

Date: 3 November 2020	Time: 5.35pm – 7.50pm	Venue: 12 Stewart Avenue, Level 6, LMRR
Meeting No: 7	Meeting Objective: Liveable Cities Advisory Committee	

1. Welcome

1.1 Attendance

Cr John MacKenzie – Chairperson
Cr John Church
Cr Peta Winney-Baartz
Steve O'Connor – Planning Institute of Australia
Kristi Jorgensen – Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation
Dr Steven Fleming – community member
David Moir – community member
David Clarke – Director Governance
Michelle Bisson – Manager Regulatory, Planning and Assessment
Kerry Edson – Executive Assistant to Director Governance – Secretary

1.2 Apologies

Rachel Cogger – Urban Development Institute of Australia
Sue Anne Ware – University of Newcastle

1.3 Guests

Patricia McCarthy – Urban Planning Section Manager
Stella Fielding – Urban Planner

2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

2.1 No conflicts of interest declared.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes and Actions Arising

3.1 Minutes of the sixth Liveable Cities Advisory Committee (LCAC) meeting of 4 August 2020 were moved by Cr Church and seconded by Kristi Jorgensen and adopted.

3.2 The minutes will be placed on City of Newcastle's (CN) website.

3.3 The actions arising are confirmed. David Clarke notes that several transport related actions are on hold until 2021 given the current focus on preparing the draft Cycling and Parking Plans.

4. Liveability Index

4.1 Presentation given by Kristi Jorgensen about the work on the liveability index done in recent months, with input from Sue Anne Ware and the UoN, noting this was a priority identified by LCAC at its first meeting.

4.2 The working definition of liveability is – the sum of factors that influence the community's quality of life including land use, built form, housing diversity and affordability, quality and conservation of public spaces and natural environments, efficiency of transport networks, accessibility to work, education, health and community services and social and recreational opportunities.

- 4.3 This liveability index is hoped to promote awareness of liveability, monitor the progress against the vision and plans prepared by CN and compliment the CN CSP reporting framework that is being developed.
- 4.4 The work done so far has been the definition of liveability for dashboard reporting purposes, agree pillars to track and report on and reviewed other national and international liveability indices.
- 4.5 At this stage 8 pillars of liveability have been identified, but more discussions needed:
 - a. Land Use
 - b. Housing (supply, choice, affordability, diversity)
 - c. Climate (net zero emissions, energy efficiency, renewable energy supply)
 - d. Environment (quality and conservation of public spaces, natural environment)
 - e. Transport (public transport, walking and cycling) - cars to be considered
 - f. Access (work, health, education, community services)
 - g. Prosperity (economy, smart, innovation) - business to be considered
 - h. Opportunity (cultural, recreation, social) – employment to also be considered
- 4.6 Analysis has been undertaken of CN's Plans to determine how easy it is to link the liveability pillars to the Climate Action Plan, the Local Strategic Planning Strategy and the draft Local Housing Strategy etc.
- 4.7 Next steps: feedback from LCAC, determining what metrics are needed to track against the pillars, what is CN already tracking, what new metrics do we need to introduce, who / how will these be tracked and development of a practice note for CN officers.
- 4.8 It is hoped the initial work will be complete by start of 2021 for implementation.
- 4.9 Members discussed the potential to link the index to external indexes, the potential for independent oversight or validation, the importance of establishing a baseline (ie. where are we now) and benchmarks (ie. where are we heading), and the potential role the index can play in providing assurance around new Strategies etc. to ensure they are contributing to liveability outcomes. Members also highlighted the need for qualitative data for example via the regular community sentiment surveys.
- 4.10 ACTION: David Clarke to circulate presentation and background report undertaken by UoN to LCAC members.
- 4.11 ACTION: Kerry Edson to add Liveability Index to next LCAC meeting scheduled for 2 February 2021.
- 4.12 ACTION: David Clarke and Michelle Bisson to prepare LCAC annual report to present to Council in 2021, including work done on the Liveability Index.

5. Urban Planning Update

- 5.1 Presentation given by Michelle Bisson.

Local Housing Strategy

- 5.2 Stella Fielding reported on public exhibition of the Local Housing Strategy was held from 24 August to 21 September 2020.
- 5.3 Engagement activities included – online information sessions (48 people attended), Have Your Say webpage, survey responses (129 received), House We Build game, social media, written submissions (18 received) and internal consultation.
- 5.4 Key findings - submissions were generally supportive and most important housing priority was achieving higher environmental sustainability standards for housing.

- 5.5 The LHS will be presented to Council for adoption in November 2020.

Development Control Plan

- 5.6 A comprehensive broader DCP review is being done. The current DCP has been in place since 2012 and was prepared to support the new LEP 2012 (Standard Instrument LEP). The aim is to exhibit the draft Development Control Plan in late 2021.
- 5.7 ACTION: Kerry Edson to add the Development Control Plan to next LCAC agenda scheduled for 2 February 2021, including how the DCP aligns with the pillars identified in the Liveability Index.

Local Environmental Plan

- 5.8 The LEP health check has been undertaken to determine alignment of the Newcastle LEP 2012 to actions in Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan.
- 5.9 The Local Strategic Planning Strategy and the Local Housing Strategy contain actions to bring the LEP into alignment with the Greater Newcastle Metro Plan.
- 5.10 ACTION: Michelle Bisson to present progress reports on the Local Housing Strategy and the Local Strategic Planning Strategy to the next LCAC meeting scheduled for 2 February 2021.

Wickham Masterplan Review

- 5.11 The Wickham Masterplan was adopted in November 2017. An update is currently being undertaken to address challenges and changed circumstances, including in relation to mine subsidence, cycleways and community infrastructure. It is expected the update will be reported to Council in 2021.

Local Infrastructure Contributions (Section 7.11 and 7.12)

- 5.12 A review of local infrastructure contributions plans, and CN's overall contribution framework is underway. Aim is to ensure adequate and appropriate public amenities and infrastructure are provided to support our growing City.
- 5.13 It will provide a method to collect and fund local infrastructure for areas of growth and change identified in Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan and CN's adopted strategies, including the Local Strategic Planning Strategy and Local Housing Strategy.
- 5.14 The draft framework will be presented to Council for endorsement for public exhibition in March 2021.
- 5.15 ACTION: Kerry Edson to add Local Infrastructure Contributions to next LCAC agenda scheduled for 2 February 2021.

Urban Design Consultative Group (UDCG) Charter

- 5.16 The UDCG provides independent advice about the quality of urban and amenity in development proposals and undertakes the functions of a design review panel as outlined in SEPP 65. The current UDCG Charter was endorsed by the General Manager in November 2012.
- 5.17 CN is updating the Charter and will constitute an Urban Design Review Panel (UDRP), in accordance with the delegation granted by the Minister of Planning, Industry and Environment and adoption of the revised Charter for the operation and management of an UDRP. The LCAC Chair will be invited to sit on the Selection Panel to appoint members to the UDRP following a public EOI process. Existing UDCG members will be eligible to apply.

- 5.18 Members discussed the importance of the independence of the UDRP, the importance of design excellence and the need to report annually on the UDRP's work.

Public Art Reference Group (PARG)

- 5.19 The Public Art Reference Group acts as an Advisory Committee to CN on public art. The PARG intends to expand its membership in 2021 to strengthen its capabilities to oversee public art in the Newcastle Local Government Area, in both the public and private domains.

6. Working Parties Update

Affordable Living Working Party

- 6.1 Affordable living has been incorporated into the Local Housing Strategy.
6.2 This working party is now disbanded.

Heritage Working Party

- 6.3 The Heritage Strategy has now been endorsed by Council.
6.4 At the next meeting it will be discussed if this working party can now be disbanded.

Cycling Working Party

- 6.5 The draft Cycling Plan and draft Parking Plan are going to the November Council meeting for endorsement for public exhibition for six weeks.

7. General Business

- 7.1 Kristi Jorgensen gave a presentation on the Hunter Identity and Positioning Strategy being developed by HCCDC.

8. Closing

- 8.1 Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 5.30pm and venue to be confirmed.
8.2 Meeting closed at 7.50pm.



Chairperson
Cr MacKenzie