

Terms of Reference Sustainability Advisory Committee

September 2023

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2. PURPOSE

2.1 Advisory Committees are created for the sole purpose of providing independent, expert and impartial advice on the development and implementation of strategic priorities of Council.

2.2 This Committee will assist Council in achieving Our Green City Plan 2028 to promote sustainability and good environmental practices through:

2.2.1 Providing advice on strategic environmental issues and policy development in order to assist the integration of sustainability to these and other management frameworks

2.2.2 Providing advice to develop and support the implementation of key sustainability projects and initiatives

2.2.3 Providing advice on how to raise awareness, promote behaviour change and proactively engage the community on sustainability, climate change or environmental issues within the community.

2.2.4 Working with stakeholders to raise awareness, educate and promote behaviour change within the community on sustainability, climate change or environmental issues within the community.

Subjects in Scope: Sustainability and climate change.

Key strategies: Our Green City Plan and subplans.

Subjects Out of Scope: Operational matters but not so as to exclude consideration of current projects or practices to suggest improvements in accord with the review process for that project or initiative.

The Committee will need to agree to their priority focus and work plans, aligned to the Operational Plan.

2.3 The Advisory Committees will be successful if they:

- Focus on strategic initiatives that support the delivery or review of the identified strategic priorities including increased community uptake of relevant initiatives
- Are active and productive
- Are where members collaborate
- Promote self-initiative, resilience and empowerment of both members and the broader community
- Are representative of the community and community interests.

3. ALIGNMENT TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

3.1 The Sustainability Advisory Committee assists Council to achieve the following Community Strategic Plan objectives:

Outcome 1: A City that is green

- Priority 1.1: Create and enhance green spaces, urban tree canopy and greening
- Priority 1.2: Promote sustainable lifestyle and practices

- Priority 1.3: Enhance, protect and respect waterways, bushland, wildlife and ecological systems
- Priority 1.4: Reduce use of energy, water and natural resources and maximise reuse of waste
- Priority 1.5: Reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.

4. ALIGNMENT TO THE DELIVERY PROGRAM

4.1 The Sustainability Advisory Committee assists Council to achieve the following Delivery Program initiatives:

- Monitor the increase in sustainable behaviours through the Live Well in Willoughby program
- Implement Our Green City Plan 2028
- Implement the Resilient Willoughby Strategy and Action Plan 2021

5. CHAIRPERSON

5.1 A community member is the Chairperson of the Sustainability Advisory Committee.

5.2 The inaugural Chairperson shall be confirmed or not at the third meeting of the Committee and thereafter on an annual basis.

5.3 In the absence of the Chair, another community member selected by the Committee will perform the role of Chairperson.

5.4 The committee can request that a councillor present at the meeting be the Chairperson.

6. SECRETARY

6.1 Council will provide a staff member to make room bookings, send invitations, prepare and distribute the agenda and minutes and provide the report to Council.

7. MEMBERSHIP

7.1 A minimum of six and maximum of 12 community representatives are to be appointed to the committee. It is anticipated that the majority of Advisory Committee members will be local residents.

7.2 Community representatives are required to have skills and knowledge and/or community experience relevant to the purpose of the Advisory Committee, including:

- Qualifications or demonstrated experience in one of the following areas: Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change
- Ability to create to have existing connections with community groups, organisations or stakeholders within the Willoughby Local Government Area

7.3 To ensure a broad representation, all members are limited to holding a maximum of two concurrent memberships to Council Advisory Committees.

7.4 Willoughby City Council Councillors can attend any Advisory Committee as observers with speaking rights.

7.5 Willoughby City Council staff are excluded from membership.

7.6 There is no payment for membership.

8. COUNCIL OFFICERS

8.1. In addition to the staff member mentioned at 6.1, the Chief Executive Officer will arrange for appropriate staff dealing with the subject matter on the agenda to attend meetings. The Chief Executive Officer will attempt to ensure continuity of staff attendance as much as possible.

9. MEETING FREQUENCY AND NOTICE

9.1 Meetings shall be held a minimum of two and maximum of six occasions per year.

9.2 All meetings will be conducted in Council owned facilities or via video conferencing.

9.3 Notice of meetings and agendas will be provided at a minimum of two weeks prior to the meeting and advertised for the information of the public on Council's website.

9.4 At the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Committee, the Committee will determine their operating arrangements, including methods of communication, frequency of meetings, tenure and other considerations relevant to achieving their objectives. Staff will also induct them into their roles and obligations and conduct the process of selecting the Chair.

10. ATTENDANCE

10.1 If a member is absent for three consecutive meetings their position will be declared vacant.

11. QUORUM

11.1 A quorum of the committee is any number over 50% of its ordinary membership.

12. RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERS

12.1 All committee members are expected to abide by Willoughby City Council's Code of Conduct 2020.

12.2 Members are required to declare any conflicts of interest in accordance with Willoughby City Council's Code of Conduct 2020.

12.3 Members will be expected to work collaboratively with other committee members and contribute to the discussion of agenda items.

12.4 Members will be required to be inducted into their roles and obligations by staff and may be required to undertake training relevant to the purpose of the committee. Any such training will be at Council's expense.

12.5 Members do not have decision making authority, nor can they direct staff. Any recommendations from the Committee will be reported to Council for consideration.

13. MINUTES

13.1 Minutes of the meeting shall report on the outcome of discussions in regard to agenda items, this will include details of any action or recommendation of the committee and will be reported to Council at the next available meeting. Draft minutes shall be made available to member of the Committee within two weeks of the meeting.

14. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

14.1 The ruling of the Chairperson is final in regard to all procedural matters.

15. TERM OF MEMBERSHIP

15.1 Community representatives will be appointed by Council.

15.3 All committee members will cease at the commencement of the caretaker period associated with Local Government Elections.

16. VACANCIES

16.1 Members wishing to resign from the committee are requested to do so in writing.

16.2 Council will undertake an expression of interest to establish Advisory Committees; vacancies will be filled from suitable respondents to this process.

16.3 Vacancies may not be filled in the final 12 months of the Council term; they will not be filled in the final six months.

17. TERM OF THE COMMITTEE

17.1 All Advisory Committees will be disbanded prior to the commencement of the caretaker period preceding the Local Government Election.

17.2 Should the purpose of the committee be achieved prior to this time, the committee will be disbanded.

17.3 An end of term report outlining the work and achievements of the committee during the term, be submitted to Council, prior to the caretaker period.

18. WORKING PARTIES

18.1 Working parties may be established to assist the Committee in working through specific issues.

18.2 Working parties will be open to community members with a specific interest and/or expertise in the subject matter relevant to the working party.

18.3 A member of the Advisory Committee must sit on each working party.

18.4 Working parties will need to be resourced by the Committee (e.g., meeting arrangements, minutes), and will be provided a space in a Council facility or access to video conferencing to meet.

18.5 Working parties Terms of Reference will be in accord with a template approved by Council, effective from the time they are adopted by resolution of the Advisory Committee, but subject to disallowance by Council.

19. TERMS OF REFERENCE

19.1 Terms of Reference of the Advisory Committee must be adopted by Council.

19.2 These Terms of Reference may only be amended by a resolution of Council.