

ITEM 10. A CITY FOR ALL: INCLUSION (DISABILITY) ACTION PLAN 2017-2021**FILE NO: S116523****SUMMARY**

On 15 May 2017, Council approved the draft A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021 for public exhibition. The draft plan was developed in consultation with people with disability, key members of disability stakeholder groups and in collaboration with the City's Inclusion (Disability) Advisory Panel.

The draft plan was placed on public exhibition from 17 May to 14 June 2017 to provide additional opportunity for people who weren't able to participate in earlier consultations to provide feedback. To provide everyone the opportunity to comment, the plan was produced in a number of alternative formats including accessible e-text, large text and easy English versions. A message inviting comment was also produced in Auslan (Australian Sign Language).

During the public exhibition period, the City received nine submissions from disability service providers, disability peak groups, community organisations and people who live in, work in and visit the City of Sydney local government area. The overall feedback indicated positive support for the City's commitment to creating a city for all that is inclusive and accessible for all its residents, workers and visitors.

Some submissions also suggested minor improvements to some aspects of the plan, including the use of terminology and supporting data, definitions of key terms and context around accessible housing. A summary of the submissions received is provided at Attachment C. The final A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021, which has been amended to incorporate feedback from the public exhibition, is shown in Attachment A.

The NSW Government requires all Inclusion (Disability) Action Plans to be in endorsed and in place by 1 July 2017. To accommodate the City's public exhibition processes and meet our legislative obligations, it has been necessary for the draft Plan to be submitted direct to Council (as previously foreshadowed in the May committee report).

It is recommended that Council adopt A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021 at Attachment A.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council adopt the final A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the amendments and additions to the draft A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021 made in response to the public consultation process, as detailed in Attachment D to the subject report; and

- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021 in order to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and alternative format translations.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A:** A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021 – with amendments
- Attachment B:** Summary of recommendations from initial disability action planning workshops
- Attachment C:** Summary of public exhibition submissions received to A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021
- Attachment D:** Summary of amendments to the draft A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021

BACKGROUND

1. The City has made a commitment to creating an environment of equity of access for all people – its diverse communities, its residents, workers and visitors. This commitment is set out in the City's access and equity statement and in the Community Strategic Plan 2017. Objective 6.2 of the Community Strategic Plan describes a 2030 vision for a city where people are welcomed, included and connected.
2. The plan enables the City to meet its obligations to provide accessible facilities and services in accordance with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and to meet new obligations under the *NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014* to take active steps to create inclusive communities as part of the integrated planning and reporting cycle.
3. In accordance with the requirements under the *NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014*, the City hosted three disability action planning workshops with community members, service providers and peak advisory groups in December 2016 to inform the development of this plan. Thirty four people participated in the workshops, representing 20 peak disability and advocacy groups, including Vision Australia, Guide Dogs NSW/ACT, NCOSS, Ability Links, Deaf Society NSW, The Shepherd Centre, Chinese Parents Association - Children with Disabilities Inc., Belgravia Leisure, Carers NSW, People With Disability Australia, Down Syndrome NSW and NSW Chamber of Commerce. A summary of the feedback and suggestions and how they have been considered in the drafting of this plan has been included at Attachment B.

Public Exhibition

4. The draft A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021 was placed on public exhibition from 17 May to 14 June 2017. Submissions could be made in writing or via the Sydney Your Say website, telephone and email. The plan was produced in the following alternative formats to maximise participation of everyone in the community: (a) accessible e-text; (b) easy Read PDF; and (c) large text. A message inviting comment on the plan was also produced in Auslan (Australian Sign Language).
5. The draft plan was distributed to a range of disability and community sector stakeholders including the relevant state and local government agencies, peak organisations and non-government organisations. In addition, people with disability and other stakeholders who participated in the disability action planning workshops in December 2016 were directly invited to view the draft plan and provide further comment. The opportunity to comment on the draft plan was also promoted on 2RPH – Radio for the Print Handicapped in daily announcements.
6. The draft plan was promoted to the general public via public notice announcements in local newspapers including The Sydney Morning Herald and Central Courier.
7. The draft plan was available for download on the Sydney Your Say and the City of Sydney website. During the consultation period, the webpages were visited 295 times, the action plan was downloaded a total of 124 times (standard 94, accessible e-text 16, easy English 11 and large text three) and the Auslan video was played 25 times across the public exhibition period.

8. Over the public exhibition period, the City received a total of nine submissions from residents, visitors, workers and a range of organisations. A summary of the feedback and the City's response is provided at Attachment C.
9. There was strong support for the City's vision and commitment to providing equitable opportunities for participation by people who live in, work in and visit the City of Sydney local government area.
10. Some of the feedback from public exhibition included:
 - (a) the Mental Health Commission of NSW commends the plan, acknowledging the significant steps the plan outlines to address attitudes which can present a real barrier to people with disability, including people with a lived experience of a mental health issue, from participating in community life. The commission notes that explicit acknowledgment can go a long way to overcome the stigma faced by people with a lived experience of a mental health issue;
 - (b) Carers NSW notes that the plan reflects best practice in carer recognition and inclusion in the context of disability action planning; and
 - (c) the Disability Council of NSW notes the governance structure outlined to provide oversight to the implementation and evaluation of the plan is an example of good practice, and commends the City on making the plan available in a range of alternative formats.

Issues arising from the exhibition

11. The submissions covered a range of themes including:
 - (a) use of data and terminology - demographic data on people with disability, carers and people with mental health conditions and definitions of key terms such as "Changing Places" toilets;
 - (b) support for more accessible housing and inclusion of planning controls to mandate that a proportion of new housing is accessible;
 - (c) specific concerns around access in the public domain including accessibility of street furniture, accessibility of footpaths in specific precincts and navigation in the public domain for people who are blind or have low vision; and
 - (d) the need for time limited on-street mobility parking spaces and more accessible public transport.
12. After reviewing the submissions received, it is recommended that the amendments outlined below be made to the action plan. The comparison between the plan that was placed on exhibition and the proposed amendments can be seen at Attachment D. Some of the key changes include:
 - (a) addition of further information about the plan's alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (b) addition of a definition of "Changing Places" toilets;

- (c) addition of a description of the Deaf Community and psychosocial disability in the community profile section, and greater reference to carers throughout the plan; and
 - (d) amendment to the housing paragraph in the context section of the Liveable Communities direction, noting the role of home modification processes and the NSW Government's Apartment Design Guide in increasing the accessibility of housing.
13. There are several suggestions and comments that have not been incorporated into the final A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021. These include comments that are not within the City's responsibilities or control. For example, feedback relating to public transport and the Mobility Parking Permit Scheme that will be collated and submitted to Transport for NSW.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Alignment – NSW Disability Inclusion Action Plan

14. A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021 has been designed to align with the four directions established in the NSW Disability Action Plan and to build on the progress made by previous plans.

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

15. The City's draft Community Strategic Plan: *Sustainable Sydney 2030* is a vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan is aligned with the multiple objectives of *Sustainable Sydney 2030*, particularly Strategic Direction 6 – Resilient and inclusive local communities and Strategic Direction 4 – A city for walking and cycling.

Strategic Alignment – A City for All – Social Sustainability Policy

16. On 25 July 2016, Council adopted the Social Sustainability Policy "A City for All: Towards a socially just and resilient Sydney". The Policy outlines the City's framework for sustaining a socially just and resilient Sydney – a city for all. The Policy outlines the City's vision, guiding principles and roles. The development of A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021 has been informed by, and is aligned to, the principles of the Social Sustainability Policy.

Organisational Impact

17. The City has responsibilities under the (Cth) *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* to provide equitable access to its facilities, infrastructure and services for people of all abilities. The City also has responsibilities under the (NSW) *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* to develop a disability inclusion action plan that addresses barriers to inclusive participation faced by people with disability.
18. A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021 details meaningful steps the City will take to address barriers for inclusive participation in city life and employment.

19. These actions have been designed to build on the City's ongoing commitment to inclusion, the successes of previous, and harness emerging opportunities with the aim of ensuring access and inclusion are core considerations across all services and facilities offered by the City.
20. The actions are deliverable within existing staffing and operational budgets, or will be delivered through future planned capital works projects, procurement contracts and agreements.

Social / Cultural / Community

21. The plan seeks to foster the development of an inclusive and accessible city and enable full participation in city life. Through delivering the plan, people with disability who live, work in or visit the city, should experience greater independence and dignity, and more equitable opportunities for social and economic inclusion.
22. By providing equitable access for people with a disability, the City is also improving opportunities for participation across all community groups. For example, providing a more accessible physical environment assists people with a physical disability, but is also beneficial for people who are older, people with injuries and families with prams. Using clear and accessible communication strategies also benefits people with low levels of literacy, and people who speak English as a second language.

Economic

23. The plan contains ongoing actions to improve ease of access in the public domain, to the city's events and to the retail and hospitality industry, and actions to promote the city as an inclusive and accessible tourist destination. Improving access in these ways encourages a wider variety of people to come to the city, and therefore opens up potential market opportunities for businesses.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

24. The actions in A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021 focus on ensuring access and inclusion are key considerations in the services and facilities the City provides and will be delivered within existing staffing and operational budgets, or through future capital works projects or procurement contracts and agreements.
25. The planning process for the 2017-18 operating and capital budgets has taken into account the costs associated with delivering actions scheduled to occur in the 2017-18 financial year as outlined in A City for All: Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan 2017-2021 at Attachment A. Availability of budget resources is subject to final Council approval of the 2017-18 budget.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

26. Local Government Act 1993.
27. Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth).
28. Disability Inclusion Act 2014.
29. Carers Recognition Act 2010.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

30. The NSW Government requires all Inclusion (Disability) Action Plans to be endorsed and in place by 1 July 2017.

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