

# COUNCIL AGENDA

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

26 October 2022

**CEO 02**

**Draft Community Engagement Strategy and  
Revised Community Participation Plan 2022**

<b>Strategic Objective</b>	Visionary, Leading, Responsible Demonstrate a high standard of transparency and accountability through a comprehensive governance framework
<b>File Ref</b>	328993.2022
<b>Report By</b>	George Hampouris - Head of Audit, Risk and Improvement
<b>Approved By</b>	George Hampouris - Head of Audit, Risk and Improvement

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement to place the draft Community Engagement Strategy 2022 and the revised Community Participation Plan 2022 on public exhibition to allow for public comment and submissions.

Council has a regulatory obligation to prepare a Community Engagement Strategy under Section 402A of the Local Government Act 1993 and conduct a review of the Community Participation Plan under Part 2, Division 2.6, Section 2.24 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The Community Engagement Strategy and Community Participation Plan detail Council's overarching engagement principles and community participation requirements for planning functions undertaken by Council. The documents guide engagement practices with the local community and stakeholders and sets out the community participation requirements under planning legislation, including all minimum mandatory exhibition timeframes. It aims to deliver principals of community engagement in an inclusive collaborative, transparent, authentic and timely manner to facilitate effective decision making.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Endorse the draft Community Engagement Strategy 2022 and the revised Community Participation Plan 2022 for exhibition;
2. Places the draft Community Engagement Strategy 2022 and revised Community Participation Plan 2022 on public exhibition for 28 days;

4. Delegates to the A/CEO the finalisation of the Community Engagement Strategy and Community Participation Plan 2022 should no submissions be received; or receive a further report outlining details of the submissions received at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

## **REPORT**

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The Local Government Act and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act requires Council to endorse a Community Engagement Strategy and Community Participation Plan respectively and that the documents be placed on public exhibition.

The draft Community Engagement Strategy outlines Council's commitment to provide the Liverpool community, including residents, ratepayers, workers, businesses, visitors, and relevant agencies, the opportunity to contribute to and inform the development of Council's projects, policies, strategies, plans, programs and services.

The Strategy provides guidelines on how Council will inform the community and deliver engagement activities in line with best practice standards.

Extensive community engagement has informed this strategy and is based on social justice principals of equity, access, participation and rights which guide the delivery of Council's polices and strategies. The Community Engagement Strategy and Community Participation Plan will be reviewed within three months of the local government elections to ensure it reflects both city and community sentiments in relation to community engagement practices and incorporates statutory requirements.

Please note that the Community Engagement Strategy and Community Participation Plan will go through document design once final community and/or feedback and inputs are included (if required). The reason being is that any change will result in the need for re-design which is time consuming. Therefore, it is more efficient that design work is only done when the Strategy and Plan are considered final.

The Liverpool Community Participation Plan was adopted in October 2019 and is due for review. The Community Participation Plan provides guidance on how Council will engage with its communities across all the land use planning functions. This includes but not limited to, Development Applications, Planning Proposals, and Voluntary Planning Agreements. The Community Participation Plan compliments the draft Community Engagement Strategy and is presented as Appendix (A) to the document. This will ensure greater usability for the community with all of Councils engagement strategies and policies located within one document.

A review has been undertaken of the existing Community Participation Plan. The changes are generally of administrative nature and include:

- Updating the land use definitions to reflect the standard instrument;

- Removal of requirements to advertise in the local newspaper as they have ceased being published;
- The addition of a figure which demonstrates the relationship between strategic documents; and
- The addition of a clause which gives the Manager Development Assessment discretion to exhibit any application considered to have significant community interest for a longer period.
- The addition of a clause requiring Council-related development applications to be exhibited for a minimum of 28 days as per legislative changes in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

All changes to the CPP are shown in Attachment 2 to this report, where any additions are highlighted green, and deletions are highlighted red.

Subject to Council support, the draft Community Engagement Strategy and revised Community Participation Plan will be placed on public exhibition for feedback from Friday 28 October 2022 to 5pm Friday 25 November 2022.

Public notices will be available on Council’s website and social media platforms. All documents on Public Exhibition will be available online and will be accessible for download and feedback through Council’s website. Hardcopies will also be available at the Council Customer Service Centre and Library where requested.

Following the public exhibition, if there are any submissions, a further report will be presented to Council outlining details of the submissions received.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

<p><b>Governance</b></p>	<p>The Community Engagement Strategy sets the direction for Council’s strategic agenda and is based on social justice principals of equity, access, participation and rights.</p> <p>The Community Participation Plan sets out how and when Council will engage with the community as part of the planning functions it performs (strategic planning and development assessment) under the Environment Planning and Assessment Act.</p>
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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

<p><b>Legislative</b></p>	<p>The Community Engagement Strategy has been developed in line with Section 402A of the Local Government Act 1993. Section 402A of the Local Government Act states: A council must establish and implement a strategy (called its "community engagement strategy") for engagement with the local community when developing its plans, policies and programs and for the purpose of determining its activities (other than routine administrative matters).</p> <p>Division 2.6 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act requires Councils to prepare a Community Participation Plan, and Clause 2.24 requires for them to be reviewed periodically.</p>
<p><b>Risk</b></p>	<p>The risk is deemed to be High. Failure to present a Community Engagement Strategy to the council may result in non-compliance with the above legislation and may result in enforceable action by the Office of Local Government, Planning Policy.</p>

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Draft Community Engagement Strategy and (Appendix A) Draft Community Participation Plan for Council (Under separate cover)
2. Marked up changes to Community Participation Plan (Under separate cover)