

Policy - Adoption - Support for Charities Policy

File No: X080317

Summary

This report seeks Council approval of the draft Support for Charities Policy (the Policy), which provides a framework for Council to identify how charity partners may be appointed and the types of charities that may be supported.

The draft Support for Charities Policy has been developed to provide guidance for the City of Sydney and Councillors when responding to requests for endorsement of charitable campaigns and projects, financial and / or in kind support to charities, support for unforeseen domestic and international humanitarian crises, invitations to the City to support or purchase tickets at fundraising events, and the appointment of designated charity partners for the City's major events and festivals.

The Policy covers the appointment of charity partners for major events and festivals, donating to a charity in the event of a humanitarian crisis, official charity partner fundraising at City of Sydney events and festivals and City support of charities other than official charity partners.

The Policy incorporates the existing Humanitarian Crisis Response Guidelines approved by Council on 18 October 2010 and the Support for Charities Guidelines which were approved by the Chief Executive Officer in May 2018.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council adopt the draft Support for Charities Policy as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (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the current Humanitarian Crisis Response Guidelines 2010, as shown at Attachment B to the subject report, which are superseded by the Support for Charities Policy;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rescind the current Support for Charities Guidelines 2018, as shown at Attachment C to the subject report, which are superseded by the Support for Charities Policy; and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.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Support for Charities Policy
- Attachment B.** Humanitarian Crisis Response Guidelines 2010
- Attachment C.** Support for Charities Guidelines 2018

Background

1. The City of Sydney recognises the valuable work that charities and charitable organisations do in providing services, and supporting and fundraising for a range of community, environmental, cultural and economic initiatives and needs.
2. The City receives many requests for support from charities and charitable fundraisers. The requests can take the form of requests for financial or in-kind support, and endorsement of a charity through City participation in a charitable event.
3. The draft Support for Charities Policy has been developed to ensure that these requests are considered in a transparent and equitable manner and provides a framework for Council to identify how charity partners may be appointed and the types of charities that may be supported.
4. The Policy covers the appointment of charity partners for major events and festivals, donating to a charity in the event of a humanitarian crisis, official charity partner fundraising at City of Sydney events and festivals and City support of charities other than official charity partners.
5. The Policy also lists criteria around endorsement of charities and City charitable fundraiser obligations. Any proposal to contribute money or provide financial assistance from the City to a charity is a council reserved function and must be approved by Council resolution.
6. The policy applies to full-time, part-time, casual, temporary and fixed term City employees and Councillors.
7. The policy will replace the Support for Charities Guidelines approved by the Chief Executive Officer in May 2018 and the Humanitarian Crisis Response Guidelines approved by Council on 18 October 2010.
8. The Humanitarian Crisis Response Guidelines are to be rescinded by Council with the approval of the Support for Charities Policy.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

9. 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 policy is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 2 - provides a road map for the City to become A Leading Environmental Performer - where charities that contribute to the City's environmental performance or response to environmental issues are supported.
 - (b) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - through support of the community and important causes to generate exposure, provide recognition and build diversity.

Organisational Impact

10. There is limited additional resourcing required for implementation of the policy. The policy clarifies processes around existing activities related to the support of charities.

Risks

11. The policy includes measures to reduce the risks associated with the support of charities or charitable donations.

Social / Cultural / Community

12. Implementation of the policy will support a diverse range of charities and causes to enable benefits for the broader community.

Environmental

13. If a relevant charity is supported, it may contribute to the City's environmental aims and assist with the promotion of environmental issues to the broader community.

Economic

14. There are no negative economic implications associated with implementation of this policy. The policy will enable the City to provide social support to disadvantaged communities.

Financial Implications

15. There are no fees associated with support for charities. There is no income generated for the City.
16. Council may determine to make a discretionary cash donation to charities to provide disaster recovery and redevelopment during or following a crisis.
17. Council may direct donations to specific programs or allow funds to be used at the discretion of the charity. The relevant funding source will be identified at the time a specific donation is recommended to Council.

Relevant Legislation

18. Charities Act 2013 (Cth).
19. Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Critical Dates / Time Frames

20. There are no critical dates or time frames for this policy. The policy provides a framework for ongoing support of charities.

Public Consultation

21. No public consultation was undertaken nor required for this policy.

EMMA RIGNEY

Director City Life

Stephen Gilby, Acting Executive Producer, Major Events and Festivals