

ITEM 14. NOTICES OF MOTION**INCREASE FUNDING FOR VILLAGE BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM (S103135)****1. By Councillor Mandla**

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note that:

- (i) in June 2015, Council resolved Item 6.18 – Village Business Grant Program 2015/16 Round One Allocations approving cash grants and value in kind (VIK) recommendations for 2015/16 and 2016/17;
- (ii) in December 2015, Council resolved Item 6.26 – Village Business Grant Program 2015/16 Round Two Allocations approving cash grants and value in kind (VIK) recommendations for 2015/16 and 2016/17;
- (iii) the Village Grants Community Groups include Chippendale Creative Precinct, Darlinghurst Business Partnership, Glebe Chamber of Commerce, Newtown Precinct Business Association, Paddington Business Partnership, Potts Point Partnership, Pyrmont Ultimo Chamber of Commerce, South Sydney Business Chamber and Walsh Bay Arts and Commerce;
- (iv) the village economies that these groups represent contribute \$25 billion dollars per annum to the City's GDP and account for 60% of the jobs in the City's workforce;
- (v) their unique precincts are essential to making Sydney a major tourist destination, a vibrant global city and a desirable place to live, work and play;
- (vi) only \$609,325 was distributed to Village Community Groups (including Newtown) in this current financial year as compared to \$776,041.50 which was distributed to Village Community Groups (including Newtown) in each of the last two fiscal years;
- (vii) all of the Village Grants community groups did not receive between \$1,000, and \$47,950 worth of funding;
- (viii) the executive committees of the Village Community groups will have to cut programs, administrative support staff and promotional efforts on behalf of our various business precincts;
- (ix) Council confirmed in Chamber an expectation that the Village Grants Community Groups would receive the whole amount of the grant and speakers confirmed they were shocked that they subsequently did not receive the whole amount of the grant; and
- (x) the City of Sydney has become unnecessarily prescriptive in providing grants that limit entrepreneurship and business freedom to adjust to market conditions and demands; and

- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) increase the grant funds of \$23,600 to Chippendale Creative Precinct during the current fiscal year;
 - (ii) increase the grant funds of \$10,000 to Glebe Chamber of Commerce during the current fiscal year;
 - (iii) increase the grant funds of \$9,800 to Haymarket Chamber of Commerce during the current fiscal year;
 - (iv) increase the grant funds of \$6,000 to Potts Point Partnership during the current fiscal year;
 - (v) increase the grant funds of \$21,000 to Pyrmont Ultimo Chamber of Commerce during the current fiscal year; and
 - (vi) increase the grant funds of \$47,950 to South Sydney Business Chamber during the current fiscal year.

WEBCASTING (S103135)

2. By Councillor Mandla

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) note that:
- (i) as there is no record kept of discussions in Committee and Council meetings, there is often debate as to what was and what wasn't said in a particular meeting. With no record of discussions, Councillors and the community miss the productivity boost of being able to benefit from watching past deliberations;
 - (ii) participatory democracy is at the heart of Local Government. Public access to proceedings can only increase confidence in Local Government;
 - (iii) the City of Sydney Council presents itself as Green, Global and Connected, with a commitment to consultation and community involvement;
 - (iv) technology, specifically webcasting via live streaming over the Internet, is an ideal means to increase participatory democracy and drastically reduce the carbon footprint of running Council and Committee meetings;
 - (v) many Council and Committee meetings are held at irregular hours. The public gallery is small. A member of the public can wait hours for an agenda item to be dealt with;
 - (vi) Council has to'd and fro'd on Webcasting having approved investigation, approved Webcasting and then run a rescission motion against it. In light of the recent success of my motion to adopt board portal technology and move papers to electronic format, using webcasting technology to record discussions will be successful and lead to more productive better community engagement; and

- (vii) internationally, most US Local Governments, 80% in the UK, and European Union Local Governments and over half the Local Governments of Wales webcast their proceedings; and
- (B) request the Chief Executive Officer to:
- (i) by 30 April 2016, commence live streaming of Council and Committee meetings to the web, with archiving to enable viewing at a later date; and
 - (ii) implement a training program for Councillors and relevant staff dealing with technical and legal issues of webcasting in preparation for live streaming of Council and Committee proceedings.

ALTERATION OF COUNCIL AGENDA AND CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE (S103135)

3. By Councillor Mandla

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note that:
- (i) Questions on Notice are one of the most important democratic tools that a Councillor possesses in representing the community;
 - (ii) Questions on Notice are often the only method that a Councillor has to get real answers to City of Sydney matters;
 - (iii) Questions on Notice are currently at the end of the agenda and ought to have a more prominent position at the top of the agenda; and
 - (iv) answers to Questions on Notice are often supplied just before Council meetings and, at least on one occasion, during the meeting, precluding Councillors from properly reading the answers and limiting their ability to absorb the information and to debate matters during the Council meeting; and
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) amend the Code of Meeting Practice so that Questions on Notice are Item 5 on the agenda (after Memoranda by the Chief Executive Officer and before Matters for Tabling); and
 - (ii) amend the Code of Meeting Practice so that the answers to Questions on Notice must be provided by noon on the day of the Council meeting.

FREE WI-FI AROUND SYDNEY TOWN HALL AND THE QVB FORECOURT (S103136)

4. By Councillor Green

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:

- (i) my Notice of Motion on 30 March 2015 that requested the Chief Executive Officer work closely with the NSW Government to deliver free Wi-Fi within the Sydney CBD and report back to Council via the CEO update on progress;
 - (ii) that the NSW Government has been very slow in its response to the City on this work and that free Wi-Fi in the CBD has not yet been implemented; and
 - (iii) the City of Sydney's 2016 Social Sustainability Draft Policy and Discussion Paper recommends that opportunities be explored to provide increased access to Wi-Fi opportunities through community centres and in the public domain; and
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) investigate opportunities for the City of Sydney to provide free Wi-Fi around the Town Hall precinct, including Town Hall steps and Sydney Square, in addition to the Queen Victoria Building forecourt - corner Drutt and George Streets; and
 - (ii) report progress via the CEO update.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (S103133)

5. By Councillor Scott

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note that the *Green Environmental Sustainability Progress Report: July to December 2015* states that currently there is a deficit of 689,081 tCO₂-e required to be reduced to achieve the City's LGA 2030 emissions target; and
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to develop a costed plan including energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies to account for the deficit of 689,081 tCO₂-e required to be reduced to achieve the City's LGA 2030 emissions target and that this plan be presented to Council for consideration prior to the end of 2016.

PYRMONT BRIDGE (S103133)

6. By Councillor Scott

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
 - (i) Pyrmont Bridge is a key strategic pedestrian and cyclist link for residents, workers, and visitors, connecting Pyrmont and Ultimo to the CBD;
 - (ii) Pyrmont Bridge is owned and managed by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA);

- (iii) the Resolution of Council of 27 April 2015 adopting the *Walking Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2030*, which includes targets that one third of commuter trips by City of Sydney residents be by walking and that the City aims to improve walking amenity by 10% on main activity streets through planned upgrades;
 - (iv) currently there is no shade protection along the length of Pyrmont Bridge; and
 - (v) Pyrmont Bridge is protected under the *Heritage Act 1977* as an item of State significance for its aesthetic, historical, and scientific cultural values, as well as being listed on the Register of the National Estate; and
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) prepare a feasibility study for providing shade protection along the length of Pyrmont Bridge to increase its amenity, encourage greater pedestrian and cyclist patronage of the bridge, and not inhibit pedestrian or cyclist movements on the bridge, while protecting the heritage value of the bridge;
 - (ii) write to the SHFA to initiate a joint feasibility project between the City and the SHFA to provide shade protection along the length of Pyrmont Bridge; and
 - (iii) report back to Councillors via CEO Update on the outcomes of the feasibility study and response from the SHFA.

SMART CITIES (\$103133)

7. By Councillor Scott

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
- (i) that technological innovation is a key component for planning and delivering urban infrastructure and services in the twenty-first century;
 - (ii) advances in information and communications technologies have proven utility in the management of cities in more effective and efficient ways; and
 - (iii) that other LGAs in NSW are making significant headway in implementing smart cities technologies, including Parramatta City Council which has recently adopted a Smart City Masterplan and appointed a Strategic Project Officer to oversee the implementation of Smart City initiatives; and
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
- (i) prepare a feasibility study and draft policy on investigating and implementing smart technologies in the City's infrastructure and services; and
 - (ii) report back to Councillors via CEO Update on the outcomes of the feasibility study.

REGULATIONS FOR BACKPACKER HOSTELS (S103139)**8. By Councillor Forster**

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) on 26 October 2015, Council passed a resolution requesting the Lord Mayor write to the State Government requesting legislative amendments to address issues arising from 'unregulated backpacker accommodation';
- (ii) Clause (A)(i) of the resolution cited an incident in which a man was injured in a fall at a backpacker hostel in Potts Point;
- (iii) Clause (A)(ii) asserts the existence of an "existing dangerous anomaly of the lack of legislation and regulatory controls for the management of backpacker hostels operating under 'existing use rights'";
- (iv) Clause (A)(v) asserts that "as the legislation stands, there are insufficient powers for the City of Sydney and other authorities to regulate and ensure responsible management of backpacker premises";
- (v) Clause (A)(vii) asserts that it "is of great concern that [young travellers'] safety is at risk while in backpacker premises which potentially operate with minimal regulatory standards;
- (vi) the incident referred to in Clause (A)(i) was investigated by Kings Cross Police and was the subject of a building code compliance investigation by City of Sydney Council, both of which were completed prior to the resolution being passed, and neither of which resulted in any required changes to the safety and management practices or building conditions at the backpacker hostel in question;
- (vii) the owner of the business where the incident occurred was not notified of the Notice of Motion, passed at the October 2015 Council meeting, in advance of it being discussed by Council;
- (viii) most backpacker hostels in the Kings Cross/Potts Point area are located in B4 Mixed Use or B2 Local Centre zones and do not operate under 'existing use rights', but rather operate under DAs or 'continuing use rights';
- (ix) backpacker hostels are already highly regulated under the Local Government Act 1993, Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, which give Council the power to:
 - (a) conduct fire safety inspections and issue any required orders;
 - (b) conduct building inspections and issue any required orders; and
 - (c) investigate complaints about noise and issue any required noise abatement directions;

- (x) most backpacker hostels in Potts Point and Kings Cross:
 - (a) have 24 hour reception desks and/or night managers;
 - (b) restrict access to courtyards and other outdoor areas after 10pm to minimise noise;
 - (c) restrict or prohibit non-guests on the premises; and
 - (d) evict guests who cause excessive noise or engage in antisocial behaviour;
 - (xi) the operators of backpacker hostels do not have any control over the behaviour of people outside their premises;
 - (xii) nearby residents are able to raise any concerns they have about the operations of backpacker hostels with both Council and NSW Police; and
 - (xiii) according to a letter written by the Lord Mayor dated 23 February 2016, the operators of backpacker hostels continue to work effectively with both Council and NSW Police to address the concerns of nearby residents as they arise; and
- (B) Council request the Chief Executive Officer to:
- (i) undertake a Safer by Design Evaluation of public spaces in Potts Point and Kings Cross led by Council, in consultation with NSW Police and community and backpacker operator representatives, designed to identify and implement strategies consistent with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles; and
 - (ii) take steps to ensure that, in future, prior notification is provided to any specific person, business or property owner who or which has been identifiably referred to in a Notice of Motion to Council.

NEWTOWN FRIDAY NIGHT VIBES (S103137)

9. By Councillor Doutney

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
- (i) Newtown has undergone significant changes, as more people are frequenting the area for its nightlife due to the Lockout Laws. This has been putting Newtown's diversity at risk, and has made many locals feel unsafe;
 - (ii) that the City has funded the trial, due to end in April 2016, for Newtown Neighbourhood Centre's initiative of "Safer Bars Training" and "Friday Night Vibes", which has been met with great enthusiasm from the community. The aim of this initiative is to keep Newtown a safe and inclusive space, for example, greeting and welcoming people with flowers at the train station;

- (iii) that Newtown must continue to challenge the influx of mainstream culture that has recently hit by strengthening the image of diversity, through such programs as “Friday Night Vibes”; and
 - (iv) that such initiatives require consistency for success, and must have secure funding. Reports from the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre have demonstrated the trial’s success; and
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to consider how Council can continue funding the program “Friday Night Vibes” and other initiatives which use community-based ideas to promote diversity, into the future.