

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

A G E N D A

**Meeting to be held
Wednesday, 11 June 2014 at 6.30pm
Civic Centre
181 Unley Road Unley**

MEMBERS

Councillor J Boisvert – Presiding Member
Mayor Lachlan Clyne – ex officio
Councillor J Koumi
Councillor R Sangster
Councillor R Salaman
Ms N Edwards
Mr G Brennan
Mr P Di Iulio

REPORT TO COUNCIL : 23 June 2014

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the land we meet on today is the traditional land of the Aboriginal people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country.

We also acknowledge that the Aboriginal people are the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important to the living Aboriginal people today.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MOVED
SECONDED

That the Minutes of the Infrastructure and Capital Projects Committee held on Tuesday, 25 February 2014 as printed and circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

APOLOGIES

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

A G E N D A

DEPUTATIONS

PRESENTATIONS

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DECISION REPORT

REPORT TITLE: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2014-17

ITEM NUMBER: 14

DATE OF MEETING: 11 JUNE 2014

AUTHOR: SCOTT DOUGLAS

JOB TITLE: COORDINATOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS & STRATEGY

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: JOHN DEVINE

JOB TITLE: GENERAL MANAGER ASSETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMUNITY GOAL: GREENING OUR PATH TO A SUSTAINABLE CITY

REPRESENTOR/S:

ATTACHMENTS: 1. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2014-17 (WORKING DRAFT)

PURPOSE

This paper presents background to enable a discussion at Committee regarding the development of a new *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-17* and agreement to undertake community consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

MOVED:
SECONDED:

That:

1. The report be received.
 2. Community consultation on the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-17 be undertaken.
-

BACKGROUND

The City of Unley *Community Plan 2033* includes the goal of 'Greening Our Path to a Sustainable City'. The Council's *4 Year Plan 2013-2016* includes a 'supporting initiative' under 'Goal 4 – Greening' to 'Develop and implement the Environment and Sustainability Plan to reduce Council's environmental impact'

over years 1-4. The new Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-17 seeks to provide a tool to achieving these goals.

DISCUSSION

The City of Unley has demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental matters over many years through numerous environmental plans, programs, projects and actions. The development of a new *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-17* (Strategy) represents another opportunity to continue to build on this proud and important record.

The new Strategy seeks to establish an overarching lead document that provides a strategic framework to guide the Council's effort over the next four years. It aims to provide a clear pathway to implementing the 'Greening' goals identified in the *Community Plan 2033* and *4 Year Plan 2013-16*.

Using a standard strategic planning structure it includes: A Vision; Pathways and Objectives; Targets; and Indicators. This structure provides Council with a simple framework that provides clear direction and can be monitored over time to measure trends and progress. The four suggested pathways to achieving the vision for a more environmentally sustainable City are:

1. An Engaged and Active Community
2. An Environmentally Sustainable Landscape
3. An Environmentally Sustainable Built Form
4. Leadership and Governance for Environmental Sustainability

Seven Principles have been included in the Strategy to inform the direction and content of the document. The strategies underlying each 'Pathway and Objective' primarily draw upon existing Council commitments and effort as identified through background research and staff consultation. In some instances strategies contain previously unidentified new effort to develop a strategy document or delivery program.

Some of the recommended new effort may require external assistance depending on available Council resources and in some instances it may be achieved through utilising existing resources. Ultimately funding the implementation of this Strategy is subject to Council's annual budget process and the attainment of external funding through opportunistic calls for applications as they arise.

The 'Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation' section of the Strategy has been deliberately left blank to focus current attention and comments on the vision, pathways, objectives, strategies, targets and indicators. However comments and suggestions regarding what could be considered in the 'Implementation' section are welcome.

Following feedback from ICP the next step is to prepare a professionally graphic designed version of the Strategy in the style of the current *4 Year Plan 2013-16*

to undertake community consultation.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

N/A

ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

Option 1 – Community consultation on the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-17 be undertaken.

The content of the draft Strategy will be finalised before being professionally graphic designed to be consistent with the corporate style of the current *4 Year Plan 2013-16* and released for community consultation.

Option 2 – Community consultation on the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-17 be deferred to allow for further development of the Strategy by staff and Elected Members.

Deferring the release of the Strategy for community consultation would allow for further development of the approach, direction and content if this was desired.

RECOMMENDED OPTION

Option 1 is the recommended option.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Endorsing release of the draft Strategy for community consultation will allow Council to move towards achieving its 'Greening' goals identified in the *Community Plan 2033* and *4 Year Plan 2013-16*.

SUMMARY

Council's previous *Environment Sustainability Plan 2010-13* has expired leaving a current policy gap until the new *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-17* (Strategy) is endorsed. The new Strategy takes a more strategic approach in the form of a lead overarching document that sets a framework led by a shared vision.

City of Unley

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-17

Greening Our Path to a Sustainable City

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Purpose of this Strategy

The purpose of this document is to establish an overarching lead Environmental Sustainability Strategy for the City of Unley covering 2014-17. It is part of a strategic policy and planning framework that includes the 2033 Community Plan and Council Environmental Sustainability Policy which together guide the City through its continuous transition to becoming more environmentally sustainable.

Increasing environmental sustainability can make a positive contribution to the economic prosperity and liveability of the City increasing its quality of lifestyle and environmental balance. While the life of this document is four years, it is intended that it be part of an ongoing framework that provides for a consistent approach over a longer period of time to match the ongoing commitment required.

Like any change or structural adjustment, the transition process will involve making some challenging decisions. Win-win-win decisions with beneficial environmental, economic and social benefits are desirable and preferred but not always achievable. Some decisions will require varying degrees of trade-offs between environmental, economic and social considerations, but with the help of this Strategy these will hopefully be minor and infrequent.

This Strategy uses a common strategic planning hierarchy consisting of: A Vision; Objectives; Strategies; Targets; and Indicators. The Strategies seek to provide an appropriate level of guidance and in some situations recommend developing a more detailed supporting strategy or establishing a program to focus efforts. The actual transition process will occur through a combination of short-term, medium-term and long-term decisions, actions and projects, influenced by culture and behavioural change along with planning, infrastructure renewal and budget cycles.

Shared Responsibility

Creating a more environmentally sustainable City of Unley will be best achieved through the whole City taking action. The Council can take direct action to create change through initiatives such as installing solar panels and rainwater tanks on Council owned property or incorporating Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) into infrastructure development. Many opportunities for environmental improvement rely on Council/Community partnerships where Council can provide a service which assists the community. For example, a Council may provide a waste collection and recycling service (bins, collection and education) and the community ideally participates by using the service appropriately.

The amount of responsibility accepted by a community or a Council in partnership situations can of course vary. In some instances Council's role will be smaller and the community's larger and vice versa. For example, improving biodiversity within the City can be achieved by increasing habitat on public lands managed by Council and on private lands managed by the community. There is also the opportunity for environmental sustainability to be improved within the City purely based on the actions of the community independent of any actions or decisions of Council (such actions include installing solar panels and a rainwater tank on a home, or changing consumer behaviour). Council can also seek to influence community behaviour through providing information, guidance and financial incentives.

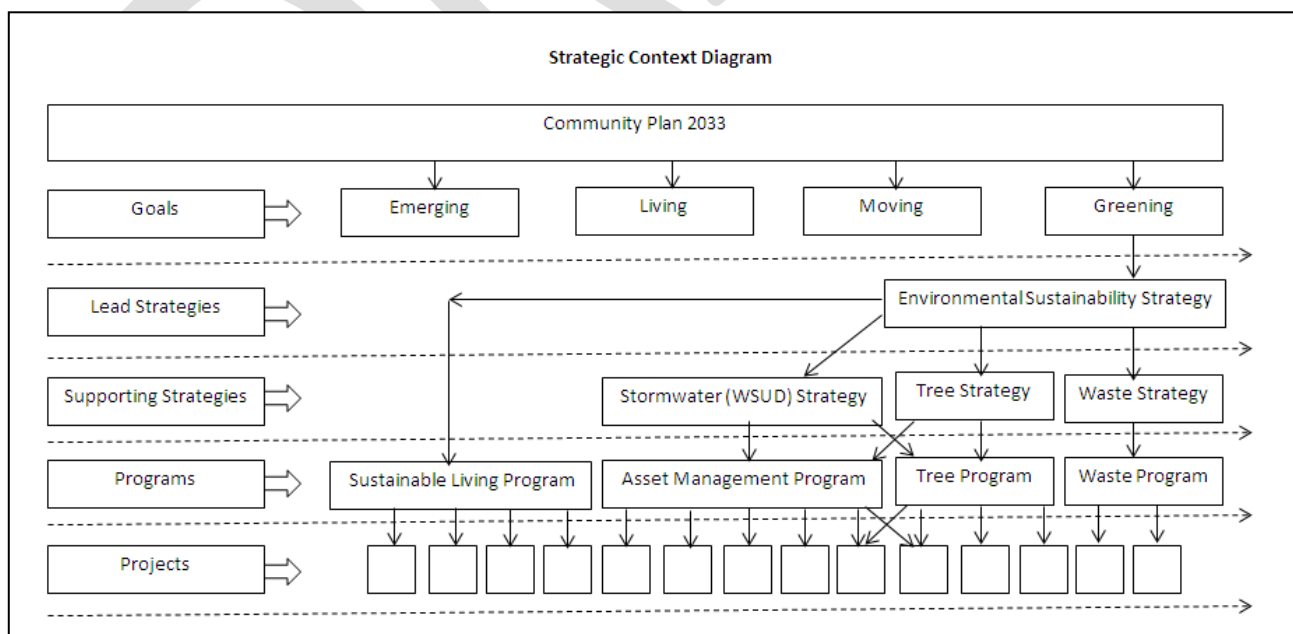
Strategic Context

The Community Plan 2033 for the City of Unley provides an opportunity to identify, reflect on and envision the priorities for our City over the next 20 years. An initiative called “A Community of Possibilities” was implemented to ask our community to think about smart and creative ideas for the City of Unley to potentially incorporate into our new Community Plan 2033.

Over six weeks in June and July 2012, 1,200 people provide their ideas to “A Community of Possibilities”. This was the Council’s largest ever community engagement initiative. Four main themes emerged about inspirational and innovative differences we could bring to our City:

Emerging	new activities and technologies that would support our business and residential communities.
Living	reflecting issues of culture, diversity and lifestyle.
Moving	concerning accessibility and transport, and
Greening	covering concerns about environmental initiatives and sustainability

This Environmental Sustainability Strategy is focussed on implementing the ‘Greening’ goal of the 2033 Plan. The diagram below provides an example of how the Strategy is envisaged to be placed in a strategic context. While not intending to be a complete representation of all existing and planned lead strategies, supporting strategies, programs and projects, the diagram shows how this lead Strategy seeks to provide direction to these other relevant initiatives. It is also acknowledged that there are numerous cross-connections and integration across the range of initiatives that are undertaken by Council.



Principles

The development of this Strategy is underpinned by the following seven principles which are reflected through the vision, pathways, objectives, strategies, targets and indicators.

1. **Interdependency** – The City of Unley is an integrated connected system of interactions that evolves and changes under the influence of community desires and environmental conditions. This complexity and connectedness needs to be considered when identifying transition opportunities, recognising that everything we do provides an opportunity.
2. **Vision Led** – Achieving improved environmental sustainability is often assisted by taking a more disciplined, longer term, bigger picture view that looks past short-term immediate solutions that may actually result in a negative environment outcome.
3. **Pathway Identification** - Achieving positive change requires the identification of opportunities including current mechanisms and structures that can be utilised and any new ones that are required. The existing community of Unley, the way Council functions and provides services, and how infrastructure and development occurs, are all examples of existing pathways full of opportunities.
4. **Strong Leadership** – This Strategy must be embraced and committed too by Council as part of its core business with ongoing monitoring, reporting and review captured in its systems and procedures which will also demonstrate leadership, accountability and transparency to the community.
5. **Continuous Improvement and Innovation** - Improving the environmental sustainability is an ongoing process, a non-ending journey. Embracing continuous improvement and innovation will encourage the City to improve based on what is considered reasonable and practicable best available information. Like any change process monitoring and assessment of progress is essential to inform adaptive responses.
6. **Ecologically Sustainable Development** – The use, development and protection of the environment should be managed in a way, and at a rate, that will enable people and communities, now and in the future, to provide for their financial, social and physical wellbeing.
7. **General Environmental Duty** – Council, residents, businesses and visitors all have a responsibility to undertake their daily activities within the City of Unley in accordance with their 'General Environmental Duty' - to take reasonable and practicable measures to avoid harm to the environment - under the South Australian *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

Achievements so far.....

[insert images]

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Vision and Pathways to an Environmentally Sustainable City

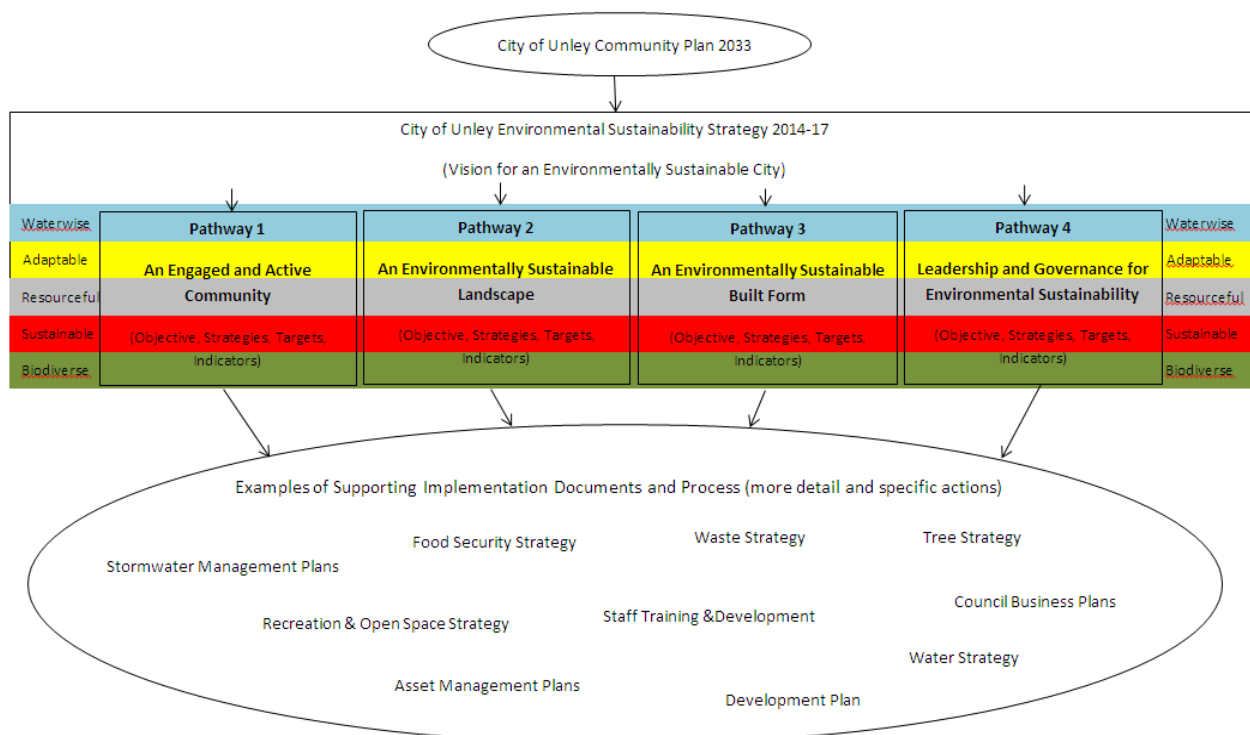
The development of this document follows the strategic direction set by the Community Plan 2033 with a particular focus on identifying pathways to achieving Goal 4: *Greening Our path To A Sustainable City*. The opportunity to draw upon and utilise the large amount of information gathered through the extensive “A Community of Possibilities” community consultation process has been taken. A wide range of other existing relevant documents have also been considered along with targeted investigations with key stakeholders. This process has led to the establishment of a vision for an environmentally sustainable City of Unley:

A City that sustains the wellbeing and opportunities of current and future generations through custodianship of a healthy environment, where the existence and contribution of natural organisms, systems and processes are valued.

Four key pathways to achieving the vision have also been identified: (1) *An Engaged and Active Community*; (2) *An Environmentally Sustainable Landscape*; (3) *An Environmentally Sustainable Built Form*; and (4) *Leadership and Governance for Environmental Sustainability*. Each pathway considers five environmental sustainability themes that are considered to be most significant and relevant to creating a sustainable City of Unley:

- **Waterwise:** an efficient and responsible minimal water user
- **Adaptable:** preparing for changes in climate and embracing new technology and information
- **Resourceful:** continually reviewing our resource use and doing more with less
- **Sustainable:** ongoing commitment to reducing our negative environmental impacts
- **Biodiverse:** increasing the health of our ecological systems

The figure below shows how the vision, pathways and environmental themes come together in this new Environmental Sustainability Strategy.



Pathways

1. An Engaged and Active Community

A large and influential factor in determining the environmental sustainability of the City of Unley is the behaviour of the people who live, work and frequent the City. For this reason the behaviour of people is one of the most important pathways to changing what tomorrow looks like. People can directly influence the environmental sustainability of their City through their home life, their work life, consumption choices, participation in community initiatives, advocacy on local issues and contribution to local governance. The community will be a major factor in the actual transition to a more environmentally sustainable city, consequently it is important that they be provided with the opportunity and support to continually learn, share and take appropriate action.

2. An Environmentally Sustainable Landscape

The condition of the relationship between the natural environment and the City and its people is a basic foundation for creating an environmentally sustainable city. The historical attitude of conquering and taming nature has given way to a more respectful relationship where the value of nature to human wellbeing is recognised. Intrinsic values nature can offer include the beauty and joy of a calmer softer space, or appreciation of the colour and movement of plants and animals. The landscape's value also extends to the provision of valuable functional services including watercourses and wetlands improving water quality and flood protection, or by trees providing shade on a hot day and helping to improve air quality. Establishing a mutually beneficial relationship between the natural landscape and a City's form and function can improve everyday liveability and quality of life.

3. An Environmentally Sustainable Built Form

As the City of Unley evolves and changes over time to reflect the needs and desires of the community, there is an opportunity to seek improved environmental sustainability outcomes from public and private buildings and infrastructure. The urbanised nature of the City means that there are currently very limited opportunities to utilise traditional approaches to creating multi-functional green open spaces. This has driven the City to be innovative in identifying and creating green open space opportunities such as the pocket parks initiative and Windsor Street Linear Reserve. To achieve the vision and desire for a greener City as expressed through the Community Plan, this appetite for innovation and leadership must continue with the exploration of opportunities for green buildings, walls and roofs and supportive development and financial policies. Taking advantage of opportunities to increase the environmental sustainability of buildings and infrastructure can also contribute to the creation of a more efficient, modern, diverse and desirable built form.

4. Leadership and Governance for Environmental Sustainability

The degree of environmental sustainability achieved at any level, whether it be within an organisation, or a City, Region, State or Country, can serve as an indicator to the leadership and governance values and practices being embraced over time. Pressures associated with day to day decisions can often accumulate into an undesirable trend that stretches over years and entrenches itself as business as usual. Breaking the business as usual cycle requires a sustained commitment over time to developing a positive culture that embraces increased environmental sustainability. One that embraces the opportunity to innovate and create and not retreat to established comfort zones. Increased recognition of environmental and social considerations within the day to day decision-making processes of leading businesses and governments is delivering improved performance outcomes and new benchmarks in corporate governance. In addition to improving its own performance, Council should seek to influence upwards (State and Federal Government) and outwards (Community).

Pathway 1: An Engaged and Active Community

Objective: A community that feels confident in its understanding of environmental sustainability and empowered to make a positive contribution to the transition process through their actions and decision-making.

Strategies:

- 1.1 Establish an Environmentally Sustainable Living Program. This will assist the community in increasing their knowledge and understanding of environmental issues and to make considered consumption and behavioural decisions to help minimize the City's environmental footprint. Establishing a clearly branded and focused program will assist in attracting external partners, funding and sponsorship, as well as providing clear entry points for the community and others seeking to find out about opportunities to participate.
- 1.2 In consultation with existing business and economic development initiatives, establish a Business Environmental Sustainability Program. This will focus on assisting businesses with understanding environmental sustainability trends, opportunities and expectations associated with the growing environmentally and socially responsible marketplace. Also offers partnering opportunities as for 1.1 above.
- 1.3 Establish a Food Security Program to help implement the City's Food Security Strategy, including the establishment of a City of Unley Food Trail that supports the promotion of locally grown and produced food and community gardens.
- 1.4 Promote environmental sustainability awareness through activities with schools, youth groups and community groups. Seek opportunities to explore the creative expression of the human/nature relationship through art, culture, events, festivals and when developing documents associated with youth development, sport, recreation and public art.
- 1.5 Maximise opportunities to engage with the community through existing and emerging communications tools including well maintained environmental information on the Council website.
- 1.6 Continue to implement the City's Waste Management Strategy and Waste Management Program to maximise awareness of reduce, reuse and recycle opportunities resulting in a reduction of material going to landfill.
- 1.7 Utilise community hubs such as community centres, libraries, the swimming pool and other facilities and networks to demonstrate and promote environmental sustainability and to build community capacity.
- 1.8 Promote the contribution a healthy environment can make to improved public health and quality of life outcomes, such as encouraging physical activity or reducing heat stress by providing shade and cooler spaces. Identify and communicate with members of the community who are more vulnerable, or at higher risk, to identify priority areas for action.

Targets: Establish an effective Environmentally Sustainable Living Program in 2014/15
Establish an effective Business Environmental Sustainability Program in 2014/15
Establish an effective Food Security Program in 2014/15
Establish a City of Unley Food Trail by 2016/17

Indicators: Sustainable Living Program operating effectively (Participation feedback)
Business Environmental Program operating effectively (Participation feedback)
Food Security Program operating effectively (Participation feedback)
Food Trail operating effectively (Participation feedback)

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Pathway 2: An Environmentally Sustainable Landscape

Objective: A landscape that utilises Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) and green infrastructure through a network of public parks, linear paths, trails and green spaces, that in combination with private property greening supports increased biodiversity and liveability.

Strategies:

- 2.1 Develop a Stormwater Strategy and continue the application of WSUD treatments in the City, including through appropriate planning policy, infrastructure upgrades and public land project opportunities, to help improve water quality, reduce reliance on mains water and provide green infrastructure opportunities.
- 2.2 Develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy and promote the use of large scale (bigger than a single building) landscape green infrastructure within the City, including through appropriate planning policy, infrastructure upgrades and public land projects.
- 2.3 Explore opportunities for considering a multi-functional integrated systems approach over larger strategic areas, such as the Unley Swimming Pool/Forestville Reserve complex. The interaction between people, water and place at this location provides an opportunity for mutually beneficial outcomes around water use, education and engagement with nature.
- 2.4 Develop a Biodiversity Strategy and Biodiversity Program for the City. This will help to increase biodiversity by identifying and protecting existing species and habitats while also creating new indigenous flora plantings and habitat for indigenous fauna. Establishing a clearly branded and focused program will assist in attracting external partners, funding and sponsorship, as well as providing clear entry points for the community and others seeking to find out more or participate in biodiversity initiatives.
- 2.5 Develop a Tree Strategy and manage trees as valuable City assets. Undertake initiatives that recognise the contribution trees make to a healthy and liveable urban ecology, such as the Adopt a Street Tree and Pocket Parks programs.
- 2.6 Review the Open Space Strategy to continue Council's innovative approach to creating more multi-functional open spaces that also contribute to an environmentally sustainable landscape.
- 2.7 Draw upon emerging information about climate trends to help plan a resilient and liveable landscape, including identifying vulnerable and at risk community members.

Targets

- Increase the number of WSUD treatments through Council works (2013/14 Baseline)
- Increase the volume of stormwater capture and reuse by Council (2013/14 Base)
- Increase the number of native plants planted through Council works (2013/14 Base)
- Increase the number of nest boxes on Council managed lands (2013/14 Base)
- Increase in the area of open space within the City (2013/14 Base)
- Increase vegetation cover within the City (2013/14 Base)

Indicators

- Number of WSUD treatments completed over life of Strategy
- Volume of stormwater capture and reuse by Council
- Number of native plants planted annually through Council works
- Number of active nest boxes on Council managed lands
- Area of open space within the City
- Vegetation cover within the City

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Pathway 3: An Environmentally Sustainable Built Form

Objective 3: Create a built urban form that is environmentally sustainable, high performing, efficient, and liveable to support the planned increase in population and growth while lowering natural resource use, waste and pollution.

Strategies:

- 3.1 Investigate opportunities to encourage retrofitting of the existing building stock where appropriate within the City to improve environmental performance, such as energy and water efficiency and green walls and roofs.
- 3.2 Maximise opportunities through new development proposals and public buildings to create a desired urban form that embraces innovation, such as renewable energy generation, water use efficiency and green walls and roofs, to increase building environmental performance outcomes.
- 3.3 Utilise main road corridor vitalisation opportunities, including King William Road, Goodwood Road, Glen Osmond Road, Unley Road (south) and Fullarton Road (Highgate Centre), to increase and demonstrate improved built form environmental performance outcomes including WSUD and green infrastructure.
- 3.4 Embrace Centre and Precinct planning and renewal opportunities, such as Unley District Centre Vitalisation, to increase and demonstrate improved built form environmental performance and outcomes including WSUD and green infrastructure.
- 3.5 Encourage reduced single car travel on main through corridors (move people not cars) by fostering public transport, cycling and walking. Consider improved environmental sustainability outcomes when designing transport projects and reviewing transport documents.
- 3.6 Support Transit Orientated Development (TOD) opportunities, such as the Anzac Highway/Greenhill Road precinct, to focus growth and higher density living in transport corridors and other strategic locations.
- 3.7 Increase opportunities for local and work from home employment by encouraging the evolution of a diversity of building stock, employment sectors and supporting infrastructure and technologies.
- 3.8 Lobby for changes to the Building Code of Australia when it is believed that better environmental sustainability outcomes could be achieved.
- 3.9 Continue to explore alternative energy efficient public lighting options across the City.

Targets: Increase green walls and roofs on Council buildings (2013/14 Baseline)
An increase in public transport patronage rates for the City of Unley (2013/14 Base)
An increase in the percentage of residents who walk or cycle to work
An increase in the percentage of residents who work in the City of Unley

Indicators: Number of green walls and roofs on Council buildings
Public transport patronage rates for the City of Unley
Percentage of residents who walk or cycle to work
Percentage of residents who work in the City of Unley

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Pathway 4: Leadership and Governance for Environmental Sustainability

Objective 4: An organisation that has environmental sustainability embedded as a pillar of its good governance ethics and practices, recognising its contribution to increasing efficiency, performance and the quality of staff and community living and learning.

Strategies

- 4.1 Establish an overarching Corporate Environmental Performance Program to drive the integration of improved environmental performance throughout the organisation. Drawing upon a recognised Standard, such as AS/NZS ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems, will assist with ongoing commitment to the environmental improvement process. It can also assist in the establishment and integration of relevant administrative policies and systems and meeting legislative requirements through Council's integrated management system.
- 4.2 Ensure that there is a system for information sharing, such as Council's intranet, to assist with monitoring organisational behaviour and to identify awareness raising and training opportunities to improve the organisation's environmental performance.
- 4.3 Continue to monitor the organisation's environmental footprint by collecting data on resource use, such as electricity, gas, fuel use, waste generation, and reporting regularly to Council to inform Elected Members of trends.
- 4.4 Implement the intent of this Strategy by ensuring that environmental factors are addressed through the organisation's day to day activities, including the preparation of designs, plans, policies, programs and decisions regarding facilities, projects, purchasing, fleet and on-ground works.
- 4.5 Continually assess the benefits of emerging corporate business and finance models which are shifting from traditional governance and accounting processes to new modern sustainability broad-based approaches such as Triple Bottom Line (TBL) accounting.
- 4.6 Continue to partner with relevant stakeholders including the Federal and State Governments, Local Government Association of South Australia, neighbouring Councils, residents and the private sector, to find ways of improving environmental sustainability.
- 4.7 Regularly communicate the organisation's improved environmental performance achievements to the community to demonstrate leadership and commitment.
- 4.8 Continue to grow leadership capability and general knowledge about environmental sustainability amongst staff and elected members to encourage shared responsibility and empowerment to identify concerns and positive actions.

Targets

- Establish an effective Corporate Environmental Program in 2014/15
- Complete regular staff training sessions (2013/14 Base)
- Reduce the Council's water and energy use (2013/14 Base)
- Reduce Council's emissions (2013/14)
- Increase external funding through partnerships (2013/14 Base)

Indicators

- Corporate Environmental Program operating effectively (Participation feedback)
- Number of annual staff training sessions
- Council's annual water and energy use
- Council's annual emissions
- Amount of external funding secured annually

[insert images]

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Summary of Targets and Indicators *[TBC once Strategies, Targets & Indicators Finalised]*

Objective 1: A community that feels confident in its understanding of environmental sustainability and empowered to make a positive contribution to the transition process through their actions and decision-making.	
Target	Indicator
Objective 2: A landscape that utilises Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) and green infrastructure through a network of public parks, linear paths, trails and green spaces, that in combination with private property greening supports increased biodiversity and liveability.	
Target	Indicator
Objective 3: Create a built urban form that is environmentally sustainable, high performing, efficient, and liveable to support the planned increase in population and growth while lowering natural resource use, waste and pollution.	
Target	Indicator
Objective 4: An organisation that has environmental sustainability embedded as a pillar of its good governance ethics and practices, recognising its contribution to increasing efficiency, performance and the quality of staff and community living and learning.	
Target	Indicator

Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

[TBC.]

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Further Information to Guide the Transition Process

Blueprint 2013 - Stormwater Management in a Water Sensitive City. Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Water Sensitive Cities (2013). ISBN 978-1-921912-02-3. <http://watersensitivecities.org.au/>

Creating Places For People: An Urban Design Protocol for Australian Cities. Commonwealth of Australia (2013). <http://www.urbandesign.gov.au/>

Community Plan 2033 – A Community of Possibilities. City of Unley (2013). www.unley.sa.gov.au

4 Year Plan 2013-2016 – A Community of Possibilities. City of Unley (2013). www.unley.sa.gov.au

Green Star Communities National Framework. Green Building Council Australia (2012). www.gbca.org.au/green-star/green-star-communities/

Growing Green Guide for Melbourne Project . University of Melbourne, Cities of Melbourne, Yarra, Stonnington and Port Phillip, Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund. <http://imap.vic.gov.au/>

Liveability and the Water Sensitive City – Science Policy Partnership for Water Sensitive Cities. Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Water Sensitive Cities (2012). ISBN 978-1-921912-17-7. <http://watersensitivecities.org.au/>

Our Cities, Our Future – A national urban policy for a productive, sustainable and liveable future. Commonwealth of Australia (2011). ISBN 978-1-921769-26-9. www.infrastructure.gov.au.

The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide. Government of South Australia (2010). ISBN 978-0-7590-0114-5. www.plan4adelaide.sa.gov.au/

The Green Infrastructure Project. Government of South Australia. www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/Learn/Green_Infrastructure

Urban Heat Island Report: Decision principles for the selection and placement of Green Infrastructure. Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research (2013). www.vcccar.org.au/

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT TITLE: TREE STRATEGY
ITEM NUMBER: 15
DATE OF MEETING: 11 JUNE 2014
AUTHOR: TREVOR STEIN
JOB TITLE: SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE SPECIALIST
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: JOHN DEVINE
JOB TITLE: GENERAL MANAGER ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMUNITY GOAL: O4.1 Renowned for its lifestyle and environmental balance
REPRESENTOR/S:
ATTACHMENTS: NIL

PURPOSE

This paper provides a background to enable discussion at Committee regarding the development of a Tree Management Strategy with one of its cornerstone objectives being street trees.

RECOMMENDATION

MOVED:
SECONDED:

That:

1. The report be received.
-

BACKGROUND

The City of Unley's urban forest contributes significantly to the City's character and is integral to making Unley a green and sustainable city. Trees in the City of Unley have an important function and role to improve the microclimate and liveability of the City, and contribute to its diverse inner urban, heritage, environmental and social character. The management of the City's extensive tree asset provides significant challenges for Council. The overriding goal of Council is to ensure the City of Unley continues to have a well vegetated environment including significant trees, both on private and public land, for centuries to come.

The City of Unley has approximately 26,000 Council owned trees within its local government area of 14 square kilometres. Trees constitute an important element of the rich cultural heritage of Unley and a considerable asset to the community on many levels. They enhance our enjoyment of streets and open space by making them more comfortable and pleasant, as well as providing a wide range of other benefits such as shade and habitat for wildlife.

The City's street tree population is aging and nearing the point where replacement will be necessary. However, while replacement is necessary, prolonging the life of trees is seen as a high priority for many residents of the City.

The overall goal of Council is also somewhat threatened by the potential impact of climate change, increased housing density, water restrictions and a regulatory and risk averse environment where one can be liable for the impact a tree may have on another's property. These pressures are real and cannot be avoided. They exist in an environment changing at considerable pace and in an environment where Council should review management practices. Such reviews must be in the context of the past, present and the future, and within a Policy and Strategic Management framework.

Conversely, trees constitute a potential risk to the community and to property on a number of levels ranging from interference with underground or above ground services to risk to property and personal safety through such effects as limb drop or lifting of paved walking surfaces. There are also legislative compliance issues that require Council to ensure correct species selection occurs along with establishing suitable planting locations.

Like other assets, such as buildings, trees require effective and coordinated management to maximise their benefits to the community and the environment against their risks, such as damage to property or personal injury.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of the Tree Strategy is to provide a management framework that will lead to the effective and co-ordinated management of trees within Unley.

The aim of the Tree Strategy is to maximise the benefits of our City's tree study including street and reserve and private trees, and minimise the risks associated with them (such as damage to property or personal injury).

The Strategy is not a static document, and will require regular review to ensure it remains current.

It is proposed that the strategy will provide a framework for making structured, consistent and environmentally sound management decisions for all Council-owned or managed street and open space trees.

Advancements have been made within the arboricultural industry over recent years. More contemporary tree management techniques have replaced more traditional thinking. Local government is also dealing with an engaged community who are well versed in environmental issues including trees.

The overall vision of the tree strategy is to enhance and maintain the Urban Forest. Within this vision the proposed objectives of the Tree Management Strategy are to:

- Strive for leadership and good practice in the management of the street landscape, ensuring appropriate programs are established and adequately documented and resourced;
- Ensure consistency in tree management across the organisation;
- Establish a process that demonstrates strategic thinking towards the preservation and enhancement of the local character of the City;
- Ensure legislative compliance issues are addressed in respect to tree species and location plantings;
- Ensure that proper consideration is given to trees in relation to developments/private property where the opportunity arises;
- Provide an educational tool for staff, Elected Members, other agencies and the community;
- Address issues related to the street and park tree management and maintenance faced by Unley Council;
- Develop a strategy to ensure that Council can improve our current 'tree environment' and pass on an improved heritage of trees to the future.

In developing the tree strategy, current strategies and policies will be reviewed, relevant current issues will be identified and a clear direction sought within an endorsed Tree Management Strategy framework. Issues identified for inclusion within the strategy include but are not limited to the following:

- **Second Generation Tree Planting** – an audit of Council's streets from 2009 identified that there were 10,526 mature street trees in the City. This figure represents 47% of the total number of street trees. Many of these street trees are reaching senescence and require replacement.
- **Food Security** – direction in relation to parks and streets.
- **Species Selection** – the development of a suite of appropriate tree species for streets and parks.
- **Development and Planning** – the impact of urban infill and what this means to to Unley's 'urban forest'.
- **Maintenance and Pruning Issues** – thorough review of current practices and programs.
- **Tree Planting** – the need for development of tree planting processes and guidelines.
- **Park Tree Risk Assessment** – the need for a systematic prioritised approach to Park and Reserve tree risk assessment.
- **Alternative Verge/Nature Strip Treatment – Second Tier Greening for Unley** – develop, assess and modify existing programs.

- **SA Power Network Impacts and Opportunities** – opportunities for Aerial Bundled Cabling and undergrounding.
- **Community Consultation and Involvement** – significant impact in relation to Second Generation Street Tree Renewal Programs. Dealing with the 'I bought into this tree lined street and now you want to remove it and impact on my property value' scenario.
- **Trees and Infrastructure** – alternative approaches to civil construction works to avoid environmental impact and damage.
- **Events** – the trend toward park and community land events. The potential impact and the need for guidelines and procedures to protect trees.

The City of Unley has developed a set of overriding guiding principles to ensure assets within Unley are developed and managed for the needs of the community. If trees within Unley are seen as a critical asset to be preserved and maintained they should be measured against these principles. As such, these principles will be used to guide the direction of this strategy.

Principle 1 – Customer & Community Requirements Alignment

Assets are designed and maintained to ensure they are fit for purpose, meeting the agreed Level of Service, without additional functionality.

Principle 2 – Legislatively Compliant

Assets are designed and maintained to meet compliance requirements at a minimum.

Principle 3 – Strategic Consistency

Assets related to services are planned and maintained within an integrated planning framework.

Principle 4 – Sustainable

Assets are designed and maintained in a manner cognizant of a triple bottom line outcome (economic; environmental; social) and utilising a life cycle approach.

Principle 5 – Equity Across The Community

A balanced approach is taken ensuring that residents across the community have equal opportunities for required services.

Principle 6 – Risk Sensitive

Asset based decisions are done so in a manner where risks are identified, understood and managed (Work Health Safety; Environment; Public Safety; Political).

Principle 7 – Innovation and Improvement Focussed

Alternative methods of providing services/assets are regularly examined and improvement considered, to ensure 'best value' options are applied.

Pathways

Further to the above asset guiding principles, three 'Pathways' have been established to override the direction and assist in the regeneration of Unley's urban forest:

Pathway 1 - Street Trees

Pathway 2 - Park Trees

Pathway 3 - Private (Regulated and Significant Trees)

It is envisaged that with each Pathway a range of objectives, strategies, indicators and targets will be developed.

It is the intention of the Administration to trial/test the Strategy direction through the Infrastructure and Capital Works Committee placing an emphasis on receiving input in relation to the Street Trees Pathway.

SUMMARY

Trees represent one of the larger asset classes managed by Council. Council's trees should be considered a valuable asset and part of the City's infrastructure; namely the 'green infrastructure'.

Trees are major urban infrastructure assets. While costs, and the damage and nuisance values attributed to trees are widely known, the benefits they provide are often subtle and under-appreciated. Cities are biodiversity hot spots due to the variety of habitats available in public and private open space. In the past decade tree populations in many Australian cities have declined, particularly with the loss of private open space.

Clear strategic direction is required to ensure the City of Unley's valuable tree asset is maintained for future generations.

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT TITLE: KERBSIDE WASTE & RECYCLING
COLLECTION CONTRACT

ITEM NUMBER: 16

DATE OF MEETING: 10 JUNE 2014

AUTHOR: BRENTON CURTIS

JOB TITLE: MANAGER STRATEGIC ASSETS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: JOHN DEVINE

JOB TITLE: GENERAL MANAGER ASSETS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMUNITY GOAL: GREENING
LEADERS IN WASTE REDUCTION

REPRESENTOR/S:

ATTACHMENTS:

PURPOSE

This paper provides an update to the Committee regarding the kerbside waste & recycling collection contract.

RECOMMENDATION

MOVED:
SECONDED:

That:

1. The report be received.
-

BACKGROUND

Council's current waste collection contract finishes in September 2014 and after some discussions with the current provider, Council at its meeting on the 23 September 2013 resolved to go to the open market to seek a new provider for Council's waste management service.

DISCUSSION

This report provides a further update from the previous information report presented to the committee on the 25 February 2014 regarding Council's kerbside waste and recycling contract.

Since that time, Council has sought advice in regard to the Onkaparinga Council option presented in that report regarding the sale of kerbside recyclables secured through their recent tender process in the open market. Council signed a confidentiality agreement to enable it to gain access to the sale of kerbside recyclables agreement.

On receipt of the agreement, Council then sought independent legal advice on the document in regard to the procurement process as well as the content of the agreement.

The advice indicated that Council's procurement policy did not preclude it from taking up the option presented as part of the Onkaparinga contract. In fact the CEO has delegated authority to seek such opportunities as long as Council is notified. Consequently, following negotiations with the service provider, the opportunity provided by the Onkaparinga recycling contract has been taken up.

Concurrent to these negotiations, the tender process for the kerbside collection and processing contract has continued to meet its programmed timeframe and ultimate new contract start date.

The tender documentation was prepared in line with the approved waste management strategy and the comments received in discussion with the committee over proceeding meetings.

Due to the timing and volume of work required with both processes, it was not possible to finalise the sale of kerbside recyclables agreement before the tender call closed. However it was agreed that this would not be an issue as the location of this new nominated facility could be negotiated with the successful tenderer before letting the contract.

The following tender program was adopted and is being implemented.

17 March – tender document prepared / meeting with Council staff Thursday 20 /Friday 21 March to review documentation

24 March – complete document preparation

31 March – final Council staff sign-off and lodge with Tenders SA (Wednesday 2 April) for Tender Call Tuesday 8 April (Council)

Tuesday 8 April to Monday 12 May – five week tender call period. (allowing for Easter and Anzac)

12 May – Tenders close

19 May – 6 June - Tender evaluation and interviews

13 June – Council report to be prepared

23 June – Recommendation to Council

July – Contract let and documents signed

July / August / Sept – Contractor transition.

As can be seen from the program, Council staff are deeply involved in the tender evaluation phase of the process at the time of preparing this report and as such, a final selection has not been made yet and most of the documentation presented by the tenders is confidential at this point in time.

There has been keen interest in Unley's tender for its waste management service with five tenderers seeking to provide the full suite of waste management services and an additional six service providers seeking to deliver individual separate portions of the waste management service.

The evaluation process is being undertaken in accordance with Council's procurement policy, using a panel. The panel is being supported by an independent waste industry expert who was also involved in the preparation of the tender documents as well as an independent procurement auditor who is overseeing the process. This process has been developed to ensure best value for the Unley residents and includes;

- Review and short listing of full service provider on a range of service criteria and cost
- Review of part service providers
- Analysis and comparison of a range of options including one contractor providing all services through to a number of individual contractors providing the waste management service

The next key steps to progressing the waste management tender are;

1. Complete the evaluation process.
2. Prepare a report and recommendation for Council to consider at its 23 June 2014 meeting.
3. Award the kerbside waste collection and recycling contract subject to Council approval.