** unless legislative or operational change occurs beforehand. The next review is required in **2029**.

Review history:

Trim Reference	Authorising Body	Date/ Decision ID	Description of Edits
ACC2024/126364	Council	Pending	NA

Contact:

For further information contact the Park Lands, Policy & Sustainability Program.

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Appendix A – Policy Framework

