

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X080317 **DATE:** 18 February 2022

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Emma Rigney, Director City Life

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 8.2 – Policy - Adoption - Support for Charities Policy

Alternative Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council adopt the draft Support for Charities Policy as shown at Attachment A to the subject report ***subject to the following amendments:***
- (i) insert (as per the bold italics) additional wording in the Criteria for endorsement of charities section (page 6):
- In the event of an official charity partner or charity being supported by the City not meeting the criteria outlined in the policy, the support of this charity can be revoked by Resolution of Council***
- (ii) amend (as per the deletions in ~~strike through~~) wording in the Criteria for endorsement of charities section (page 5):
- are not for overtly religious or other activities that could be perceived as divisive within the community.
- (B) Council rescind the current Humanitarian Crisis Response Guidelines 2010, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report, which are superseded by the Support for Charities Policy;
- (C) Council rescind the current Support for Charities Guidelines 2018, as shown at Attachment C to the subject report, which are superseded by the Support for Charities Policy; and

- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor editorial amendments to the Support for Charities Policy.

(Additions shown in ***bold italics***, deletions shown in ~~strikethrough~~).

Background

At the meeting of the 14 February 2022 meeting of the Cultural and Community Committee further information was sought on the following:

- 1. The legality of local government funds being donated to international causes, with regard to section 5 of Local Government Act 1993.**

This is the subject of separate legal advice provided to Councillors via a Confidential CEO Update on 18 February 2022.

- 2. Changes to current practice.**

The Support for Charities Policy combines both the Support for Charities Guidelines (2018) and the Humanitarian Response Guidelines (2010) to provide a holistic approach on the City's involvement with charities.

There are no changes to delegations.

- 3. Information about donating to organisations who are not based in the City of Sydney Local Government Area or beneficiaries who are not based in the City of Sydney Local Government Area.**

This is the subject of separate legal advice provided to Councillors via a Confidential CEO Update on 18 February 2022.

- 4. The revocation of charity partner status or contributed funds if required**

The Alternative Recommendation above proposes an update to the Support for Charities Policy to include the revocation of charity partner status or contributed funds if required.

- 5. Clarification of donations to religious organisations/that donations are not for overtly religious purposes (as per the policy definitions/terms):**

Donations may be made to religious organisations for activities which have social benefit, such as, for example, to support food relief programs or affordable housing or assist vulnerable communities, but not for activities which are likely to be perceived as divisive in the community. Council will not make donations in support of activities that could be perceived as divisive within the community.

The Alternative Recommendation above proposes an update to the Support for Charities Policy to clarify this detail.

Memo from Emma Rigney, Director City Life

Prepared by: Sasha Baroni, Executive Manager Creative City

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. M. Barone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MONICA BARONE
Chief Executive Officer