

<b>Responsible Directorate</b>	<b>Community Development</b>
<b>Responsible Business Unit/s</b>	<b>Recreation and Leisure Services</b>
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Manager Recreation and Leisure Services</b>
<b>Affected Business Unit/s</b>	<b>Recreation and Leisure Services</b> <b>Community Services</b> <b>Facilities, Projects and Assets</b> <b>Parks and Sustainability</b>

## Objective

This policy is to guide the forward planning and development of sport, recreation and other community infrastructure in accordance with key principles to ensure responsiveness to the long-term needs of the community and consistency with the City’s strategic and corporate objectives.

## Scope

This policy pertains to the broad range of community infrastructure within which community groups as well as individuals obtain a health, wellbeing and/or socialisation benefit. Such community infrastructure includes (but is not limited to) sport/recreation clubrooms and associated buildings, City managed community and leisure centres, sport specific infrastructure on reserves, and recreational infrastructure on reserves.

## Policy

The development, management and operations of the City’s sport, recreation and community infrastructure will:

- aim to meet the health and wellbeing needs of current and future communities
- improve sport and recreation, socialisation, health and wellbeing, and learning opportunities for current and future communities
- acknowledge the varied demographic needs of communities through a focus on accessible and equitable provision
- contribute towards sense of place by positively integrating with surrounding community infrastructure and other land uses within our neighbourhoods
- improve the safety and security of people, places and property through contemporary design and siting principles
- promote collaboration and partnerships through shared use and joint provision principles underpinned by strong communication with all relevant stakeholders
- provide capital and operational efficiencies as well as improved levels of environmental and asset management sustainability through robust forward planning and design

## Leisure Planning Principles

The forward planning of sport, recreation and other community infrastructure requires a strategic, objective and systematic process as the basis for decision making. The level of forward planning to substantiate the need and feasibility for a project must be based on key considerations including but not limited to:

- size and scale of the project
- adequacy and availability of existing and surrounding provision of facilities and infrastructure
- existing and proposed usage
- demographics
- community values
- participation trends, issues and projections
- national, state and/or local strategic direction
- applicable legislation, policies and/or regulations

The extent and detail of such forward planning will be commensurate with the size, complexity and sensitivity of the proposed project. It is acknowledged that minor or incidental sport, recreation and other community infrastructure will not warrant such an exhaustive forward planning process.

Officers will utilise the following principles and considerations to verify whether a particular project is required or if the need can be satisfied in some other way prior to recommending projects to Council for funding consideration:

### **Demonstrated Community Need**

All projects are required to have a documented community needs analysis that clearly demonstrates a justified community need that takes into consideration the local demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

### **Community Health and Wellbeing**

Facilities or improvements that increase opportunities for physical activity, mental health and social wellbeing as well as recognising the value of accessibility and participation will be considered a priority project.

### **Increased Participation**

All projects are required to demonstrate that they have a positive impact on participation, either physically or socially. Broader community participation and engagement in sport/recreation, health/wellbeing, socialisation and learning should be encouraged and promoted.

### **Shared Use and Joint Provision**

Projects that encourage co-location or shared use of facilities or proposed improvements will be given a high priority. Such projects need to demonstrate that a new or improved facility will accommodate multiple users, improve functionality and reduce duplication of facilities.

### **Strategic Planning Basis**

All projects are required to acknowledge, integrate and support relevant strategic plans including (but not limited to) the City's Strategic Community Plan, State Sporting Associations Strategic Facilities Plans and other Government or non-Government strategic directions.

### **Functional**

Any proposal must meet established functionality and operational objectives and ensure it is community accessible, safe and fit for purpose. The needs assessment analysis should provide clear direction with regard to the most appropriate scope, scale and mix of components for any proposed facility or facility improvement.

## **Proximity of Like Facilities**

All projects are required to identify similar facilities within close proximity and explain how participation and sustainability will be impacted at each facility. The City will actively seek to reduce facilities where duplication and other opportunities for community participation are clearly evident.

## **Sustainability**

Projects are required to demonstrate sustainability in financial, asset and management performance terms. In addition, projects must address relevant physical, aesthetic and environmental issues including but not limited to infrastructure/services demands, site planning, visual assessment, traffic impacts/transport needs, vegetation retention, noise/light pollution abatement, urban design etc.

## **Security and Safety**

All projects are required to demonstrate that safety and security aspects have been assessed and strategies outlined are achievable.

## **External Funding Opportunities and Partnerships**

Projects proposed by external community groups and associations need to identify potential funding sources and partnerships, and clearly demonstrate their level of financial contribution. Both City driven and external community infrastructure projects must seek funding opportunities through Federal, State and not for profit organisations to ensure a greater community benefit return.

Such funding opportunities change regularly, however the most common funding programs include the Department of Sport and Recreation Community Sport and Recreational Facilities Fund (CSRFF) and various Lotterywest Grants. Any external community group proposal must be lodged with the City in the first instance to ensure all funding submissions meet relevant Council policies and strategies.

## **Regional Development Context**

Future community infrastructure developments need to be considered within a regional context after investigation and discussion with neighbouring Local Government Authorities, State Sporting Associations, State Governments Agencies and other relevant non-Government organisations to reduce/avoid possible duplication.

## **Subsequent Leisure Planning Phases**

Should a proposed sport, recreation or community infrastructure project meet the abovementioned needs assessment principles it remains subject to further feasibility planning and business case development to enable an objective decision regarding any financial resource allocation.

The feasibility planning phase must include due consideration of market analysis, concept design and technical options, location rationale, capital and operating costs, sustainability assessment and draft management plan. Community consultation must occur throughout the feasibility planning phase to determine particular requirements such as facility size, usage, access, functionality and affordability. Again, the extent and detail of such forward planning will be commensurate with the size, complexity and sensitivity of the proposed project.

Any subsequent community infrastructure project planning and delivery remains subject to the City's Project Management – Management Practice, Recreational Buildings' Provision Standards, City Building Project Development Process and Council's Annual Capital Works Budget.

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## Definitions

**Community Infrastructure:** all buildings, facilities and structures including clubrooms, sports specific amenities, City managed community and leisure centres, scout buildings and other infrastructure that delivers a community health, wellbeing, socialisation and/or learning benefit.

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## Relevant management practices/documents

City of Stirling Public Open Space Strategy  
Project Management - Management Practice  
City of Stirling Buildings' Provision Standards  
Department of Sport and Recreation Facility Planning Guide

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## Legislation/local law requirements

City of Stirling Local Government Property Local Law 2009

### Office use only

<b>Relevant delegations</b>	Not applicable		
<b>Initial Council adoption</b>	<b>Date</b> 3 May 2016	<b>Resolution #</b>	0516/007
<b>Last reviewed</b>	<b>Date</b> 26 May 2020	<b>Resolution #</b>	0520/027
<b>Next review due</b>	<b>Date</b> 2021		