

City of Sydney Advisory Panels

File No: S111818

Summary

Council has established a number of advisory panels with Council appointed Councillor representatives that provide advice on the policies and operations of the City of Sydney across various subject areas.

These advisory panels are specifically an opportunity for input and engagement, not decision-making bodies. They are not constituted as a committee of Council under the Local Government Act 1993, nor a sub-committee of the Central Sydney Planning Committee under the City of Sydney Act 1988.

On 10 October 2024, following local government elections, Council representatives were appointed to City of Sydney advisory panels and 2 new advisory panels were considered.

The terms of reference and functions (inclusive of the priority activities) of all advisory panels were then reviewed to ensure that they are fit for purpose, to improve consistency and to strengthen diversity of panel members.

The advisory panel terms of reference have been consolidated, with appendices referencing each individual panel. This consolidation streamlines and standardises the terms of reference, with amendments made to the terms and priorities as required. It is recommended that Council endorse City of Sydney Advisory Panels Terms of Reference.

Expressions of Interest processes for advisory panel members will be conducted following Council endorsement of the revised terms of reference.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council endorse the City of Sydney Advisory Panel Terms of Reference as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the City of Sydney Advisory Panel Terms of Reference to correct any minor drafting errors or to resolve any unintended inconsistencies and finalise design, artwork and accessible formats for publication;
- (C) Council note that Expressions of Interest processes for Advisory Panel members required will be conducted;
- (D) Council note that the proposed LGBTQIA+ Advisory Panel will not proceed;
- (E) Council note that the proposed Environment and Climate Change Advisory Panel is undergoing further review and consideration; and
- (F) Council note that further details will be provided via the CEO Update.

Attachments

Attachment A. City of Sydney Advisory Panels Terms of Reference

Background

1. Council has established a number of advisory panels with Council appointed Councillor representatives that provide advice on the policies and operations of the City of Sydney across various subject areas.
2. These advisory panels are specifically an opportunity for input and engagement, not decision-making bodies. They are not constituted as a committee of Council under the Local Government Act 1993, nor a sub-committee of the Central Sydney Planning Committee under the City of Sydney Act 1988.
3. On 10 October 2024, following local government elections, Council representatives were appointed to City of Sydney advisory panels and 2 new advisory panels were considered.
4. The terms of reference and functions (inclusive of the priority activities) of all advisory panels were then reviewed to ensure that they are fit for purpose, to improve consistency and to strengthen diversity of panel members.
5. The advisory panel terms of reference have been consolidated, with appendices referencing each individual panel. This consolidation streamlines and standardises the terms of reference, with amendments made to the terms and priorities as required. Note that further administrative updates may be considered prior to the Expressions of Interest for panel members being conducted.
6. Expressions of Interest processes for advisory panel members will be conducted following Council endorsement of the revised terms of reference.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel

7. The primary role of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel is to provide independent advice to the City based on members' expertise and lived experiences to guide the policies, projects and programs of the City in relation to matters of strategic and operational importance to the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Business and Economic Development Advisory Panel

8. The primary role of the Business and Economic Development Advisory Panel is to provide high-level independent expert advice to the City on the implementation of the Economic Development Strategy 2025-2035.

Cycling Advisory Panel

9. The Cycling Advisory Panel's purpose is to monitor progress on implementation of the Cycling Strategy and Action Plan and provide advice on issues associated with implementation of the Cycling Strategy and Action Plan.

Environment and Climate Change Advisory Panel

10. On 10 October 2024, Council endorsed the establishment of an Environment and Climate Change Advisory Panel and requested that the Chief Executive Officer prepare terms of reference for Council consideration.
11. The proposed Environment and Climate Change Advisory Panel is undergoing further review and consideration, with an update to be provided to Council once the matter is resolved.

Housing for All Advisory Panel

12. The primary role of the Housing for All Advisory Panel is to bring together industry leaders and experts to share knowledge and provide strategic, expert advice and guidance to the City on the development of agreed strategies and initiatives to increase the supply of market, affordable and diverse housing (including social housing) within the City of Sydney Local Government Area.

Inclusion (Disability) Advisory Panel

13. The purpose of the Inclusion (disability) Advisory Panel is to provide strategic, expert and impartial advice to the City of Sydney on the development, implementation, monitoring and review of the City of Sydney's policies, strategies and plans to advance the inclusion of people with disability.

LGBTQIA+ Advisory Panel

14. On 10 October 2024, Council endorsed the establishment of an LGBTQIA+ Advisory Panel and requested that the Chief Executive Officer prepare terms of reference for Council consideration.
15. After further consultation, it is considered that the City already effectively engages with many active and well-managed LGBTQIA+ groups and organisations and, for now, it is better for the City to focus on these relationships and the initiatives, programs and activities arising from them.. Therefore, it is proposed that the LGBTQIA+ Advisory Panel does not proceed.

Multicultural Advisory Panel

16. The purpose of the Multicultural Advisory Panel is to provide advice on policies and operations of the City in relation to matters of importance to culturally, spiritually and linguistically diverse communities

Nightlife and Creative Industries Advisory Panel

17. The purpose of the Nightlife and Creative Industries Advisory Panel is to provide high-level independent expert advice to the City on a strong, inclusive, culture-led nightlife and the implementation of the Cultural Strategy 2025-2035.

Key Implications**Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision**

18. 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 report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 1 - Responsible governance and stewardship -the operation of Advisory Panels are a collaboration between elected members, City staff, representatives of NSW Government agencies, stakeholders and the community.

Organisational Impact

19. Various City staff provide secretariat and operational support to the City's Advisory Panels. These staff are not members of panels.

Risks

20. Without relevant support from Advisory Panels, the City risks not having an appropriate source of advice on the policies and operations of the City of Sydney across various subject areas.
21. This approach is within the City's risk appetite which states:
 - Our risk philosophy is centred around achieving a balance between innovation, community and user satisfaction and risk management, ensuring that we meet our strategic objectives while maintaining a robust control environment.
 - We encourage considered risk taking that supports innovation, efficiency and the achievement of our strategic objectives.

Financial Implications

22. There are sufficient funds available in the 2024/25 operating budget and future years' forward estimates for the operation of City of Sydney Advisory Panels.

Relevant Legislation

23. Local Government Act 1993.

Options

24. Council could continue with existing Advisory Panels until their relevant terms end.
25. Council could choose not to have any Advisory Panels.

Public Consultation

26. Expression of Interest processes for advisory panel members will be conducted following Council endorsement of the revised terms of reference.

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer

Erin Cashman, Manager OCEO