

Draft Community Engagement Policy

Strategic Alignment - Our Community

Public

Tuesday, 18 August 2026

City Finance and Governance
Committee

Program Contact:

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Approving Officer:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to note the consultation feedback on the draft Community Engagement Policy (CoA Policy) and seek adoption of the final CoA Policy (**Attachment A**).

On 25 November 2025 Council adopted the City of Adelaide Community Engagement Charter ([Link 1](#)) and Community Engagement Policy ([Link 2](#)).

On 11 December 2025, the Minister for Local Government's Community Engagement Charter (State Charter) and related amendments to the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) (the Act) were published in the South Australian Government Gazette ([Link 3](#)).

Local councils have a period of nine months from the commencement of the amendments to the Act to review and adopt a Community Engagement Policy that aligns with the State Charter. This is required to be completed by 11 September 2026.

On 26 May 2026 Council endorsed an amended draft CoA Policy, for the purposes of public consultation. Public consultation commenced on 3 June 2026 and closed on 2 July 2026.

A survey hosted on the 'Our Adelaide' online community engagement platform received four responses. Four in person sessions were held with over 60 interactions. There were no written submissions received.

The amended Community Engagement Policy will supersede the existing Community Engagement Policy adopted by Council on 25 November 2025.

A summary of the consultation is provided as **Attachment B**. Changes made to the CoA Policy can be found in [Link 4](#).

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 25 August 2026 for consideration

THAT THE CITY FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL
THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the feedback received on the draft Community Engagement Policy as contained in Attachment B to Item 7.3 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Finance and Governance Committee held on 18 August 2026.
 2. Adopts the Community Engagement Policy contained in Attachment A to Item 7.3 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Finance and Governance Committee held on 18 August 2026 and rescinds the 25 November 2025 Community Engagement Policy.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Corporation Review the Community Engagement approach by 2025.
Policy	The City of Adelaide Community Engagement Policy, once approved by Council, will replace Council's current Community Engagement Policy (Link 2).
Consultation	Consultation on the Community Engagement Policy for the City of Adelaide must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999 (SA) .
Resource	Activities outlined in this report will be conducted using existing resources or approved budgets. There are no additional resources required as a result of this report.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Councils must adopt a new policy by 11 September 2026 in alignment with the <i>Local Government (Transitional Provisions) (Public Consultation) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SA)</i> (Link 5).
Opportunities	Not as a result of this report
26/27 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 27/28 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
26/27 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. Council resolved at its 25 February 2025 meeting for:
 - 1.1. *An immediate commencement of the review of the Adelaide City Council Community Consultation Policy considering the current policy states it should be reviewed every two years and the last review was due in May 2021.*
 - 1.2. *The development of a Community Communications and Engagement Policy and a Community Engagement Charter to ensure our community can be informed and participate more fully in decision making about our City.*
 - 1.3. *This work to be completed in time for implementation in the last quarter of 2025.*
2. At its 26 August 2025 meeting, Council approved the draft City of Adelaide Community Engagement Charter (CoA Charter) and draft Community Engagement Policy (CoA Policy) for the purpose of public consultation from 1 September 2025 to 6 October 2025.
3. At its 25 November 2025 meeting, Council adopted the final City of Adelaide Community Engagement Charter and Community Engagement Policy.
4. On 11 December 2025, the Minister for Local Government's Community Engagement Charter (State Charter) and related amendments to the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) (the Act) were published in the South Australian Government Gazette ([Link 3](#)).
5. Local councils have a period of nine months from the commencement of the amendments to the Act to review and adopt a Community Engagement Policy that aligns with the State Charter. This is required to be completed by 11 September 2026.

Consultation Undertaken

6. Council approved the revised draft CoA Policy at its 26 May 2026 meeting for the purpose of public consultation from 3 June 2026 to 2 July 2026.
7. To ensure the community was informed and aware of the opportunities to provide feedback into this process, the consultation was promoted through:
 - 7.1. A survey hosted on the 'Our Adelaide' online community engagement platform.
 - 7.2. Hard copies of the survey being made available at various locations including the Customer Centre, libraries and community centres, along with relevant documents for reference.
 - 7.3. Notification to the Our Adelaide stakeholder database (over 15,000 registered users).
 - 7.4. Four face-to-face information drop-in sessions across various locations in the City of Adelaide.
 - 7.5. Promotion on City of Adelaide social media channels.

Consultation Results

8. During the consultation period, Council received:
 - 8.1. 128 visitors to the Our Adelaide page.
 - 8.2. Four Our Adelaide online survey responses
 - 8.3. Over 60 interactions at the four in-person sessions at the Minor Works Community Centre, North Adelaide Library, Rundle Mall and the Yarn Bombing Day at the Box Factory Community Centre.
9. A consultation summary is provided in **Attachment B**.

Key changes to the Community Engagement Policy

10. There are no changes made in response to community feedback on the draft Community Engagement Policy, which was general in nature and largely unrelated to the Policy.
11. The draft Community Engagement Policy has been further amended to improve its alignment with the Local Government Association of South Australia's Model Community Engagement Policy ([Link 6](#)). The following amendments have been made:
 - 11.1. Removal of the reference to section 249 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA), relating to the making of by-laws.
 - 11.2. Amendment of the 'Delegations' section to align with the wording and approach contained in the Model Community Engagement Policy.

Legislative changes

12. Local councils have a period of nine months from the commencement of the amendments to the Act to review and adopt a Community Engagement Policy that aligns with the State Charter. This is required to be completed by 11 September 2026.
13. The Local Government Association of South Australia has developed the following guide for steps to be undertaken:

Policy development and internal approvals	April – May 2026
Council Meeting to endorse Draft Community Engagement Policy (for consultation purposes)	May/June 2026
Engagement Period (Period to be determined by council)	Mid-June – late July 2026
Council Meeting to adopt Community Engagement Policy (post consultation)	August 2026
Date by which Community Engagement Policy must be adopted:	11 September 2026
3 month transition period - both Public Consultation and Community Engagement Policies can be applied: (or earlier if adopted prior to 11 Sept)	11 September – 10 December 2026
Community Engagement Policy must be applied from: (or earlier if adopted prior to 11 Sept)	11 December 2026

14. The adoption of the Community Engagement Policy at the next Council meeting ensures that the above timeframes have been met by the City of Adelaide.

Next Steps

15. Once adopted by Council, the new Community Engagement Policy will replace the existing Community Engagement Policy adopted on 25 November 2025.
16. The community will be informed of the decision through the Our Adelaide project page and the Our Adelaide newsletter.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 - Community Engagement Charter

Link 2 - Community Engagement Policy (November 2025)

Link 3 - Minister for Local Government's Community Engagement Charter (State Charter)

Link 4 - Draft Community Engagement Policy – Marked Changes

Link 5 - Local Government (Transitional Provisions) (Public Consultation) Amendment Regulations 2025

Link 6 - Local Government Association of South Australia's Model Community Engagement Policy

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Community Engagement Policy

Attachment B – Consultation Summary

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