

**OPTION 1 –
DRAFT POLICY – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND
ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

STATUS:	Council Policy - <i>A strategic policy that sets governing principles and guides the direction of the organisation to align with community values and aspirations.</i> <i>Council policies are developed by the Policy Committee for approval by Council.</i>
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE:	Governance and Strategy
OBJECTIVE:	To encourage greater community participation in the decisions and affairs of the City of Joondalup

STATEMENT:

Community consultation and engagement processes assist Council in deliberating and then making decisions based on a clear understanding of the wishes of its community.

To enable Council to consult with the community on any matter, and in ways that are ethical, transparent and accountable, the following principles will apply:

- The purpose and scope of each consultation exercise is to be clear and unambiguous.
- Timeframes for any consultation undertaken, including the opening and closing dates, are to be stated. A minimum of 21 days should be allowed for a consultation period unless otherwise stipulated by legislation.
- Consultations are not to be conducted during the Summer break (between the last Ordinary Meeting of Council in December to the first Ordinary Meeting of Council in February) unless otherwise stipulated by Council. Consultations to meet statutory planning requirements may be conducted during the Summer break as they are approved by the CEO.
- Non negotiable or otherwise 'out of scope' aspects of a consultation are to be identified and stated from the outset.
- The target audience for any consultation exercise will be identified from the outset and may involve random selection of participants:
 - Where the matter impacts on specific location within the City those most closely affected are to be consulted;
 - Where the matter concerns service users, participation is to be sought from user groups/organisations and individuals;

- Where a matter is deemed to impact on all residents and ratepayers of the City, random selection will be used to invite participation from a representative sample of the community.
- The consultation methods to be employed for each consultation exercise are to be stated.
- Accurate, adequate and unbiased information is to be provided for the public to enable them to give informed opinions on the matter in hand. Information is to be made available in alternative formats on request.
- Adequate time and resources are to be provided for consultation processes to take place.
- Analysis of the feedback from a consultation process is to be published on the City's website.
- Where applicable, statutory legislative requirements for community consultation are to be satisfied.
- Circumstances where Council may decide not to consult are as follows:
 - Emergencies – matters concerning public safety etc.
 - Legal constraints.

In the interests of encouraging 'active citizenship' and greater community participation in local governance, community education initiatives in the City of Joondalup will focus on:

- The role and functions of the City in local governance;
- Why citizen participation in local governance is important for a sustainable future;
- The obligations of 'active citizenship';
- The range of opportunities for participating, and;
- How those opportunities will be communicated and managed.

Previous Policy No:

1.2 Public Participation

Amendments:

Related Documentation:

Issued:

OPTION 3 -

POLICY 1-2 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

STATUS: **Council Policy** - *A strategic policy that sets governing principles and guides the direction of the organisation to align with community values and aspirations.*

Council policies are developed by the Policy Committee for approval by Council.

**RESPONSIBLE
DIRECTORATE:** Governance and Strategy

OBJECTIVE: To outline the City's commitment to actively involve the community in Council's planning, development and service delivery activities.

STATEMENT:

In recognition of Section 1.3(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1995, the City has a stated objective to encourage greater community participation in the decisions and affairs of the local government.

The City is committed to improving its public participation practices. The City recognises that this will require:

- adequate resourcing;
- in-house and external training;
- the establishment of best practice public participation mechanisms; and
- a program of review to evaluate public participation processes.

~~The City will develop a Public Participation Strategy that will address:~~

The City's Public Participation Strategy addresses:

- the identification of issues requiring public participation;
- the inclusion in the annual budget process of funding for public participation activities;
- increasing staff awareness and skills in public participation techniques;
- how all sectors and groups within the community can have the opportunity to participate in the City's activities; and
- a community education program relating to public participation in the City's affairs.

Definitions

Public participation – can be defined as:

The provision of opportunities for the public to be involved in a range of issues affecting their communities and lifestyles. Such opportunities would enable the public to provide information, ideas and opinions on plans, proposals, policies and services; partner the City in working towards specific objectives; or actively contribute to physical works (eg. Environmental projects.)

While public participation can include the following elements it is far more than:

- Public Consultation
- Public Relations
- Information Dissemination
- Conflict Resolution.

Budget

Where a specific public participation program relates to a budgeted item or City proposal, the costs of the participation program will be met from the budget concerned.

Where a specific public participation program relates to an independent proponent's proposal, the cost of the public participation program will be met by the proponent.

Reporting and review

The City's Public Participation activities will be reviewed in relation to specified performance measures that include:

- level of public knowledge regarding opportunities to participate;
- level of public satisfaction with the opportunity to participate; and
- range of public participation projects undertaken throughout the organisation.

In order to provide the community with summary information regarding the City's public participation program, the review will be reported on in the City's Annual Report in accordance with statutory requirements and Council's Strategic Direction.

Sustainability Statement

This Policy ensures that decisions by the Council are made with full knowledge, which may potentially support sustainable outcomes.

The Public Participation Policy provides a clear statement of the Council's intention to make itself aware of community opinion in order to inform decision-making. The Policy seeks to ensure that all groups in the community have the opportunity to engage with the Council on matters that affect them, and will contribute to an improved quality of the decisions reached, and greater acceptance of the final Council decision by members of the community. Decisions which are owned by the community are far more likely to be sustainable.

Amendments: CJ213-06/99, CJ206-10/05, CJ156-09/06

Related Documentation:

Issued: October 2006