

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon - QoN - Precinct Review and Strategic Planning

Tuesday, 8 September 2026
Council

Council Member

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor
Carmel Noon

Public

Contact Officer:

Anthony Spartalis, Chief Operating
Officer

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Carmel Noon will ask the following Question on Notice:

'Could Administration please advise:

1. What is the current status of the Precinct Review and associated strategic planning process, including what has been completed, what is underway and what remains outstanding?
2. Who has been engaged or appointed to coordinate the process, whether internally or externally, what is the scope and value of that engagement, and which Council officer is responsible for delivery?
3. Noting that the strategic planning process was expected to commence prior to the beginning of the 2026/27 financial year, when did it actually commence and, if delayed, what has caused the delay?
4. What is the proposed timetable for consultation with each Precinct Association, including engagement with Presidents and Boards, preparation of draft plans, review, finalisation and implementation?
5. How will governance, financial reporting and funding arrangements be addressed through the Review, including accountability for Council funding, reporting requirements, acquittals, future funding models and any proposed changes to the role or responsibilities of Precinct Associations?
6. What is the current and proposed role of the City's Place Coordinators in supporting the precincts, including how their responsibilities will interface with Precinct Associations, AEDA and other areas of Administration?
7. When will the Review and strategic planning outcomes return to Council, including recommendations on governance, funding, roles and responsibilities, implementation and measures of success?

REPLY

1. Current status of the Precinct Review and associated strategic planning process:
 - 1.1. Completed - The original Precinct Review was completed by KPPM Strategy.
 - 1.2. Completed - Council adopted a revised precinct support funding model in January 2026, including:
 - 1.2.1. increasing annual Precinct Group funding from \$25,000 to \$40,000
 - 1.2.2. establishing a future contestable precinct funding framework.
 - 1.3. Completed - All Precinct Groups have now received their 2026/27 funding allocation of \$40,000 following submission of activity/action plans.

- 1.4. Completed - KPPM Strategy has been re-engaged to support development of Precinct Strategies.
- 1.5. Completed - A Precinct Review Project Team has been established to oversee implementation and strategy development.
- 1.6. Underway - Development of precinct-wide strategic planning methodology and engagement approach.
- 1.7. Underway - Development of a city-wide stakeholder survey and targeted workshop program.
- 1.8. Underway - Engagement planning involving Place Partners and broader precinct stakeholders.
- 1.9. Underway - Development of overarching place-based Precinct Strategies aligned to differing precinct functions, economic maturity, growth opportunities and strategic priorities.
- 1.10. Outstanding - Stakeholder consultation program (September-October 2026).
- 1.11. Outstanding - Development and drafting of Precinct Strategies.
- 1.12. Outstanding - Development of contestable funding guidelines and criteria.
- 1.13. Outstanding – Proposed AEDA Board endorsement of Precinct Strategies.
- 1.14. Outstanding – Presentation to Council of final strategies and future funding framework.
- 1.15. Outstanding - Implementation of contestable funding to enable access from July 2027.
2. Engagement of external and internal resources to progress the Precinct Review implementation:
 - 2.1. External - KPPM Strategy, which undertook the original review, has been re-engaged to support implementation and development of Precinct Strategies. KPPM continues to provide external project support including implementation advice, development of Precinct Strategies, and development of future contestable funding criteria. The engagement is valued at \$54,450 inc GST.
 - 2.2. Internal – A Precinct Review implementation project team was established in August 2026, with the General Manager AEDA as Project Sponsor.
3. Practical commencement of the precinct strategies process commenced during July-August 2026 with establishment of the Project Team, re-engagement of KPPM, commencement of survey and workshop design, and engagement planning with Place Partners and precinct stakeholders.
4. The proposed timetable for consultation with each Precinct Association, including engagement with Presidents and Boards, preparation of draft plans, review, finalisation and implementation is:
 - 4.1. September-October 2026
 - 4.1.1. City-wide stakeholder survey released.
 - 4.1.2. Data collection and analysis undertaken.
 - 4.1.3. Targeted workshops conducted for engagement with Precinct Groups, business stakeholders, community stakeholders, and key individuals with interests in precinct economic development.
 - 4.2. Late 2026
 - 4.2.1. Analysis of survey and workshop findings.
 - 4.2.2. Draft Precinct Strategies to be prepared.
 - 4.3. Early 2027
 - 4.3.1. Precinct Strategies developed and refined through collaboration between AEDA, Place Partners, KPPM, and stakeholders.
5. Governance, financial reporting and funding arrangements, and role of Precinct Associations:
 - 5.1. Current - Precinct Groups have received 2026/27 funding of \$40,000 based on activity/action plans submitted through the application process. Reporting and acquittal requirements remain unchanged, requiring precinct groups to describe delivery on commitments in their funding application, and financial acquittal.
 - 5.2. Future - Precinct Strategies will inform future precinct funding priorities.
 - 5.3. Future - a contestable precinct development fund is proposed to commence in FY2027/28.
 - 5.4. Future - future funding criteria and guidelines will be developed, consistent with Council's Funding Programs Policy.
 - 5.5. Future - contestable funding will be available to eligible applicants, including Precinct Groups.

- 5.6. Future - the Strategies are intended to provide the framework for future funding decisions and investment priorities.
- 5.7. Governance – It is proposed that the AEDA Board endorse the completed Strategies and be involved in their development. Council will be presented the endorsed Strategies and funding framework.
- 5.8. Specific future acquittal arrangements, accountability measures and reporting requirements have not yet been publicly finalised and are expected to be developed through the funding criteria work.
6. The current and proposed role of the City's Place Coordinators in supporting the precincts is:
 - 6.1. Current role - Place Partners remain within the City Community portfolio. They have been formally engaged in the strategic planning process. They will play a key role in stakeholder identification, stakeholder engagement, survey participation, workshop participation, and ensuring local precinct input informs strategy development.
 - 6.2. Proposed future role - Precinct Strategy development will help determine future precinct support structures. Place Partner roles are expected to evolve towards a stronger economic development focus. Future deployment, governance arrangements and organisational alignment remain under consideration. No formal decision has been made regarding where they are placed within the organisational structure.
7. Council will be provided the outcomes of the Strategic Planning process and implementation recommendations as follows:
 - 7.1. Stakeholder consultation is planned for September-October 2026. Development of Precinct Strategies is planned through late 2026 and the first half of 2027. The objective is to have Strategies completed in early 2027 with AEDA's Board being asked to endorse the completed Strategies. The Strategies will then guide contestable precinct funding, precinct planning, and precinct-related Council investment decisions from July 2027 onwards.
 - 7.2. No formal Council meeting date has yet been nominated for Council to receive the final package. This will occur following AEDA Board endorsement and prior to implementation of the FY2027/28 contestable funding program.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 2 hours.
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