

**ITEM-76                      CCL 27/09/22 – PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT SOCIAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY**

**REPORT BY:                STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT  
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INNOVATION**

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**PURPOSE**

To publicly exhibit the draft Social Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2026.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 1     Places the draft Social Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2026 (SIS) at **Attachment A** on public exhibition for a minimum 28 days.
- 2     Receives a report on submissions following the public exhibition.

**KEY ISSUES**

- 3     Infrastructure Australia defines Social Infrastructure as: ‘the facilities, spaces, services and networks that support the quality of life and wellbeing of our communities. It helps the community to be happy, safe and healthy, to learn, and to enjoy life. The network of social infrastructure contributes to social identity, inclusion and cohesion and is used by all Australians at some point in their lives, often on a daily basis.’
- 4     Successful social infrastructure relies on the availability of facilities and spaces for services, programs and activities. It includes:
  - Hard infrastructure: streets, footpaths and urban public places where social connection and exchange happens including parks, sporting fields, beaches, swimming pools, outdoor exercise areas and dog exercise areas. Facilities or physical structures such as halls, libraries, museums, art galleries and buildings where social, cultural and recreational services, programs and activities are delivered or operate. And hospitals, courthouses, schools and tertiary education.
  - Soft infrastructure: Services and programs that are delivered via hard social infrastructure.
- 5     The draft SIS targets long term aspirational outcomes for social infrastructure provision across the Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA). It is one of the seven core informing strategies as part of City of Newcastle's (CN) Community Strategic Plan (Newcastle 2040).

- 6 The draft SIS offers an evidenced based methodology to social infrastructure provision with a deliberate integrated planning and delivery, partnership and sustainable funding approach. It seeks to ensure the equitable distribution of CN owned social infrastructure across the LGA. In conjunction, it will work towards enhancing our existing social infrastructure to increase utilisation and activation, along with facilitating valuable community inclusion and connection opportunities.
- 7 The draft SIS was informed by thorough community consultation, as well as engagement with both internal and external stakeholders. This engagement was undertaken between November 2020 and October 2021, and is outlined in **Attachment B**.
- 8 The draft SIS identifies CN's social infrastructure priorities as:
  1. Equitable distribution for growth and resilience
  2. Quality and adaptive places and spaces
  3. Community capacity-building and inclusion
  4. Governance, partnerships, and advocacy

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 9 Costs associated with the preparation and public exhibition of the draft SIS are funded within existing operational budgets.
- 10 The draft SIS will be delivered over multiple financial years commencing in 2022/23. Actions requiring funding will be identified in CN's Delivery Program and Operational Plans, with CN undertaking actions as funding and resources are confirmed.

## **NEWCASTLE 2040 ALIGNMENT**

- 11 The draft SIS aligns with the following Newcastle 2040 priorities and objectives:
  - Liveable Newcastle**
    - 1.1 Enriched neighbourhoods and places
      - 1.1.1 Great spaces
      - 1.1.2 Well-designed places
      - 1.1.3 Protected heritage places
    - 1.2 Connected and fair communities
      - 1.2.1 Connected communities
      - 1.2.2 Inclusive communities
      - 1.2.3 Equitable communities
      - 1.2.4 Healthy communities
    - 1.4 Innovative and connected city
      - 1.4.1 Emerging technologies
      - 1.4.2 Digital inclusion and social innovation

**Sustainable Newcastle**

- 2.1 Action on climate change
  - 2.1.1 Towards net zero emissions
- 2.2 Nature based solutions
  - 2.2.1 Regenerate natural systems
- 2.3 Circular economy
  - 2.3.2 Localised supply chain and sustainable procurement

**Creative Newcastle**

- 3.1 Vibrant and creative City
  - 3.1.1 Vibrant events
- 3.2 Opportunities in jobs, learning and innovation
  - 3.2.1 Inclusive opportunities
- 3.3 Celebrating culture
  - 3.3.3 Culture in everyday life
- 3.4 City-shaping partnerships
  - 3.4.1 Optimise city opportunities
  - 3.4.2 Government relations and advocacy

**Achieving Together**

- 4.1 Inclusive and integrated planning
  - 4.1.1 Financial sustainability
  - 4.1.2 Integrated planning and reporting
- 4.2 Trust and transparency
  - 4.2.1 Genuine engagement
  - 4.2.3 Trusted customer experience
- 4.3 Collaborative and innovative approach
  - 4.3.1 Collaborative organisation
  - 4.3.2 Innovation and continuous improvement
  - 4.3.3 Data-driven decision-making and insights

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/IMPLICATIONS**

- 12 The draft SIS will be implemented annually as part of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.
- 13 As CN's overarching vision for social infrastructure provision across the LGA, it is important CN continues to implement the action plan (see appendix in **Attachment A**) and monitors progress, as well as communicates achievements and milestones, through the life of the SIS.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION**

- 14 There is a minor reputational risk relating to a lack of community awareness and understanding around CN's decision making framework for the provision of social infrastructure. This will be mitigated through a robust communications and engagement plan around the public exhibition of the SIS and ongoing community engagement relating to social infrastructure provision in the future.

## **RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 15 At the Ordinary Council Meeting of 25 June 2019, Council endorsed a Lord Mayoral Minute requesting the preparation of a social infrastructure strategy which would provide for the funding, planning and delivery of social infrastructure in a strategic and coordinated way.

## **CONSULTATION**

- 16 Extensive community and stakeholder engagement activities were undertaken to develop the SIS, as outlined in **Attachment B**. This engagement included two surveys (one community-wide survey and one focused on social welfare services), over 300 Social Pinpoint (digital community engagement tool) contributions and 12 stakeholder meetings. Over 200 community members and 40 internal and external stakeholders were engaged between November 2020 and October 2021. Data from engagement on CN's Community Strategic Plan, Social Strategy and Disability Inclusion Action Plan was also used to inform the development of the SIS.
- 17 Consultation was also undertaken with CN's Community and Culture Advisory Committee and the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 18 Social infrastructure is the facilities, spaces, services, and networks that support the quality of life and wellbeing of our communities. For CN this includes free or publicly accessible community centres, libraries, museums and galleries, and parks and gardens.

## **OPTIONS**

### **Option 1**

- 19 The recommendation as at Paragraph 1. This is the recommended option.

### **Option 2**

- 20 Council resolves to not place the SIS on public exhibition. This is not the recommended option.

**REFERENCES**

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Item 76 Attachment A:** Draft Social Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2026

**Item 76 Attachment B:** Social Infrastructure Strategy Engagement Report

**Item 76 Attachments A-B distributed under separate cover**