**Community Engagement**

**KFA** Governance and Civic Leadership

**Status** Council

**Responsible**

**Division** CEO’s Office

**Objective** This policy affirms the City’s commitment to community and stakeholder engagement to support the City’s vision and internationally accepted core engagement values (International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), 2006). This policy applies to Councillors, all employees and to all consultants engaged by Council**.**

**Context**

Community and stakeholder engagement is an essential activity of local government. It is intrinsic to the success of the Council in the provision of good governance and strong leadership and having the ability to deliver better decisions to guide the City’s priorities into the future.

Successful engagement increases participation by everyone in the activities and decisions that affect them, and at a level that best meets their expectations.

**Statement**

The City is committed to working alongside its community and stakeholders to understand and use their views, concerns, aspirations and knowledge to guide outcomes in decision-making processes to strengthen community cohesion, city amenity and the quality of life of the City of Nedlands community.

**Principles of Engagement**

Our engagement practices are based on the following principles. These principles will guide our practice and support consistency and continued improvement:

Citizenship We will provide for and communicate opportunities for everyone to have a genuine and meaningful say in local democracy about actions that could affect their lives.

Transparency We will ensure that the purpose and mechanisms of our engagement will be relevant, easily understood, timely and accessible by all.

Inclusion We will seek out and facilitate the involvement of all those affected or potentially affected.

Accountability We promise that all contributions will influence the alternatives developed, be reflected in our decision-making, outcomes will be communicated, and performance will be measured.

Our people We promise that our people will uphold the City values, the IAP2 Value’s and Code of Ethics, be appropriately trained and supported to deliver best practice engagement.

**Engagement Processes**

The City will assess its engagement activities using the following processes. It is noted, that historically, in the majority of instances, most engagement processes are undertaken using the ‘inform’ and ‘consult’ processes.

Increasing Level of Public Impact

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Inform** | **Consult** | **Involve** | **Collaborate** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Public Participation Goal | To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions. | To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions. | To work directly with the public throughout the process, to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered. | To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution. |
| Promise to the Public | We will keep you informed | We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. | We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. | We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions, to the maximum extent possible. |
| This means | We will give you balanced and objective information of a decision already been made by Council. | We will seek an opinion from you, ask advice, or turn to you for information when making decisions. | We will work directly with you during the decision-making process. | We will work as partners throughout the decision-making process. |
| Examples | Road, parks, reserves, gardens, council facility, scheduled works | Parking and parking restrictions, greenway projects, library events, local laws | Local Planning Strategy and other strategies | City Vision and 10-year Strategic Community Plan |

Adapted from the International Association of Public Participation’s Public Participation spectrum

**Related documentation**

Community Engagement Strategy, procedure and templates

International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), Public Participation Spectrum

Department of Local Government’s Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements

**Related Local Law/legislation**

Nil

**Related delegation**

Nil

**Review History**

28 June 2016 (Item 13.3)