

Adoption - Support for Charities Policy

File No: X135350

Summary

In November 2022, Council adopted the Support for charities policy.

The Support for charities policy (the Policy) is due for review in 2026. This report seeks Council approval of the updated Policy. The Policy 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 takes into account Councillors' requests to encourage smaller charities to seek support and endorsement from the City to strengthen their cause and elevate their brand awareness.

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 2025/26, 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 2025.

This report recommends that Council adopt the updated Support for charities policy.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council adopt the updated Support for Charities Policy as shown at Attachment A to the subject report
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor 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

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 (the 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 type 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 for 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 has been adjusted to highlight and encourage applications from smaller charities seeking support and endorsement from the City. This will also be highlighted in any expression of interest call-outs for charity partnerships.
7. Charity partners for major events and festivals are selected based on their ability to align with City values and ability to meet operational requirements of the event.
8. The Policy also aligns with the Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy.

Key implications

Strategic alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

9. 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 2025/26, which states that the City will support communities beyond our local area and international communities experiencing emergency situations.

Organisational impact

10. The policy clarifies processes around existing activities related to the support of charities.

Risks

11. There is minimal risk associated around delivery of this policy as it provides guidance to Councillors and City staff around charitable support and endorsement. The approval of charitable support and endorsement must however factor in risk appetite levels around reputation and image.
12. The policy includes measures to reduce the risk associated with the support of charities or charitable donations.
13. Risks associated with the development of this policy have been considered and our tolerance is guided by the following principles:
 - (a) We encourage considered risk taking that supports innovation, efficiency and the achievement of our strategic objectives.
 - (b) We identify and evaluate emerging risks to ensure timely and appropriate responses.
 - (c) We comply with our legal and regulatory requirements.

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 the 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. There are no alternative options. If this policy is not endorsed, there will be no guidance for the City and Councillors around charity support across the organisation.

Public consultation

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

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