

ITEM 2. KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SPONSORSHIP – AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONFERENCE 2016**FILE NO: S112458.012****SUMMARY**

On 28-29 July 2016, Homelessness NSW Incorporated and the NSW Federation of Housing Associations (the Federation) will co-convene the Affordable Housing Conference 2016 in Sydney, with support from the University of Sydney's Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning.

The conference theme focuses on considering what it would take to create 100,000 additional affordable housing dwellings in NSW, recognising the importance of housing provision in Metropolitan Sydney. The program will cover a range of topics, including housing and service delivery to disadvantaged groups, including those experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness NSW is a peak organisation that works with members to prevent and reduce homelessness across the State. The Federation is the State industry peak body representing the community housing sector. Homelessness NSW and the Federation regularly conduct conferences and professional seminars in NSW.

Homelessness NSW has applied for sponsorship of the conference under the City's Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program.

The request for sponsorship has been assessed against the aims of the City's Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program and was found to strongly align with the majority of the sponsorship program's key outcomes, in particular:

- encouraging the exchange of ideas and knowledge;
- the development of strong networks through which participants can share resources and acquire new knowledge and skills; and
- contributing to the development of the industry sector.

The event also shows a clear alignment with the strategic objectives of *Sustainable Sydney 2030* and its goal of increasing housing diversity and affordability in Sydney.

The sponsorship package would provide the City with the opportunity for a complimentary exhibition booth; registration for at least two delegates to the conference; an advertisement and City of Sydney branding in conference materials; and formal acknowledgment at the event.

It is recommended that cash sponsorship of \$12,000 (excluding GST) be provided to Homelessness NSW Incorporated for the Affordable Housing Conference 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve cash sponsorship of \$12,000 (excluding GST) under the Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program to Homelessness NSW Incorporated for the Affordable Housing Conference 2016;
- (B) Council accept the sponsorship benefits, to be negotiated with Homelessness NSW Incorporated; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer a sponsorship agreement with Homelessness NSW Incorporated.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

BACKGROUND

1. Homelessness NSW is a peak organisation that works with members, including key service providers, to prevent and reduce homelessness across the State. The NSW Federation of Housing Associations (the Federation) is the peak industry body for community housing providers in NSW. The Federation's work to support the development of this sector includes: representation and sector co-ordination; research, policy and sector development; relationship building and network support; accredited training and capacity building through its Centre for Training in Social Housing; and organisational support and technical advice.
2. Homelessness NSW and the Federation are experienced in hosting conferences and professional seminars in partnership with industry and institutional organisations. Examples of previous conferences include:
 - (a) the NSW Community Housing Conference in 2013 and 2015, hosted by the Federation in conjunction with the NSW Aboriginal Housing Office and Churches Housing; and
 - (b) Homelessness 2016 NSW Conference, April 2016, hosted by Homelessness NSW.
3. The forthcoming Affordable Housing Conference in Sydney on 28-29 July 2016 at the Sydney Masonic Centre will be co-convened by Homelessness NSW and the Federation, with support from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney. An evening networking event will also be held in association with the conference.
4. The conference will provide a forum to explore key issues affecting the delivery of a significant supply of new low cost rental housing in NSW. This includes how all levels of government and community organisations can work together under emerging policy initiatives to deliver a significant quantity of additional affordable dwellings.
5. The organising committee anticipates over 450 delegates from government and not-for-profit organisations, including a proposed stream for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations. The participation of community members, including social housing tenants, is also being encouraged.
6. The request for support has been assessed against the aims of the City's Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program and was found to strongly align with the majority of the sponsorship program's key outcomes, in particular:
 - (a) encouraging the exchange of ideas and knowledge;
 - (b) developing strong networks through which participants can share resources and acquire new knowledge and skills; and
 - (c) contributing to the development of the industry sector.
7. The conference's key focus and themes also show a clear alignment with strategic objectives of *Sustainable Sydney 2030* and its goal and targets for increasing housing diversity and affordability.

8. This sponsorship support will provide the City with the opportunity to participate in this event, which is well aligned with Council's economic and social sustainability vision for Sydney in 2030.
9. At a minimum, the sponsorship package would provide the City with the opportunity for:
 - (a) verbal acknowledgment as the conference's Government Partner during the opening speech;
 - (b) a complimentary exhibition booth;
 - (c) registration for at least two delegates to the conference, and the dinner and networking event;
 - (d) an advertisement in the conference guide; and
 - (e) City of Sydney logo branding in conference marketing materials and program.
10. The City will seek to negotiate additional benefits, including additional complimentary attendance for staff at the conference.
11. It is recommended that cash sponsorship of \$12,000 (excluding GST) be provided to Homelessness NSW Incorporated for the Affordable Housing Conference 2016 from funding available in the City's Research, Strategy and Corporate Planning budget for 2015/16.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

12. *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. This conference is aligned with the following strategic direction and its objectives:
 - (a) Strategic Direction 8 – this addresses the need for housing for a diverse population to be available in Sydney's city centre and across each of its villages. It emphasises the need for a wide range of housing so people who provide vital city services can afford to live in the city. Its overarching objective is to provide guidance for new housing supply, and to facilitate a diversity of housing types and tenures to enable the city to continue to house the diverse population that enriches its communities.
13. Two other key strategic directions in the Community Strategic Plan are also of relevance in terms of the role housing plays in the city's vitality and growth, and liveability:
 - (a) Strategic Direction 6 - Vibrant local communities and economies – diverse and affordable housing supply plays a key role in building communities and local economies in the city's villages, contributing to social equality, resilience and adaptive capacity. It also supports the development of local enterprise and employment by allowing essential workers to live close to their place of work and small business owners to be centrally located, including niche businesses, start-ups, social enterprises and diverse retailing.

- (b) Strategic Direction 9 - Sustainable development, renewal and design – good urban design, including housing development, also contributes significantly to the liveability of the city. It also plays a major role in maintaining and improving Sydney's status relative to other cities. Inner Sydney renewal sites provide the opportunity to greatly improve the social, economic and environmental performance of the city and the Sydney region as a whole.

Organisational Impact

- 14. Sponsorship of the event will result in the nomination of a Council officer to provide contract management and coordination services.

Social / Cultural / Community

- 15. The conference's objectives and themes recognise the fundamental importance of affordable housing supply as core social infrastructure to make the city work, recognising a range of factors such as:
 - (a) the accessibility of the city to people who are disadvantaged, including low income earners and older Australians;
 - (b) approaches to breaking cycles of homelessness through innovative housing models; and
 - (c) wider social diversity concerns, including an identified focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing.

Economic

- 16. The conference outcomes closely align with aspirations for the sustainable economic development of the city identified in *Sustainable Sydney 2030*. These outcomes may be expected to have direct and indirect economic, urban development, strategic planning, and policy reform benefits in the longer term for improving the future of Sydney, to ensure that the city remains liveable and desirable for a diverse range of businesses and residents, including the essential key workers who contribute to the city's economic growth and vitality.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

- 17. Funding of \$12,000 (excluding GST) for sponsorship of the conference is available in the Research, Strategy and Corporate Planning budget for the 2015/16 financial year.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- 18. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

- 19. The Affordable Housing Conference 2016 will take place on 28-29 July 2016.

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