

ITEM 3. POST EXHIBITION – THE NEXT GENERATION - A BLUEPRINT FOR AGED SERVICES AND FACILITIES 2008 – 2018**FILE NO: S046971-02****SUMMARY**

At its meeting of 7 April 2008, Council resolved to endorse the draft strategy, The Next Generation – A Blueprint for Aged Services and Facilities 2008-2018 (the Draft Blueprint) for public exhibition. This report advises Council of the outcomes of the public exhibition.

Nine submissions regarding the Draft Blueprint were received during the public exhibition period, 7 April to 2 June 2008. Most submissions were very positive and supported the key directions of the Blueprint.

The submissions re-affirmed key areas of program delivery and recommended additional programs and initiatives to complement existing and proposed initiatives.

The major issues raised as a result of the public exhibition period were:

- (a) the City should deliver more programs and recreation opportunities at a variety of centres and in public spaces, not only in Aged Activity Centres. These programs should include author talks, exercise classes, computer classes, and should provide opportunities to mix with a variety of age groups, not solely with other aged people;
- (b) the City should consider ways to provide more volunteering opportunities to make the most of the highly qualified and experienced active older people who have retired. This could include programs such as the “Odd Job” program; and
- (c) the City should work to improve transport across the local government area.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council adopt the Draft - The Next Generation – A Blueprint For Aged Services and Facilities 2008-2018 as shown at Attachment A to the subject report.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Draft – The Next Generation - A Blueprint For Aged Services and Facilities 2008-2018 (with changes marked)

Attachment B: Summary of Feedback received during the Public Exhibition Period

BACKGROUND

1. The City of Sydney has a very diverse population, culturally, socio-economically, and by age. Over one in eight people (or 13%) in the City of Sydney are currently aged 60 years or older. A 33% growth is expected in the 60+ years age group over the next 20 years as 'baby boomers' retire and the population of those aged 85+ years increases. This growth will be in proportion to general growth in the City's population, with around 14% expected to be aged 60 years or older.
2. To meet the needs of a changing and ageing City population, the City's Aged Services Unit prepared the draft strategy, The Next Generation – A Blueprint For Aged Services and Facilities 2008-2018 (the Draft Blueprint) in consultation with the City community and key stakeholders.
3. The Draft Blueprint has four objectives:
 - (a) **Healthy Ageing**

The older population in the City of Sydney has access to world class opportunities for active ageing, community contribution, lifelong learning and a range of social and recreational programs. The City of Sydney will promote healthy ageing through the development of safe and connected communities, user friendly public services, open spaces and recreation opportunities.
 - (b) **Support Services**

The frail older population in the City of Sydney has access to high quality, best practice support services. The City will ensure frail, older residents have access to these services - through direct service provision of Meals on Wheels and by advocating for and supporting the service development and delivery of other relevant services.
 - (c) **Transport**

The older population in the City of Sydney has access to flexible, accessible and reliable transport options.
 - (d) **Community Development**

There will be an ongoing response to the needs of older people through community development work and capacity building. This will involve work with community groups, non-government organisations and other government agencies to implement sustainable activities, programs and services which can respond to the changing needs of the community.
4. On 7 April 2008, Council resolved to endorse the Draft Blueprint for public exhibition.
5. During the exhibition period the City received nine submissions; from Home and Community Care, Council on the Ageing (NSW) Inc, NSW Senior Peer Education Service, Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association and from five residents. These submissions are outlined in the Summary of Feedback received during the Public Exhibition Period at Attachment B.
6. Officers from the Aged Services Unit undertook additional consultation with seniors in the City's Aged Activity Centres during the public exhibition period. Comments received from attendees at the Aged Activity Centres have also been included at Attachment B.

7. Additional presentations during the public exhibition period were made to key agencies including Council on the Ageing, NSW Senior Peer Education Service, Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Associations and the City of Sydney Aged Interagency.
8. Most submissions were very positive and supported the key directions of the Blueprint. The submissions re-affirmed key areas of program delivery and recommended additional programs and initiatives to complement existing and proposed initiatives.
9. The major issues raised as a result of the public exhibition were:
 - (a) the City should deliver more programs and recreation opportunities at a variety of centres and in public spaces, not only in Aged Activity Centres. These programs should include author talks, exercise classes, computer classes, and should provide opportunities to mix with a variety of age groups, not solely with other aged people;
 - (b) the City should consider ways to provide more volunteering opportunities to make the most of the highly qualified and experienced active older people who have retired. This could include programs such as the "Odd Job" program; and
 - (c) the City should work to improve transport across the local government area.
10. The major points raised during consultation with aged attendees at the City's Aged Activity Centres were:
 - (a) overall a very positive response to the initiatives in the Action Plan;
 - (b) the healthy ageing programs are very well received and most feedback was about additional programs that could be added such as fishing trips and weekends away;
 - (c) there is a need to better publicise the programs running at the Activity Centres, Libraries and in the community. This could include a new brochure and better signage at the centres;
 - (d) widespread support for the "Odd Job" program;
 - (e) there is a need to continue programs that provide social support and reduce social isolation; and
 - (f) facilities should be designed so that they are welcoming for older people (friendly space for them to sit, chat and read papers).
11. The Draft Blueprint has been amended in response to the issues raised in the feedback. These amendments are documented in Attachment A.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

12. The Draft Blueprint represents a strategic change of direction for the City, especially in regard to the operations of our Aged Activity Centres and the future directions for the type of facilities in which programs are to be offered. The Draft Blueprint has a key focus on healthy ageing and seeks to engage our active older populations as they reach retirement age.

13. The Draft Blueprint is a consolidation of initiatives and actions that have underpinned the City's commitment to aged services provision over many years. It aims to make the City a leader in the provision of innovative and responsive aged services over the next 10 years.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

14. Actions identified in the Draft Blueprint are incorporated into the 2008/09 budget.
15. Actions and projects in subsequent years will be incorporated into future budget planning. Where significant extra resources may be required for special projects, grants from other levels of government or partnerships with corporate sponsors will be sought.
16. Actions relating to integrated facilities will be included in reports to Council on the Integrated Community Facilities Plan as this progresses.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

17. Aged populations are a priority target group reported in the Social Plan, a mandatory reporting requirement under the *Local Government Act* (1993).

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

18. Updates on the Draft Blueprint's progress will be provided to Council as part of the Corporate Plan reporting process.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

19. The Draft – The Next Generation - A Blueprint for Aged Services and Facilities 2008-18 was on public exhibition between 7 April 2008 and 2 June 2008.
20. The Draft Blueprint was available on the City's website including in alternative formats of large print and MP3, distributed to Council's offices including Community Centres, Libraries and Neighbourhood Service Centres.
21. The Draft Blueprint was also sent to members of the City of Sydney Aged Interagency, members of the Eastern Sydney Home & Community Care (HACC) Forum and relevant government agencies including Department of Ageing Disability & Home Care (DADHC).
22. Additional consultation was undertaken at the City's Activity Centres and briefings were given to relevant agencies. Feedback from these sessions is included in Attachment B.

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