

Item 4.

Adoption - Support for Charities Policy

File No: X080317

Summary

In February 2022, the Support for Charities Policy was submitted to Council for consideration and endorsement. The policy was withdrawn following Council discussion. The Policy has since undergone further review and relevant changes have been made to provide greater clarity for when and how the City will provide support for charities.

This report seeks Council approval of the Support for Charities Policy (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 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, requests for financial and / or in kind support to charities, responding to unforeseen domestic and international humanitarian crises, responding to invitations to the City to support or purchase tickets to 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 and related fundraising, the appointment of an additional charity partner to a City produced function, event or festival in the event of a humanitarian crisis, donations in the event of a humanitarian crisis, and other support for a charitable program or activity.

The Policy aligns with the Community Strategic Plan Delivering Sustainable Sydney 2030 - 2050 under Direction 7 Resilient and Diverse Communities, outcome 7.3 and objective 7.3.2 of the City's Operational Plan 2022/23 which both refer to our efforts to build resilience and capacity extending beyond our local area, including aiding national and international communities to survive emergency situations. Both plans were adopted in June 2022.

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.

This report recommends that Council adopt the Support for Charities Policy.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council adopt the 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 amendments to the Support for Charities Policy in order to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and accessible formats for publication.

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 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 and related fundraising, the appointment of an additional charity partner to a City produced function, event or festival in the event of a humanitarian crisis, donations in the event of a humanitarian crisis, and other support for a charitable program or activity.
5. The policy also lists criteria around the support of charities. 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 Support for Charities Guidelines are to be rescinded by Council with the approval of the Support for Charities Policy.
9. The Humanitarian Crisis Response Guidelines are to be rescinded by Council with the approval of the Support for Charities Policy.
10. The Policy also aligns with the Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

11. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. 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 7 - Resilient and diverse communities - infrastructure, services and communities are prepared for and can withstand the impacts of acute shocks and chronic stresses and emergency situations. Council aims to extend its efforts to build resilience and capacity to communities beyond our local area, including aiding national and international communities to survive emergency situations.

- (b) The policy also aligns with objective 7.3.2 (2) of the City's Operational Plan 2022/23, which states that the City will support communities beyond our local area and international communities experiencing emergency situations.

Organisational Impact

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

Risks

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

Social / Cultural / Community

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

Environmental

15. 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

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

Financial Implications

17. There are no fees associated with support for charities. There is no income generated for the City.
18. Council may determine to make a discretionary cash donation to charities to provide disaster recovery and redevelopment during or following a crisis.
19. 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

20. Charities Act 2013 (Cth).
21. Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Critical Dates / Time Frames

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

Options

23. The City could retain the existing Support for Charities Guidelines and Humanitarian Crisis Response Guidelines. This is not recommended as there are inconsistencies within both guidelines on the appointment of charity partners and the types of charities that may be supported. The new policy aims to resolve these inconsistencies and provide a clearer a framework for Council and City staff.

Public Consultation

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

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