



9.2 IMPROVING COMMUNITY SAFETY IN GREY STREET AND LITTLE GREY STREET, ST KILDA

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **CAROL JEFFS, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Council with the preliminary findings of the Community Safety Audits: Grey Street and Little Grey Street Area St Kilda.
- 1.2 To provide Council with further information concerning the State Government funding announcement for additional CCTV cameras in Grey and Little Grey Street area.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Council, at its meeting 21 March 2018, resolved the following:

That Council:

1. Notes the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial Evaluation Year One Interim Findings.
2. Continues to evaluate the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial, assessing the impact of the system after two years of implementation according to the endorsed Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial Evaluation Plan and full results presented to Council in March 2019.
3. Requests Council officers to further consider evidence based approaches to improving community safety in street based precincts.
- *4. Requests that community consultation, such as the planned Community Safety Audits, ensure community views are considered with regard to community safety initiatives.
5. Develops a City of Port Phillip CCTV Policy, after the Fitzroy Street CCTV trial evaluation period has concluded, that presents a framework for the consideration of other CCTV systems for a range of site specific contexts.
- *6. Notes the State Government announcement regarding proposed additional CCTV cameras in Grey and Little Grey Streets.
- *7. Notes that Council consideration of any additional CCTV system in the Grey Street and Little Grey Street precinct would be contingent on the Victorian Government meeting the full infrastructure planning, purchase, project management, operating and installation costs of the additional CCTV system, and the system's installation being temporary in nature.
- *8. With regard to the State Government funding announcement for additional CCTV cameras in Grey and Little Grey, requests the State Government and Victoria Police discuss with Council alternative evidence based approaches to improving community safety in that area, including whether the amount of funding offered for



CCTV could be invested in more effective and immediate ways - for example, an additional police resource for immediate patrols in Grey and Little Grey Street.

- *9. Requests that the matter be brought back to Council at the earliest opportunity following the discussion as described in part 8 above.
- 2.2 This report provides response to the points of motions 4,6,7,8,9 marked above with an asterisk.
- 2.3 Council has communicated with the Office of Minister Foley, the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and the Victorian Department of Justice for clarification regarding the commitment of funding for CCTV and the improvement of safety in the Little Grey St and Grey St precinct. It is now clear that the dedication of funding was made specific to the installation of CCTV, as opposed to a range of evidence based community safety initiatives identified by Council.
- 2.4 Council officers have continued to identify a framework for a range of evidence based responses that, together with the installation of CCTV, Council will progress to improve community safety in this precinct.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the advice of the Victorian Government that the funding offered for Little Grey Street St Kilda can only be used for the purpose of CCTV.
- 3.2 Notes the preliminary findings of the Community Safety Audit showing support for a range of community safety initiatives, including support for CCTV.
- 3.3 Accepts the Victorian Government offer of funding to progress the installation of CCTV in Grey Street and Little Grey Streets in St Kilda, conditional on the Victorian Government meeting the full infrastructure planning, purchase, project management, operating and installation costs of the additional CCTV system, and the system's installation being temporary in nature.
- 3.4 Incorporates the changed geographical location of CCTV into the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial Evaluation Plan and that changes are clearly identified in result analysis for the Fitzroy Street CCTV Trial Evaluation Two Year Report due to Council in March 2019.
- 3.5 Continues to progress a range of evidence based community safety strategies informed by the Community Safety Audit process that will complement the CCTV installation, including graffiti mitigation, improved lighting and other natural surveillance design solutions as well as community building programs such as expanded community garden and Neighbourhood Ngargee programs.



4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

4.1 Clarification from the Victorian Government as to the scope of the CCTV funding announcement

- 4.1.1 On Thursday 8 March 2018, Minister Foley announced funding for CCTV for the extended precinct and for footage to be fed straight into the St Kilda police station.
- 4.1.2 Further information was requested from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice and Regulation.
- 4.1.3 Evidence based community safety strategies for the Grey Street and Little Grey Street precinct have been presented in a community safety framework. The scope was limited given the Victorian Government clarification that the funding offered can only be used for the purpose of CCTV. This money cannot be considered for alternative strategies.
- 4.1.4 Acting Assistant Director, Grants Program and Engagement, Department of Justice and Regulation, participated in the Community Safety Audit program to build understanding of community safety issues. Council officers will continue to discuss community safety grant opportunities with the Department of Justice. Graffiti reduction grants are currently open for application. This location can be prioritised.

4.2 Community Safety Audit: Little Grey and Grey Street Precinct

- 4.2.1 The Grey Street and Little Grey Street Precinct incorporates Little Grey Street, Dalgety Street, Dalgety Lane and Burnett Streets between Grey Street and Princes Street St Kilda
- 4.2.2 Council offered approximately 1200 residents and traders in a select geographical area the opportunity to participate in a Community Safety Audit process. More than 90 participants expressed interest and suggested preferred times of the week. This list was provided additional information about the process of engaging community in safe design and invited confirmation of participation. Approximately 100 people worked together in a facilitated process to identify and discuss safe design improvements.
- 4.2.3 The groups discussed the Victorian Government announcement of CCTV funding raised by participants in both the morning and evening sessions. The support for additional CCTV was strong. It was also acknowledged by the groups that CCTV alone would not achieve the improvements in community safety required.
- 4.2.4 The Little Grey Street Community Safety Audit Report – Attachment 1 outlines the preliminary results of the Community Safety Audits. Key strategies were identified including:
 - Graffiti removal and art based response



- Ensuring overhanging branches and other foliage is removed to improve lines of sight
- Considering lighting improvements
- Building on the success of the Dalgety Lane community gardens
- Ensuring prompt hard rubbish and litter collection
- Investigating ways of improving sightlines

4.3 Community Safety Framework: Little Grey and Grey Street Area

4.3.1 A draft framework for ensuring that community safety is improved – Attachment 2, will guide future evidence based action. This framework will consider:

- SERVICES AND PROGRAMS: Evidence based initiatives that improve community safety. A framework will focus on a coordinated response to service delivery and service need and how services can better work alongside community through open and shared dialogue
- CONTEXT AND INFLUENCE: Public spaces are safe and offer opportunities for community connection. A framework will focus on improvements and maintaining of public amenity, inclusion of public art, a consistent response to graffiti and the ongoing support for locally led community building initiatives
- COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS: Collaboration informs our practice and strengthens our work. The framework will focus on the value to be achieved from strong and committed partnerships at state, local and community level with the view of upkeeping a common and shared goal for the precinct

4.3.2 There are many complex factors contributing to safety and the strategies to respond must span areas of service provision, improving the context for community safety and ensuring that necessary collaborative partnerships are built to achieve shared outcomes.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 Clarification from the Victorian Government as to the scope of the CCTV funding

5.1.1 The City of Port Phillip has consulted with:

- Minister Foley's Office
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Justice and Regulation
- Victoria Police



5.1.2 Victoria Police, through Port Phillip Inspector Jason Kelly, Port Phillip Police Service Area, has clearly expressed support for additional fixed and mobile CCTV infrastructure. Inspector Kelly prioritised a fixed solution in relation to Grey and Little Grey Streets as well as consideration of mobile CCTV made available to monitor areas of displacement as well as other hotspots. Victoria Police has also, over time, indicated verbally and by email, a need for further patrol resources to manage the safety and crime issues in this precinct

5.2 **Community Safety Audit: Little Grey and Grey Street Area**

5.2.1 More than 100 residents, traders, community agency representatives, Victoria Police members and Port Phillip City Councillors and staff worked together to undertake Community Safety Audit activities in Little Grey Street and Grey Street precinct

5.2.2 Most participants supported the installation of additional CCTV in the Little Grey Street and Grey Street areas in combination with a range of service improvements, safe design, graffiti removal and community strengthening programs

5.2.3 The views of those involved in the Community Safety Audit activity are presented in the attached report.

6. **LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 It is well established that it is necessary for all partners to work collaboratively to improve community safety in the Little Grey Street and Grey Street areas of St Kilda.

6.2 Any consideration of CCTV installation would adhere with relevant privacy legislation.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

7.1 The financial impact of the Victorian Government CCTV announcement is yet to be clarified.

7.2 Actions resulting from the Community Safety Audit process will be considered within existing Council budget processes. Further funding will be sought from opportunities such as the Crime Prevention Victorian Graffiti Grants program.

8. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

8.1 The environment impact of the Victorian Government CCTV announcement is yet to be clarified. Digital camera systems generally have low environmental impact.

8.2 Actions resulting from the Community Safety Audit process will consider environmental impact within existing Council commitments. For instance, any lighting improvements will make preference to low energy options.

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – 04 APRIL 2018



9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The impact of the concerns regarding community safety in the Grey Street and Little Grey Street area are well understood by Council. Council has worked with a community group called Friends of St Kilda Hill since late 2017 to ensure concerns have been noted and referred to responsible agencies.
- 9.2 Council has coordinated several agency partnership meetings to develop and monitor how a range of agencies can work within each realm of responsibility to improve community safety. Participating agencies have included Victoria Police, Port Phillip Housing Association, St Kilda Housing Association, Sacred Heart Mission, Starhealth, Salvation Army, Launch Housing and Port Phillip City Council.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Council, in adopting the Council Plan 2017-27, committed to the delivery of actions under the direction of 'We embrace difference, and people belong'. Outcomes by 2027 include:
 - A safe and active community with strong social connections
 - An increase in affordable housing
 - Access to services that support the health and wellbeing of our growing community
 - Community diversity is valued and celebrated.
- 10.2 Council has noted the concerns by members of our community regarding the safety and perceptions of safety in the areas of Grey St, Little Grey St, Dalgety St, Dalgety Ln, Burnett St – St Kilda. In response, Council coordinated the process of a Community Safety Audit with residents and local agencies, delivered in partnership with Victoria Police Crime Prevention Officers.
- 10.3 Community Safety Audits are a practical process whereby audits are conducted by community members using the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (known as CPTED). This approach recognises the relationship between how space is designed and used, and the real or perceived feelings of safety of the users of that space. The Safety Audit Report will be presented to relevant areas of Council, Government agencies, local businesses and private property owners for action.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.1.1 Community Safety Audit sessions were held on Tuesday 27 March 2018.

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11.1.2 Council officers have communicated with Minister Foley Office, the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services to seek CCTV funding clarification.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

- 11.2.1 All registered participants of the Community Safety Audit will be emailed a copy of the report detailing identified community safety concerns and proposed actions.
- 11.2.2 The Community Safety Audit report will be made publicly available on Council's website.

12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

TRIM FILE NO: 46/01/123

ATTACHMENTS

1. Little Grey Street Area Community Safety Audit Follow Up Report March 2018(2)
2. Proposed Little Grey St Community Safety Framework March 2018