

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: S117676 **DATE:** 20 August 2026

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Emma Rigney, Executive Director City Life

THROUGH: Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 9.4 – Grants - Accommodation Grants

Alternative Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the value-in-kind recommendations for the accommodation grant program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report
- (B) Council note the applicants who were not recommended for support for the accommodation grant program as shown at Attachment B to the subject report
- (C) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST
- (D) ***Council note that a review of the City of Sydney Social plan - 'A city for all' is commencing. This review will recommend the city's future priorities, potentially leading to changes to our activities, programs and grants to ensure alignment with priorities. As such Council request that the Chief Executive Officer reviews the Accommodation grant program to ensure tenants are aligned with our priorities, that tenants are making maximum use of the space, that the spaces are fit for purpose for the proposed tenants, and that as many organisations as possible are provided the opportunity to participate***
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer occupancy agreements with any organisation approved for a grant under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants policy
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided.

Purpose

To provide Council with further information about the Accommodation grants program, proposed use of Glebe Town Hall, consultation relating to services for young people and community use of the Rex Centre, Potts Point.

Background

At the meeting of the Community Services and Facilities Committee on 17 August 2026, further information was sought on the following:

Accommodation Grant Program (AGP) process

The City of Sydney's Accommodation Grant Program (AGP) provides affordable access to buildings we own for organisations and individuals focused on community, cultural, economic and sustainability outcomes. Tenancies are offered through an expression of interest process and are highly competitive. Opportunities are published on our website when spaces and properties become available and shared with subscribers to our grants mailing list. Applications are assessed by City of Sydney staff, including specialist assessors, against funding priorities and building use and recommendations made to Council.

Community members interested in applying for a City space through the AGP are encouraged to view the space before submitting their application.

Two opportunities existed on this occasion; Glebe Town Hall, Glebe and 12A Dadley Street, Alexandria.

Eight viewing sessions were scheduled, 4 sessions for each space during the application period. These sessions were promoted through the mailing list for Accommodation Grants. A fifth viewing session for Glebe Town Hall was held two days before the application period closed and was promoted to applicants who had started their application so that they could have a final viewing and ask any final questions.

Use of Glebe Town Hall

The recommended applicant for Glebe Town Hall, Tribal Warrior, is an Aboriginal community controlled organisation that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, families and community.

Tribal Warrior has identified its use of Glebe Town Hall as a safe, welcoming and Culturally grounded place for young people to learn, build confidence, yarn openly and stay connected to Culture and community. In addition, Tribal Warrior will use the space as a base for their Glebe Clean Slate Without Prejudice (CSWP) program to deliver culturally appropriate community outreach, mentoring, tutoring, family support, staff up-skilling and cultural activities. This provides Tribal Warrior a permanent Glebe base for the program.

The space will be used for one on one and group mentoring, tutoring and homework support, yarnning circles, social and emotional wellbeing support, family meetings, community outreach, cultural activities, referrals and private support conversations. It will also provide a place for mentors to undertake training, professional development and reflective practice. It will provide space to strengthen relationships with local families, schools, services and the broader Glebe community, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

As an Aboriginal community controlled organisation, Tribal Warrior has advised the City of Sydney that they are committed to ensuring the space is Culturally safe, community-led and respectful of local Aboriginal Culture, kinship and community knowledge and provides a Culturally grounded and community-based place to connect, learn, yarn and access support. They have also committed to working with other organisations within the area.

As part of the youth services review, the City of Sydney will expand on its youth interagency to ensure all organisations within the system are working in a collaborative and coordinated way to meet the needs of young people in the area.

Youth services review

City of Sydney CEO, Monica Barone, and senior staff are meeting through July and August 2026 with the CEOs and representatives of a range of organisations operating in the City of Sydney area to discuss community need, current resources and our shared approach to ensuring appropriate supports are in place.

The City of Sydney will then build on the work completed in 2024 to further review programs and services available to young people across the local area, with a focus on Redfern, Waterloo, Glebe and Woolloomooloo.

The information gained through this process will inform City of Sydney programming for young people, the makeup and terms of reference of the youth interagency we host and the fair and equitable distribution of grant funding to organisations supporting young people. The information will also be shared with youth organisations across the City of Sydney to inform the work they do.

In addition, the information gathered will be shared with the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), who also fund services operating in the City of Sydney, or own buildings these services operate from.

Through this process, we will ensure that the voices of young people are heard and consultation is Culturally appropriate and safe and takes a self-determination approach. An Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation will be sought to support us in this consultation work, which will also inform the review of our Social Sustainability Strategy.

Spaces in Kings Cross/Potts Point

The Rex Centre, Potts Point comprises 4 spaces for hire, 2 larger rooms called Baroda and Fitzroy, and 2 smaller rooms called Macleay and Greenknowe. The Greenknowe Room accommodates approximately 40 people, and the Macleay room approximately 50 people. The Baroda and Fitzroy rooms accommodate approximately 100 people each, however access to the Fitzroy room is through the Baroda Room. This means the 2 rooms are not usually booked for different hirers at the same time for privacy reasons. As per the Committee report, it is recommended that the larger 2 rooms (Fitzroy and Baroda) of the Rex Centre be provided to the Inner City Legal Centre under the AGP so they will no longer be available for hire if this recommendation is endorsed by Council.

The nearby Reginald Murphy Community Centre a short 2--minute walk away can accommodate most regular hirers, while most larger groups can be accommodated in the Juanita Nielsen Community Centre, Woolloomooloo, a 10-minute walk away from the Rex Centre.

The Juanita Nielsen Community Centre in Nicholson Street, Woolloomooloo includes two community rooms that can accommodate approximately 80 to 100 people each, while the Reginald Murphy Community Centre in Greenknowe Street, Potts Point accommodates approximately 60 people.

The East Sydney Community and Arts Centre in Burton Street, Darlinghurst, a 17-minute walk away for the Rex Centre, can accommodate approximately 150 people. The Darlinghurst Community Space in Bourke Street, a 15-minute walk away from the Rex Centre, accommodates approximately 50 people.

Memo from Emma Rigney, Executive Director City Life

Prepared by: Kirsten Woodward, Executive Manager Social City
Sam Wild, Manager Grants

Approved

P. M. Barone

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer