

Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2030

Tuesday, 2 June 2026

City Community Services and
Culture Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Program Contact:

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Public

Approving Officer:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the Community Wellbeing Strategy – *A Place to Thrive* (2026-2030), which incorporates feedback from stakeholders and the community.

The draft Strategy is a deliverable of the Strategic Plan 2024-2028. Implementation of the Strategy will support city population growth targets by ensuring our city remains a place where people can thrive at every stage of life.

On 10 February 2026, Council endorsed the draft Strategy for public consultation, open for four weeks from 18 March to 13 April 2026. A summary of the public consultation is provided in **Attachment A**.

In total across 2025 and 2026, 368 people were engaged across all public consultation methods, including stakeholder workshops.

Feedback received from the public consultation revealed strong community support for the goals and priorities identified in the draft Strategy.

Key themes arising from the public consultation include:

- Inclusion, belonging and connection
- Green spaces, play and recreation
- Community facilities and social infrastructure
- Arts, culture and lifelong learning
- Affordability and inclusive access
- Transport access and active mobility
- Youth spaces and expression
- Volunteering, neighborhood support and resilience
- Safety and night-time comfort
- Community-led, co-designed and partnered Initiatives.

The public consultation feedback indicates strong alignment with key government and non-government agencies, including the Department of Human Services (SA), Resilient Ready, COTA SA, Heart Foundation and Welcoming Australia.

The draft Strategy (**Attachment B**) has been updated to incorporate the feedback from public consultation and is now being presented to Council for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 9 June 2026 for consideration

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

1. Notes the Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2030, public consultation summary report as contained in Attachment A to Item 7.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 2 June 2026.
 2. Adopts the Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2030, contained in Attachment B to Item 7.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 2 June 2026.
 3. Rescinds the Active City Strategy 2013-2023, noting that components have been updated and included in the Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2030.
 4. Notes the Year One Implementation Plan, contained in Attachment C to Item 7.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 2 June 2026.
 5. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate to make minor typographical or syntactical updates to the documents as contained in Attachment B to Item 7.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 2 June 2026 to finalise the document.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Community An interesting and engaging place to live, learn and visit. An inclusive, equitable and welcoming community where people feel a sense of belonging.
Policy	The Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2030 will replace the Active City Strategy 2013-2023. This strategy has organisation-wide application and contains clear linkages to, and supports the delivery of, outcomes identified within other organisational policies including the City Plan, the Integrated Transport Strategy and the Cultural Policy.
Consultation	Consultation was undertaken from 18 March to 13 April 2026. A summary of the public consultation is provided in Attachment A .
Resource	Not as a result of this report.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report.
Opportunities	The draft Community Wellbeing Strategy clarifies Council's role in supporting community wellbeing, identifies current and emerging challenges and details clear actions.
25/26 Budget Allocation	The City of Adelaide's community wellbeing response was supported in 2025/26 by an operational budget. An additional strategic budget allocation was allocated for \$50,000 for the Positive Ageing Pilot Program.
Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation	The Strategy in Year 1 will be funded from existing operational budget allocations. 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 Community Wellbeing Strategy is a four-year strategy to be delivered from 2026/27 to 2029/30.
26/27 Budget Reconsideration	Relevant areas of the 2026/27 City Culture Budget will be realigned to deliver the Community Wellbeing Strategy in its first year, estimated at an investment of \$310,000.
Ongoing Costs	Ongoing costs in outer years are scalable depending on Council's Strategic Priorities and the Annual Business Plan and Budget. An annual implementation plan will detail the phased priorities as programs and projects are mapped out.
Other Funding Sources	The Strategy identifies areas of community need which prioritises the opportunity to seek out grant funding to achieve outcomes.

DISCUSSION

1. The purpose of the draft Community Wellbeing Strategy (2026-2030) is to support a welcoming, safe and connected community that enables people to be involved in and shape their community, supports active and healthy lives, and be resilient in the face of economic, geopolitical and environmental challenges.

Background

2. At its meeting on 14 November 2023, Council approved the development of a Community Development Strategy and implementation plan to support the delivery of an impactful community development approach in this term of Council.
3. At its meeting on 13 February 2024, Council noted the Community Development Discussion Paper ([Link 1](#)), which identified key challenges that the CoA needs to consider to support residents to be well and living connected lives as members of a diverse community and support the population growth target of 50,000 residents by 2036.
4. On 10 February 2026, Council endorsed the draft Community Wellbeing Strategy for public consultation ([Link 2](#)). The draft Strategy was developed through key stakeholder engagement and research undertaken in 2025 with the Centre for Social Impact, Flinders University.

Public consultation summary

5. Public consultation on the draft Strategy was open for four weeks from 18 March to 13 April 2026, with a focus on in-person engagement to ensure we heard from a wide range of people, particularly those who are harder to reach (young people, families with children).
6. During the consultation period, a total of 235 people were directly engaged and of those 156 provided feedback through face-to-face conversations with City of Adelaide staff. Public consultation highlights included:
 - 6.1. 117 community members engaged face-to-face
 - 6.2. 39 sector stakeholders engaged face-to-face
 - 6.3. 38 online survey responses received via Our Adelaide
 - 6.4. Nine written submissions received from community organisations and stakeholders, including COTA SA, Resilient Ready, Heart Foundation, Walking SA, Working Women's Centre, Minus18, Men's Arabic Speaking Association, Department of Human Services and Welcoming Australia
 - 6.5. 272 Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy downloaded from Our Adelaide portal
 - 6.6. 12,890 people reached across social media channels
 - 6.7. 19,473 notified electronically via CoA newsletters and distribution lists.
7. A public consultation summary report is provided in **Attachment A**.

Public consultation results

- 7.1. Online survey responses demonstrated strong overall support for the draft Strategy goals and priorities. Over 80% of survey respondents expressed strong agreement/agreement with all the proposed draft Strategy goals.
- 7.2. Online survey responses demonstrated the highest agreement with the following priorities:
 - 7.2.1. Ensure community centres and libraries are accessible, well-equipped and responsive to community needs
 - 7.2.2. Facilitate healthy environments that support physical, social and mental wellbeing
 - 7.2.3. Foster connected, resilient and thriving neighbourhoods
 - 7.2.4. Recognise and support the contribution of volunteers.
- 7.3. Thematic analysis of the qualitative survey responses, in-person engagement insights and stakeholder written submissions, reinforced the quantitative survey findings, highlighting shared priorities for community wellbeing, including:
 - 7.3.1. Inclusion, belonging and connection
 - 7.3.2. Green spaces, play and recreation
 - 7.3.3. Community facilities and social infrastructure

- 7.3.4. Volunteering, neighbourhood support and resilience
- 7.3.5. Safety and night-time comfort
- 7.3.6. Community-led, co-designed and partnered initiatives.

How feedback has shaped the draft Community Wellbeing Strategy

8. Feedback received during public consultation informed changes and additions to the draft Strategy, detailed in [Link 3](#). Key updates include:
 - 8.1. Goal One, Priority Three - wording updated to include newly arrived people based on feedback received during the public consultation, in which people expressed a sentiment that being welcome and connected was important to everyone. This aligns with data showing that 45 per cent of our residents were born overseas and reflects the role of the Capital City.
 - 8.2. Goal Four: *People can adapt and recover* - updated to *People are resilient*. It was felt that this was a clearer description and more aligned with the goal statement.
 - 8.3. Goal Six, Priority Three - revised to include a reference to healthy streets to align with the City Plan, Integrated Transport Strategy and public consultation feedback calling for a focus on safer, more people-oriented streets that support active travel.
 - 8.4. Inclusion of a Public Health Snapshot and rationale - to help us apply a “health-in-all” policies lens and prepare for our next Regional Public Health Plan due for delivery in 2027.
9. Clear roles have been defined for Council and include:
 - 9.1. Deliver – Plan, deliver and fund services, programs and projects
 - 9.2. Facilitate – Assist others to undertake activities by bringing interested parties together
 - 9.3. Partner – Work with other stakeholders to achieve shared goals
 - 9.4. Educate – Share learning to support broader understanding and action
 - 9.5. Advocate – Promote the interests of our communities to influence decision makers
 - 9.6. Regulate – Regulate activities through local laws and legislation.

Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy

10. The draft Strategy is provided in **Attachment B**. The draft Strategy includes six goals:
 - 10.1. Goal 1: People feel welcome and connected
 - 10.2. Goal 2: People are active and healthy
 - 10.3. Goal 3: People can shape their community
 - 10.4. Goal 4: People are resilient
 - 10.5. Goal 5: People keep learning throughout their lives
 - 10.6. Goal 6: People feel safe where they live, work and spend time.
11. Each goal includes:
 - 11.1. A statement that defines the meaning and intention of the goal
 - 11.2. Three priorities

Implementation Plan

12. The draft Strategy is supported by a Year One Implementation Plan, (**Attachment C**) which outlines the key actions proposed for delivery in 2026/27 to progress the Strategy’s objectives and priorities.
13. Subsequent annual implementation plans will be developed ahead of each financial year to ensure actions remain responsive to emerging priorities, resourcing considerations and the evolving operating environment.
14. This staged approach supports Council’s nimble and proactive delivery of the Strategy, enabling alignment between the Strategy’s long-term objectives, the annual Business Plan and Budget process, and the delivery of key strategic outcomes.
15. This strategy has organisation-wide application and contains clear linkages to, and supports the delivery of, outcomes identified within other organisational policies including the City Plan, the Integrated Transport Strategy and the Cultural Policy

Next Steps

16. Pending Council adoption, the draft Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2030 will be finalised and made public on the City of Adelaide website.
17. Implementation of the outcomes sought in the Strategy will commence.
18. Annual strategic reporting will summarise how well we have delivered in line with the Monitoring and Learning Framework outlined in the draft Strategy.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 - Community Development Discussion Paper, 2024

Link 2 – Council Meeting – Recommendation of the City Community Services and Culture Committee 10 February 2026

Link 3 – Annotated version of the draft Community Wellbeing Strategy

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Community Wellbeing Strategy Public Consultation Summary Report

Attachment B – Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2030

Attachment C – Community Wellbeing Strategy 2026-2030 - Year One Implementation Plan

- END OF REPORT -