
Governance and Administration Matters - 04 February 2021

ITEM 1.1 Revised Delivery Program 2018-2022

AUTHOR City Future

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 24 November 2020, in conjunction with a related report on Rates Harmonisation and Financial Sustainability, Council resolved to exhibit the revised 2018-2022 Delivery Program to reflect priorities and resourcing associated with that proposal.

The purpose of this report is to detail the outcomes of the community engagement and to adopt the revised 2018-2022 Delivery Program.

ISSUE

Council prepares a Delivery Program to align with the electoral term. The Delivery Program is effectively where Council takes ownership of the Community Strategic Plan (CBCity 2028) objectives that are within its area of responsibility and, with the associated resourcing strategies, outlines the priorities and broad strategies to achieve the required outcomes.

The forced rates harmonisation was not meant to be dealt in the current Council term, nor current Delivery Program, however, following the onset of COVID-19, the NSW Government pushed back the next local government election to September 2021. In order to comply with Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation, Council is required to revise its current Delivery Program to address Council's suggested approach to rates harmonisation and financial sustainability.

The revised Delivery Program acknowledges emerging issues facing the City and incorporates Council's Harmonisation and Financial Sustainability approach (One Rate proposal).

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with sections 402 to 406 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council adopt the revised 2018-2022 Delivery Program.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Attachment A - Delivery Program 2018-2022 - Revised February 2021

POLICY IMPACT

The revised 2018-2022 Delivery Program was prepared in accordance with the Local Government Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. The integrated planning suite ensures sufficient attention is given to strategic decision-making at the local level. The priorities, future directions are supported by the Resourcing Strategy and annual operational plans which detail specific actions, projected budgets performance measures.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The revised 2018-2022 Delivery Program is consistent with Council's current 2020/21 Operational Plan and does not impact on the current resource allocation or priorities.

Separately, Council's approach to Rates Harmonisation and Financial Sustainability requires the approval of IPART. This is subject to a separate report to Council. If approved in May 2021 by IPART, Council's subsequent Delivery Programs, Resourcing Strategies and Operational Plans will reflect Council's strategic intent and new income streams.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Council engaged the with the community throughout December 2020 and January 2021, to ensure that emerging priorities and the impacts of Council's approach to Rates Harmonisation and Financial Sustainability as indicated in the One Rate proposal and community engagement process were fully explained. These matters have been reflected in the revised Delivery Program 2018-2022.

DETAILED INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, councils are required to develop a hierarchy of plans known as the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework. This Framework requires councils to draw their various plans together and to understand how they interact. IPR opens the way for councils and their communities to have important conversations about funding priorities, service levels, preserving local identity, and planning in partnership with other agencies, businesses and residents for a better future.

The Delivery Program is an important part of the IPR suite as it describes Council's response to the 10-year strategic plan for the City (CBCity 2028) and drives subsequent operational plans and budgets during the current Council term. The Delivery Program is aligned to the 'seven destination' structure of CBCity 2028. This ensures that it supports the goals and aspirations of CBCity 2028 and integrates monitoring and progress reports to Council and the community.

The original 2018-2022 Delivery Program was adopted by Council in June 2018. Since that time there have been several changes, most noticeable the delay of the Local Government Elections and the need to harmonise Council's rates, which has necessitated a revision of the Program.

REPORT

Council considered the draft revised 2018-2022 Delivery Program at its meeting held on 24 November 2020 and gave approval to place it on public exhibition. It acknowledges that Council's focus will continue to be on:

- protecting and conserving our environment, and in particular, reducing litter and illegal dumping;
- becoming a more healthy, safe and active City;
- being future focussed and Smart, pursuing opportunities for investment and creativity;
- being a City that is easy to move around in for cyclists, pedestrians, public transport and cars; providing more options for people to get to where they are going;
- having well-designed attractive centres, which preserve the identity and character of local villages;
- being caring and inclusive, celebrating our identity and showing that we are proud of who we are; and
- being a leading Council, governing responsibly and openly, listening to the community and speaking for them, to achieve better outcomes for the City.

It reflects emerging priorities across the seven destinations including:

- promoting good mental health;
- facilitating a night-time economy and 'buy local';
- providing more opportunities for lifestyle sports; and
- supporting living buildings and green homes.

It also addresses Council's desire to:

- be a more resilient City, particularly in response to the devastating effects of COVID-19 world pandemic, and climate change events such as bush fires and extreme weather;
- harmonise Council rates in a manner that minimises the impact on the community;
- introduce more equity and fairness into the current rating system for business and residential properties; and
- explore with the community the need to secure additional funding through changes to the rating system. This includes a special rate variation and rating category restructures.

A copy of the revised Delivery Program is attached as Attachment A.

EXHIBITION

Council exhibited the revised Plan to 17 January 2021, an extended period which took into account the importance of the issue, COVID-19 restrictions and the holiday season. A number of strategies were used to ensure that the exhibition achieved good coverage of the City including:

- notices published twice in the local paper (web and print version);
- translations in locally distributed Arabic, Vietnamese and Chinese newspapers;
- copy available on the Council's website (hard copies available on request);
- Council's online community forum at www.haveyoursaybankstown.com.au

Exhibition of the revised Delivery Program aligned with Council's engagement for the One Rate proposal to ensure consistency and transparency on the changes proposed.

During the exhibition, 71 visitors accessed the online forum 90 times and the document was downloaded 37 times. Visitors who accessed the Haveyoursay webpage were redirected to the One Rate webpage for further information on that proposal if relevant to their enquiry.

External Submissions

There were two formal submissions as a result of the exhibition, however, both were directly connected to the One Rate proposal and were considered instead as part of that proposal.

Notwithstanding, the updated Delivery Program reflects the priorities and approach to long term financial sustainability as set out in the Rates Harmonisation & Financial Sustainability Council report. The outcomes from the comprehensive community engagement program undertaken on the One Rate proposal, can be found in the body of that report.

Internal Review

There were a number of administrative/text changes made to the content and formatting, resulting from further internal review during the exhibition period and to ensure content and language is consistent. There was also additional information co-exhibited as part of the One Rate proposal that has been incorporated into the Delivery Program for transparency and accuracy. These do not result in substantive or significant changes.

CONCLUSION

Whilst many great outcomes have been delivered during the first three years of Council's Delivery Program, the critical issue for the future is to secure Council's long-term financial stability and sustainability, and to ensure generations to come are well placed to both benefit and enjoy living in Canterbury-Bankstown.

This revised 2018-2022 Delivery Program examines the important issues facing Council and explains our priorities to ensure that services continue to meet community expectations in terms of quality and value for money, and extends the life of the document to align with the new Council term.

The revised 2018-2022 Delivery Program and exhibition will be submitted as evidence to IPART of Council's compliance with Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements under the *Local Government Act 1993* associated with the One Rate proposal.