

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X084366 **DATE:** 23 June 2023

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Kim Woodbury, Chief Operating Officer

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 6.3 - Integrated Planning and Reporting Program and Budget 2023/24 - Adoption (Accessibility of Community Facilities)

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Purpose

This memo provides information on:

1. Works to make City owned buildings compliant with current accessibility standards.
2. Review of accessibility at St Helen's Community Centre, Glebe.

Background

The City has a large and complex property portfolio comprised of 250 plus buildings, which includes many old and heritage structures.

The City has been implementing interim measures to improve accessibility of all of our community buildings, while progressively completing whole of building upgrades to ensure all buildings are fully compliant with current accessibility standards.

Interim measures to improve accessibility are delivered through the annual asset renewal programs. Examples of works completed through these programs include:

- Upgrades to existing bathrooms to improve accessibility e.g. Centennial Hall in Town Hall backstage bathrooms upgraded to include an accessible bathroom facility (prior to works people were required to use public bathrooms).
- Upgrades to paths of travel e.g. timber deck replacement at the PACT Centre for Emerging Artists, Erskineville included a ramp (prior to works the deck was only accessible via stairs);
- Upgrades of fit-out to improve accessibility for staff and members of the public e.g. Customer service counters at Level 1 and Level 2 of Town Hall House upgraded to include an accessible counter (prior to works there was no counter area at an accessible height for wheelchair users).

In recent times the City has completed major upgrades to the following community facilities to ensure that these buildings are fully compliant with current accessibility standards:

Facility	Date Completed	Project cost
Glebe Town Hall	2010	\$11.1M
Erskineville Town Hall	2013	\$3.3M
Juanita Nielsen Community Centre, Woolloomooloo	2016	\$9.5M
East Sydney Community and Arts Centre, Darlinghurst	2017	\$8.3M
119 Redfern Street	Under Construction (July 2023)	\$2.3M
Pymont Community Centre	Under Construction (2024)	\$9.6M

Information on the accessibility features of all community facilities is available on the City's website at <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/places>.

St Helen's Community Centre, Glebe

St Helen's Community Centre is located within a 'precinct' of community facilities on Glebe Point Road. The 'precinct' includes the Nurses Quarters, St Helen's Community Centre and Community Garden, Benledi House, Glebe Library and a significant local park space.

The City has completed a series of minor upgrades as interim measures to improve accessibility to buildings within the 'precinct', these works have included:

- Upgrades of main entries to provide an accessible path of travel from the street to ground floor community spaces; and

- Upgrades of bathroom facilities to provide accessible facilities on the ground floor of Benledi House / Glebe Library and St Helen's Community Centre.

St Helen's Community Centre, Benledi House and the Nurses Quarters all have first storey spaces which are currently only accessible via stairs and both St Helen's Community Centre and Benledi House are heritage buildings.

In early 2023 a review of the Glebe Point Road 'precinct' was initiated to determine if there are any further measures that can be completed to improve accessibility and develop a forward plan of works to increase and improve accessibility for the whole of the 'precinct'.

The review will be completed in late 2023. Any potential interim works will be included within this review. Capital works identified in the review will be included in the next revision of the Long Term Financial Plan.

Staff will meet with Radio 2RPH (who presented at the 19 June 2023 Committee meeting) to see if there is anything we can do to improve accessibility until we are able to confirm the best way to enable a fully accessible upgrade.

Memo from Kim Woodbury, Chief Operating Officer

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Approved

P. M. Barone

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Chief Executive Officer