

**ITEM-75 CCL 27/09/22 – PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT LOCAL
SOCIAL STRATEGY**

**REPORT BY: STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT
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PURPOSE

To publicly exhibit the draft Local Social Strategy 2030.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1 Places the draft Local Social Strategy 2030 (LSS) at **Attachment A** on public exhibition for a minimum 28 days.
- 2 Receives a report on submissions following the public exhibition.

KEY ISSUES

- 3 A new social strategy is required to create a blueprint for how CN will respond to the social challenges and opportunities in our communities until 2030.
- 4 The LSS is one of the seven core informing strategies as part of CN's Community Strategic Plan (Newcastle 2040). It replaces the Social Strategy 2016-2019.
- 5 A social strategy provides a framework for CN and the community to remove barriers to inclusion and equal opportunity; encourage community connection and participation; celebrate Newcastle's rich social and cultural diversity; and strengthen community health and wellbeing. In working towards this mission, the social strategy aims to achieve the vision of a socially just and inclusive place for all.
- 6 The LSS is for the whole community. However, CN acknowledges that some groups in Newcastle are more likely to be excluded from social, economic and political opportunities due to discrimination and other access barriers. Therefore, this strategy focuses on enabling priority communities and groups to be involved in all aspects of life in Newcastle.
- 7 Priority community groups include:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
 - Socio-economically disadvantaged and newly vulnerable communities
 - People with disability
 - Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities
 - People of diverse genders and sexualities
 - Older people

- Young people
 - Women and men (areas of identified risk due to vulnerabilities they experience,
 - such as domestic and family violence for women and mental ill-health for men)
- 8 Through extensive community consultation and research, key social challenges identified include the affordable housing crisis; increasing income and food insecurity; inequality of opportunity (e.g., employment and training), inadequate access to social, transport and health services, experiences of discrimination, social isolation, and disconnection; limited connection to culture and opportunity to influence local decision making. A detailed report on these findings is included in the Local Social Discussion Paper - **Attachment B**.
- 9 The draft LSS places people at the centre of the framework and recognises the importance of learning about, and connecting with, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, philosophies, and practices about caring for Country. It expands to define localised experiences of numerous groups in our community, many of whom are vulnerable.
- 10 The draft LSS champions evidence-based decision-making and innovative practice to inform our approach, while ensuring strong, respectful, and transparent relationships with our community partners.
- 11 The draft LSS identifies CN's social priorities as:
1. Equitable
 2. Inclusive
 3. Connected
 4. Healthy Communities

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 12 Costs associated with the development and exhibition of the draft LSS will be funded through existing operational budgets.
- 13 The LSS 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

- 14 The LSS 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

1.2 Connected and fair communities

- 1.2.1 Connected communities
- 1.2.2 Inclusive communities
- 1.2.3 Equitable communities
- 1.2.4 Healthy communities

1.3 Safe, active, and linked movement across the city

- 1.3.4 Effective public transport

1.4 Innovative and connected city

- 1.4.2 Digital inclusion and social innovation

Sustainable Newcastle

2.1 Action on climate change

- 2.1.2 Know and share our climate risk
- 2.1.3 Resilient urban and natural areas

Creative Newcastle

3.1 Vibrant and creative City

- 3.1.1 Vibrant events
- 3.1.2 Bold and challenging programs

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-sharing partnerships

- 3.4.2 Advocacy and partnership

Achieving Together

4.1 Inclusive and integrated planning

- 4.1.2 Integrated planning and reporting

4.2 Trust and transparency

- 4.2.1 Genuine engagement
- 4.2.2 Shared information and celebration of success

4.3 Collaborative and innovative approach

- 4.3.2 Innovation and continuous improvement
- 4.3.3 Data-driven decision-making and insights

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/IMPLICATIONS

- 15 The LSS replaces the existing Social Strategy 2016 - 2019.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION

- 16 The draft LSS responds to the social justice requirements placed on councils by the Local Government Act 1993: *'Council's long-term community strategic plans must be based on social justice principles and address social issues along with civic leadership, environmental and economic issues.'* Delivery of the LSS also ensures CN's responsibilities under 8A2(a) and 8A2(b) of the NSW Local Government Act 1993 are fulfilled and that diverse groups within our community feel reflected and engaged in CN operations.
- 17 The COVID-19 crisis highlighted the increasing social inequity experienced by some members of our communities and saw an increasing number of people experiencing vulnerability for the first time. All levels of government have a role to play in ensuring the social needs of our communities are being met and responding to these complex social issues requires partnership across government, charitable and private sectors.

RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 18 At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8 December 2015, Council resolved to adopt the Social Strategy 2016 – 2019.

CONSULTATION

- 19 In developing the LSS, extensive community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken. 2,120 people completed an online or face to face survey and 286 people attended 17 workshops, forums or community events exploring community participation, access to services, wellbeing, inclusion, safety and social justice issues and matters. A comprehensive engagement report is included at **Attachment C** and the Local Social Discussion Paper at **Attachment B** provides insights into the findings from the community consultation and research, and how this has shaped the drafting of the LSS.
- 20 Consultation was also undertaken with several CN Advisory Committees including Guraki Aboriginal Advisory Committee, Community and Culture Advisory Committee, Access Advisory Committee, Liveable Cities Advisory Committee, and the Newcastle Youth Council.

BACKGROUND

- 21 The LSS sets a framework for CNs commitment to working towards diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community towards 2030. The four-year action plan builds upon extensive work already undertaken by CN and targets new initiatives which are focussed on needs and evidence at a local level within the community. The initiatives within the four-year action plan will be delivered annually and reported against Newcastle 2040.

OPTIONS

Option 1

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

Option 2

23 Council resolves to not place the LSS on public exhibition. This is not the recommended option.

REFERENCES

ATTACHMENTS

Item 75 Attachment A: Draft Local Social Strategy 2030
Item 75 Attachment B: Local Social Discussion Paper
Item 75 Attachment C: Local Social Engagement Report

Item 75 Attachments A-C distributed under separate cover