

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon - MoN - Precinct Strategic Planning

Tuesday, 10 February 2026
Council

Council Member
Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor
Carmel Noon

Public

Contact Officer:
Anthony Spartalis, Chief Operating
Officer

MOTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Carmel Noon will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:

'That Council:

1. Notes that Council is currently undertaking a review of the Precinct model, including funding arrangements, with outcomes intended to take effect from the 2026/27 financial year.
2. Acknowledges that it is imperative for the City's Precincts to commence strategic planning and preparation in the current financial year to ensure they are well-positioned to effectively utilise revised funding arrangements once implemented.
3. Endorses the commencement of a coordinated Precinct Strategic Planning Program in 2025/26 to support each of the City's seven Precincts.
4. Directs the Chief Executive Officer to allocate funding in the 2025/26 financial year to:
 - a) Support the development of an individual Strategic Plan for each Precinct; and
 - b) Engage an experienced, independent strategic planning facilitator to deliver individual strategic planning sessions within each Precinct, working collaboratively with the respective Precinct Presidents and Committees.
5. Requires that the Strategic Plans:
 - a) Be developed using a consistent framework and format across all Precincts;
 - b) Clearly articulate each Precinct's priorities, role, governance maturity, and contribution to Council's broader strategic objectives; and
 - c) Inform future Council decision-making in relation to Precinct funding, performance expectations, and alignment with the City's Strategic Plan.
6. Requests that a report be provided to Council outlining:
 - a) The proposed scope, cost and timeline of the Precinct Strategic Planning Program; and
 - b) How the outcomes of the Plans will be integrated into the 2026/27 funding model and ongoing Precinct review process.'

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

1. At its meeting on 27 January 2026 in relation to the recommendation of the Special City Finance and Governance Committee on the confidential item Precinct Review – Precinct Group feedback and recommendation, Council resolved:
“THAT COUNCIL
 1. *Notes the feedback provided by Precinct Groups on the proposed precinct services delivery model as contained in Attachment A on the Agenda for the Special meeting of the City Finance and Governance Committee held on 27 January 2026.*
 2. *Notes the individual Precinct Group responses received as contained in Attachment B to Item 6.1 on the agenda for the Special meeting of the City Finance and Governance Committee Special held on 27 January 2026.*
 3. *Approves the recommended model of precinct services delivery (Funding Option 2, with a place partner budget allocation for each precinct of \$40k, reducing the contestable funding of \$400k to \$330k) for implementation in 2026/27.*
 4. *Requests the administration explore a merger of the Grote and Gouger Street Precinct Groups in consultation with those groups with advice to Council regarding that potential merger no later than Q3 26/27.*
 5. *Authorises that, in accordance with Section 91(7) and (9) of the Local Government Act 1999 (SA) and because Item 19 [Confidential Recommendation of the Special City Finance and Governance Committee – 27 January 2026] listed on the Agenda for the meeting of the Council held on 27 January 2026 was received, discussed and considered in confidence pursuant to Section 90(3) (a) of the Local Government Act 1999 (SA), this meeting of the Council do order that:*
 - 5.1. *The resolution and report, excluding Link 1 and Attachments A, B & C, be released from confidence following the Council decision and subsequent consultation of teams and staff as required.*
 - 5.2. *Link 1, Attachments A, B & C, the discussion and any other associated information submitted to this meeting and the Minutes of this meeting in relation to the matter remain confidential and not available for public inspection until otherwise determined by Council or 31 December 2026.*
 - 5.3. *The confidentiality of the matter be reviewed 31 December 2026. 5.4 The Chief Executive Officer be delegated the authority to review and revoke all or part of the order herein and directed to present a report containing the Item for which the confidentiality order has been revoked.”*
2. Following Council’s decision the Administration has begun work on an Implementation Plan. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - 2.1. Requirements for Precincts to be entitled to the \$40k base funding per Precinct (which is envisaged as being similar to the approach already in place for the current \$25k Mainstreets Revitalisation funding administered by AEDA).
 - 2.2. Conditions in relation to the level and nature of planning required to secure funding.
 - 2.3. The process for Precincts to participate in vying for the contestable funding pool (similar to processes already in place for events and festivals, administered by both AEDA and CoA Events Team).
 - 2.4. How to treat the contestable pool of funds allocated to “additional support”.
 - 2.5. Engaging an appropriately qualified person to assist and collaborate with precincts in the business planning for Precincts (based on feedback received at the 27 January 2026 meeting that preceded the Council meeting), whereby a consistent set of strategic criteria would apply to all precincts, with allowance for other matters that met the specific needs of the individual precincts. This person needs to be an experienced, independent facilitator, preferably with existing background and context around City of Adelaide precinct activity to date.
 - 2.6. Revisiting the recommendations in the KPPM report and reconfirming and aligning them to the feedback received from the Precinct groups to determine the deliverables, roles and placement of appropriate resourcing to deliver on these.

3. As such, the components within the Motion are not at odds with the intended approach and the desire for the precincts to hit the ground running is acknowledged.
4. Some groups have substantive forward plans in place already. However, those with good plans and momentum already in place will likely be in a position to receive greater contestable allocations, potentially disadvantaging some groups.
5. It is further acknowledged that the planning aspect is important because it has been assumed that no funding would be provided to precinct groups unless they can demonstrate a clear strategic plan which articulates priority areas of activity, and funding for proposed projects and initiatives to support joint CoA and Precinct objectives. Funding from the 2026/27 precinct funding program was to include conditions in relation to the level and nature of planning required to secure funding.
6. We are yet to seek to appoint or commence discussions with an appropriately qualified person to undertake the planning, and it is therefore difficult to determine what a likely budget may be required to undertake the work. Conservatively, this may equate to about \$70k (\$10k per precinct) however this will take some time to confirm, once a scope has been developed. Further, it was expected that any costs associated with business planning for a precinct would be funded from the \$40k base funding allocation approved for the 2026/27 financial year.
7. While each Precinct Group's funding has already been committed in 2025/26, there is a small residual amount of funding (approximately \$15k) which could be allocated in 2025/26 to commence Precinct Group planning.
8. It would likely be more beneficial for CoA and Precinct Groups to collaborate in the remainder of 2025/26 on development of consistent and clear priorities and funding criteria, which would set a base understanding for all participants and directly engage Precinct Groups on how their own needs align.
9. Should Council resolve to support the proposed motion, Administration will prepare a report:
 - 9.1 Outlining scope, cost and timeline of the Precinct Strategic Planning Program.
 - 9.2 How the outcomes of the Plans will be integrated into the 2026/27 funding model and ongoing Precinct review process.
 - 9.3 Funding to support this work will be considered as part of the Q3 Business Plan and Budget Review.

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	Discussion with Precinct Groups should be commenced immediately to ascertain their preferences and capabilities to commence immediate strategic planning processes.
External consultant advice	A rapid tendering process would need to be commenced immediately to identify a suitable consultant to assist in any strategic planning processes with Precinct Groups.
Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)	Not applicable
Impacts on existing projects	Not applicable
Budget reallocation	Budget would need to be found in the existing 2025/26 budget if additional unbudgeted strategic planning was approved in 2025/26. The quantum would depend on the option chosen by Council in its Motion.
Capital investment	Not applicable
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	Estimates have not been made due to the potential for different options to be chosen by Council. However all will require significant planning, preparation, tendering, consultation and liaison to establish the strategic planning process in 2025/26. Existing staff and projects in AEDA, City Community and Corporate Services may need to be delayed in consequence.
Other	Not applicable

Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 5.5 hours.
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