

**RESPONSE TO COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS  
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 5 December 2018**

**Presentation of Reports – 9.2 In Our Back Yard**

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**Councillor Simic asked how many staff are currently engaged in the social housing area and how much has been spent on consultation so far. Councillor Simic also asked what proposal is in place for appropriate capability, in terms of experience required and cost. Tony Keenan, Interim General Manager Community and Economic Development, advised that this question would be taken on notice.**

**Response**

Thank you for your question at the Council meeting on 5th December which Tony took on notice. The question came up during the In Our Backyard (IoBY) item but as you refer to social housing more generally I will try and cover both areas.

**Current staff resources**

For the In Our Backyard program in particular there is one 1.0 FTE staff member. However, as you are aware we are aiming for a more integrated program approach across homelessness and housing so the current Council resources, in addition to this position, are

- 1.0 FTE Team Leader Housing and Homelessness
- 1.0 FTE 12 month project on collective impact for a Housing First Approach known as Port Phillip Zero
- 0.8 FTE Band 6 homelessness worker funding (currently being used to pilot a Launch Daily Support worker approach for people sleeping rough)

There is a component of co-ordinator and manager time added in also.

**Cost of consultation**

If this pertains to the IoBY review (which included engagement with local housing organisations and Community Alliance of Port Phillip) – this was \$28,000.

Capability: experience required and cost

Action 8 of the adopted IoBY Action Plan relates to Internal Resourcing. This proposed a review to 'ensure the organisation has the skills, resources and capability it needs to successfully deliver on the Council's housing need agenda'. This review 'will also consider the skills and capabilities of the local housing sector and other Not-for-Profit housing organisations that could complement and augment Council's in-house capacity' (noting some stakeholders were concerned that Council sought to be a developer again which would duplicate the role of Local Housing organisations and so the Action Plan was reworded to clarify this is not the intent).

Key Milestones for this action are:

- ↓ Engage with key staff and the sector to understand the current skills, resources and capability available to deliver on Council's housing need agenda and explore any potential gaps that may exist (December – July 2019)
- ↓ Present a proposal for further discussion and engagement with key staff and stakeholders (August 2019)
- ↓ Implement any agreed changes (August 2019 onwards)