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| Responsible Directorate | Infrastructure |
| Responsible Business Unit/s | Parks and Sustainability |
| Responsible Officer | Manager Parks and Sustainability |
| Affected Business Unit/s | All |

Objective

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Provide a clear statement of Council's intent to achieve a sustainable community within the City of Stirling and to exercise community leadership on sustainable development;
- To provide guidance to City Officers in relation to the type of information provided to Council on key decisions that impact on the sustainability of the City;
- Acknowledge that sustainability is an ongoing objective and to provide a commitment to attain sustainability by ensuring a coordinated framework for implementing sustainable development, building on existing programs offered by the City; and
- Provide leadership by incorporating sustainability policies, strategies and practices into council's own operations.

Scope

This policy applies to all City Councillors in decision-making and staff in operations, processes and program delivery.

Policy

The City of Stirling believes that sustainable development is one of the most pressing issues of our time and acknowledges that it has a vital role to play at the local level in ensuring and promoting sustainable development. Through its governance role, Council therefore seeks to advance and strengthen the four interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainability – environmental protection, social development, economic development and governance in the Stirling Local Government Area.

Key Principles

The following ten principles provide a set of core values for consideration to help staff implement this Sustainability Policy on operational, strategic and governance issues and guide decision making. Reports to Council and decision making should address these principles to determine the level of influence on sustainability in our community and operations.

Principle One: Interdependence – that the social, environmental and economic implications of a decision are all considered of equal importance when determining a balanced outcome

Principle Two: Integrated and long-term decision-making – all decisions should reflect and consider the long term implications on our community, environment and economy as well as achieving short term goals

Principle Three: Inter and intra-generational equity – managing and using resources for our community’s benefit now whilst high quality resources are retained for our future generations

Principle Four: Equity and human rights – provision of opportunities for all in our community as well as supporting equal rights and fair opportunities across the globe

Principle Five: Settlement efficiency and quality of life – ensuring all future development is achieving a reduced ecological footprint (ie. impact on the planet to produce) whilst meeting expectations for quality and lifestyle

Principle Six: Precaution – take action to avoid the possibility of serious or irreversible environmental harm even when scientific knowledge is incomplete or inconclusive and place the burden of proof on those who argue that a proposed activity will not cause significant harm

Principle Seven: Conserving biological diversity and ecological integrity – protection, retention, enhancement and management of the diversity of life that exist in the City of Stirling

Principle Eight: Internalising environmental costs– reflect the true cost of services including the life-cycle costing and ‘cradle to grave’ impact of developments and implementing measures to mitigate impacts

Principle Nine: Common good – the use and planning for resources that support our life (ie. air, water, natural resources) in a manner that is accessible to all and will not deplete them over time

Principle Ten: Accountability, transparency and engagement – our community involvement in sustainability is fundamental to our long term future and that our management should be accountable on a quadruple bottom line.

The City is committed to applying the policy in the following ways:

- The City is managed, planned and developed in accordance with sustainability principles and practices;
- The City’s activities and operations support sustainability;
- The City promotes and encourages sustainability in the community;
- Developing new policies to ensure specific sustainability outcomes are implemented.

Council will strengthen, adjust and build internal management frameworks that ensure sustainability performance is improved and integrated as a core part of Council's strategic and operational management through effective strategic plans, specific action plans, training, communication, monitoring and reporting. Council will systematically review its internal policies, procedures, processes and practices to further build the organisation’s capacity to deliver ongoing quadruple bottom line (social, environmental, economic, governance) performance improvement.

Definitions

The City of Stirling defines sustainable development as:

“Meeting the needs of current and future generations through simultaneous social, environmental and economic improvement”

Relevant management practices/documents

The City of Stirling recognises the relevance of the following supporting documents:

- Principles of the 1987 report to the World Commission on Environment and Development titled ‘Our Common Future’;
- Principles ensuing from Agenda 21 of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro;

- Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities 2002 of the United Nations Environment Program adopted at the Local Government Session of the Earth Summit 2002 in Johannesburg, and
- Framework for action espoused by the Western Australian Government's State Sustainability Strategy of 2003 titled 'Hope for the Future'.

This policy influences all level of the City's services and operations and as such is related to all policies that currently exist and all policies should reflect the intent of this policy.

Legislation/local law requirements

The requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995* Section 1.3, states:

- (3) In carrying out its functions, a local government is to use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.'

This policy intends to demonstrate the City's intention to use its best endeavours to deliver on the Act's requirements.

| Office use only | | | |
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| Relevant delegations | Not applicable | | |
| Initial Council adoption | Date 7 July 2009 | Resolution # | 0709/024 |
| Last reviewed | Date 4 December 2018 | Resolution # | 1218/012 |
| Next review due | Date 2020 | | |