


15.2 Major Strategic Review 2020/21 – Strategic Community Plan

<div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Administration</h2>  </div>	
Responsible Officer:	Mark Dacombe, T/CEO
Author:	Mark Dacombe, T/CEO
Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>
File Reference:	Nil
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 15.2A – Draft Strategic Community Plan

Purpose of Report

Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

Background

The Council last undertook a major strategic review in 2018 and was about to embark on a mini strategic review in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. The focus of the Shire turned to the actions necessary to support the community through the initial stages of the pandemic in particular the lock-down period.

As the State emerged from the lock-down the range of federal and state government initiatives to support and stimulate the economy started to become known the Council decided to re-engage with the community and undertake an “out-of-cycle” major review to ensure that the direction being set post pandemic reflected community views in the changed circumstances.

Comment

Extensive community engagement was undertaken with a total of 407 inputs to the community engagement process. This represents 12.1% of the total population.

Community Concerns

The key community concerns that emerged through the process were:

- Choice of retail and hospitality in a healthy and attractive CBD

- Grow and build local industry, support local businesses
- Tourism
- Events
- Strong and vibrant regional hub
- Community engagement and morale
- Services for young people
- Population
- Health Services

Priorities

In response to these concerns the Council has developed the following priorities that are reflected in the Strategic Community Plan:

Community and Culture

- Development of cultural life: infrastructure and spaces; activation, and celebration of Njaki Njaki culture
- Development of sport and recreation: infrastructure and participation
- Community safety

Economy and Growth

- Clearly articulate Merredin's identity and value proposition
- Tourism product development, including cultural tourism
- Strengthening the economy through local business development
- Building on Merredin's strengths to expand the economy

Environment and Sustainability

- Address climate change
- Ensure continuous potable and non-potable water supply
- Developing a more efficient and sustainable waste management service
- The shire leading by example

Communication and Leadership

- Effective mechanisms for community representation in key decision-making
- The Shire has a strong working relationship with Njaki Njaki Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal community members
- Maximising the value of Shire assets

Places and Spaces

- Revitalise the Merredin CBD
- Improve public open space

Transport and Networks

- Improving local roads
- Improving stormwater management

These priorities are the key drivers of the Strategic Community Plan.

It is proposed that the draft strategic Community Plan now be adopted for public comment before.

Policy Implications

Nil

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995

5.56. Planning for the future

- (1) A local government is to plan for the future of the district.
- (2) A local government is to ensure that plans made under subsection (1) are in accordance with any regulations made about planning for the future of the district.

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

19 C. Strategic community plans, requirements for (Act s. 5.56)

- (9) A local government is to ensure that the electors and ratepayers of its district are consulted during the development of a strategic community plan and when preparing modifications of a strategic community plan.
- (10) A strategic community plan for a district is to contain a description of the involvement of the electors and ratepayers of the district in the development of the plan or the preparation of modifications of the plan.

Risk Implications

The Strategic Community Plan contains a section setting out the strategic risks to the plan and the risk controls that apply.

Financial Implications

The financial implications of the Strategic Community Plan will be addressed in the Long-Term Financial Plan.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

	Officer's Recommendation / Resolution
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Moved: Cr Billing

Seconded: Cr McKenzie

82685

That Council;

- 1. Adopts the draft Strategic Community Plan;**
- 2. Endorses the priorities contained in the draft Strategic Community Plan;**
- 3. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to advertise the draft Strategic Community Plan for public comment.**
- 4. Authorise the CEO to complete any minor editing of the document in consultation with the Shire President and any changes made be advised to Council.**

CARRIED 9/o