



ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

5 DECEMBER 2018

9.3 DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN - PUBLIC EXHIBITION

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **TONY KEENAN, INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Council endorsement for the public exhibition of the draft Community Safety Plan 2018-2022.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The goal of the plan is to contribute to increasing actual and perceived safety in the City of Port Phillip. Perceptions of safety are formed from how people feel about others or an area or place. These fears can impact people's quality of life and the social and economic wellbeing of communities. Actual and perceived public safety influences many different aspects of our city's quality of life and sustainability for our growing population of residents, workers and visitors.
- 2.2 The Victorian Government is responsible for law and order, public housing, health and public transport and leads on responses to these issues in the City of Port Phillip. The draft Community Safety Plan outlines the City of Port Phillip's contribution to making our area a safe and resilient place to live, visit and work. It describes our commitment to contributing to safety and our areas of focus for the next three years. The plan sets out three priority areas for action:
- 2.3 The areas for action in this plan contribute broadly to Port Phillip's overarching vision set out in the Council Plan 2017-2027. The priorities, objectives and actions are also aligned to key Council strategies and action plans including the Health and Wellbeing Implementation Strategy 2017-2021.
- 2.4 The draft Community Safety Plan, provided at Attachment 1, is recommended for public exhibition for a minimum period of six (6) weeks commencing in mid-January through to the end of February 2019.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Approves the draft Community Safety Plan (Attachment A) for public exhibition for a minimum of six weeks; and
- 3.2 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake minor editorial amendments prior to the exhibition of the draft Community Safety Plan.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The City of Port Phillip local area is home to over 110,000 residents but is one of the smallest municipalities in Victoria at only 21 square kilometres, and the most densely populated with more than twice the population density of the metropolitan Melbourne average.



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- 4.2 Safety in our local area is influenced by a range of factors, including government policy settings, and economic and social conditions.
- 4.3 Actual and perceived public safety influences many different aspects of quality of life and sustainability for the City of Port Phillip's growing population of residents, workers and visitors. Actual and perceived public safety is also fundamental to the social wellbeing and economic success of communities.
- 4.4 Crime in the City of Port Phillip's local government area is predominantly trending down or stable with the exception of higher than average crime rates related to alcohol and other drugs.
- 4.5 Despite this the people of the City of Port Phillip feel safe in comparison with state-wide community safety perceptions.
 - 4.5.1 97.7% of Port Phillip respondents felt safe or very safe when walking alone in their local area during the day. This is very similar to the Victorian average of 97%.
 - 4.5.2 Port Phillip has higher safety perceptions regarding walking in their local area at night. 78.6% of Port Phillip residents felt safe or very safe at night compared to the Victorian average of 70%.
 - 4.5.3 Port Phillip also has higher safety perceptions compared to the wider Southern Metro region. 96.7% of people in the Southern Metro region reported feeling safe or very safe when walking alone in the day. 70.3% of people in the region felt safe or very safe walking alone at night.
- 4.6 Perceptions of safety are formed from how people feel about an area or place. These fears can impact people's quality of life and the social and economic wellbeing of communities.
- 4.7 Perceptions can be influenced by environmental and design factors such as poor lighting, the presence of graffiti, damaged property or rubbish, an absence of other people or a lack of seating or recreational spaces. They can also be influenced by social factors including behaviour of other people, for example, alcohol or drug consumption in public places, dogs off leash, or unsafe road and cycling behaviour.
- 4.8 The draft Community Safety Plan outlines the City of Port Phillip's role in increasing actual and perceived safety in our Local Government Area for the next four years, 2018-2022.
- 4.9 Safety is a fundamental principle underlying how Council delivers its services. Within the legislative scope of its operations, the City of Port Phillip can influence some of the causes of crime and public safety issues in the city through a range of mechanisms. For example, planning controls can be used to specify the design quality and safety of new buildings and infrastructure, and regulate their usage.
- 4.10 Actual and perceived safety is influenced through directly managing aspects of the public domain including: provision of street lighting, cleansing and waste management, public event management, public art, and provision of community recreational spaces.
- 4.11 The regulatory functions of Council also contribute to promoting safety, for example, outdoor alcohol restrictions in our parks and streets and managing dog off-leash areas through the Domestic Animal Management Plan.



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- 4.12 The areas for action in the plan contribute broadly to Council's overarching vision for Port Phillip set out in the Council Plan 2017-2027.
- 4.13 The plan also draws on and aligns with a range of state and national strategies and plans that relate to crime prevention, emergency response and community safety.
- 4.14 No single organisation can solve complex safety issues in isolation. The City of Port Phillip works with a range of partners, including community members, government agencies including the Victorian Police and health department, non-government organisations, universities, and business to identify agreed solutions and share resources to respond to priority issues.
- 4.15 The plan sets out three priority areas for action:
 - (a). Safer places, streets and activity centres
 - working with partners to increase actual and perceived public safety in our streets and spaces as well as management of lighting, CCTV, parks, footpaths, graffiti and waste management.
 - Promote a creative and vibrant night life to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour as part of Placemaking initiatives with the community and traders
 - Working with partners to improve road, public transport and pedestrian safety
 - (b) Crime prevention and harm minimisation
 - Contributing to reducing local crime by supporting initiatives that address domestic and family violence, sexual assault and safeguarding children from abuse.
 - Reduce the opportunities for crime to occur, e.g. advice about scams, property safety and fraud.
 - (c) A welcoming, inclusive and resilient community
 - Build resilient and connected communities to increase safety
 - Working together to better prepare for and respond to emergencies that may arise, and strengthening community resilience.
 - Ensure visitors feel safe and welcome in Port Phillip
 - Working together to increase affordable housing and reduce homelessness and rough sleeping
- 4.16 It describes work already underway as well as new initiatives, to present a holistic picture of action by the City of Port Phillip and its partners to achieve shared outcomes - in areas within Council's control, influence and concern.
- 4.17 Types of actions include: provision of lighting, partnering to improve road and pedestrian safety, building the capacity of community and business to increase safety and respond to complex issues, continuing to embed and promote child safe standards, establishing outdoor alcohol restriction areas, implementing the recommended approach of Australia's Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places from Terrorism, and providing programs and activities to support and welcome visitors.
- 4.18 This plan is a collective plan for action intended to be delivered jointly with other levels of government, the business and not-for-profit sectors, and wider community. It reflects the fact that safety is inherently a shared responsibility, with benefits for all members of society.



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- 4.19 The success of the plan will be measured using the measurements in the Health and Wellbeing Implementation Strategy 2017-2021.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The consultation to develop the priorities of the Council Plan and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan has helped informed the draft Community Safety Plan. This earlier consultation was extensive and included:
- Specific engagement with groups identified as 'hard to engage'.
 - Facilitated input from our community advisory committees, ie, Multicultural Forum, Multifaith Network, Older Person's Consultative Committee, Urban South Local Aboriginal Network and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community, Youth Advisory Committee.
- 5.2 Community researchers were engaged to talk to people who do not typically participate in the development of Council policies. Community researchers - graduates of the 'Voices of the South Side' program - conducted a short, values-based survey in a number of locations across the City of Port Phillip including:
- Albert Park Library
 - Community meal attendees at Hare Krishna
 - Immunisation sessions at Maternal and Child Health centres
 - Classes/Group meetings at Elwood and St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre (ESNLC)
 - Shopping precincts across Port Phillip
 - Port Melbourne Coffee catch-up
 - Dirty Dozen ISCHS / Emerald Hill Mission
 - Community Food Services at Temple Beth Israel
 - Our Rainbow Place VegOut
- 5.3 Council also facilitated local community and health agency representatives to attend the 'diversity and inclusion' special focus workshop with people who have specific health and wellbeing priorities.
- 5.4 The draft Community Safety Plan has also been informed by a number of discussions about safety that have taken place through our Placemaking workshops for Fitzroy Street traders and neighbourhood residents and their associations; a follow-up discussion with the Older Person's Consultative Committee and looking at best-practice from other local councils who have recently adopted Community Safety Plans.
- 5.5 Further community engagement will take place during the formal public exhibition period to obtain additional feedback and buy-in from the community.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Whilst improving community safety reduces personal and community risk, the mitigation of risks associated with crowded spaces and other gatherings will continue to be addressed through Risk Management Plans.



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7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The draft Community Safety Plan has been developed in alignment with existing budget and staff expertise.
- 7.2 Separate applications for funding opportunities will be made where they align to the priorities of the Community Safety Plan.
- 7.3 The delivery of this plan largely represents the alignment of business as usual activities with the outcomes in the plan – sometimes requiring a shift in focus or realignment of resources, but not requiring extensive new resources.
- 7.4 The plan is based on shared responsibility and delivery in collaboration with other government and non-government stakeholders. As such, many of the actions will not require Council resources beyond coordination or advocacy activities achieved within existing resources.
- 7.5 Note that safety related activity will continue in 2018/19 with further planning to occur in preparation for 2019/20 budget.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Council will assess the environmental impact for each project delivered.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 Safety is fundamental to the cultural and social sustainability of communities. The City of Port Phillip uses community development approaches to build social cohesion and to empower communities to participate in decision-making processes.
- 9.2 The draft Community Safety Plan has a focus on strengthening informal networks and enhancing community structures with the potential to build community capacity. This can provide opportunities to mobilise communities to address local issues and increase safety.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Public safety influences many different aspects of our city's quality of life and sustainability for its growing population of residents, workers and visitors. Consequently, the areas for action in this plan contribute broadly to Council's overarching vision for Port Phillip set out in our Council Plan 2017-2027.
- 10.2 Council, in adopting the Council Plan 2017 – 2027, committed to the delivery of actions across six strategic directions. Relevant to the Community Safety Plan are:
 - Direction 1: We embrace difference and belong
 - Direction 4: We are growing and keeping our character
 - Direction 5: We thrive by harnessing creativity
- 10.3 Improving community safety is a key priority for the Health and Wellbeing Implementation Strategy through the vision 'a safe and active community with strong social connections.'
- 10.4 A key objective of the Health and Wellbeing Implementation Strategy is to ensure Council's planning of natural and built form are informed by land use and design principles that contribute to community safety.



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11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

- 11.1 It is proposed to undertake broad community engagement up until the end of February 2019.
- 11.2 Feedback obtained during the community engagement period will inform finalisation of the plan, which will then be reported back to Council for adoption.

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.

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ATTACHMENTS 1. CoPP Draft Community Safety Plan