



MINUTES

ECONOMIC AND SMART COMMUNITIES STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held via Teams on

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2020

**Minutes of the Economic and Smart Communities
Strategic Reference Group
held on Wednesday 18 November 2020
via Teams
Commencing at 6:00pm**

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Mayor Michael Regan (Chair)

Cr Sue Heins

Saul Carroll

Andy West

Stuart White Microsoft Australia

Drew Johnson Manly Business Chamber

Ngaire Young Northern Beaches Campus, TAFE NSW

Geri Moorman

Gordon Lang

Alexander Coxon

Matthew Aderton

Chris Wilcocks

Council Officer Contacts

Kath McKenzie Executive Manager, Community Engagement & Communications

Katie Kirwan Governance Officer

Deb Kempe Team Leader Economic Development

Nicole Silburn Tourism Coordinator

Russell Peake Manager Social Planning & Services

Briana Davis Social Planning & Strategy Coordinator

Note: *In the absence of Mayor Regan, Councillor Sue Heins assumed the position of Chairperson.*

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As a sign of respect, Northern Beaches Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the various lands on which members are, and pays respect to Elders past and present.

Cr Heins also acknowledged NAIDOC week.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Peter Middleton and Stephen Pirovic.

3.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 MINUTES OF ECONOMIC AND SMART COMMUNITIES STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 19 AUGUST 2020

CONFIRMED

That the Minutes of the Economic and Smart Communities Strategic Reference Group meeting held 19 August 2020, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members , are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

4.2 MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY ECONOMIC AND SMART COMMUNITIES STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP HELD 14 OCTOBER 2020

CONFIRMED

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Economic and Smart Communities Strategic Reference Group held 14 October 2020, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members , are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Note: *Mayor Regan joined the meeting at 6:08pm. Cr Heins remained Chairperson.*

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

5.1 ACTION LOG UPDATE - KATH MCKENZIE

DISCUSSION

Kath McKenzie, Executive Manager Community Engagement and Communications, provided the following updates to the previous meeting actions:

| ITEM NO. | REPORT | ACTION | UPDATE | STATUS |
|----------|---|---|---|-----------------|
| 6.1 | Summary of Strategic Reference Group Mid-term Review | Arrange an extraordinary meeting specifically on the topic of Smart Cities. | Louise Kerr and Todd Dickinson arranging meeting with key SRG members | Action complete |
| 6.2 | Glen Street Theatre – Future Use of Former Restaurant Site | Arrange for site visit for interested members. | Members invited. Site visit conducted on 9 September. | Action complete |
| 6.4 | Economic Recovery Post COVID-19 and Development Plan for the Region | Arrange an extraordinary session to workshop the economic development plan (including the employment study re-visit). | Ex. Meeting held on 14 October. Workshop feedback is an agenda item. | Action complete |
| 6.4 | Economic Recovery Post COVID-19 and Development Plan for the Region | Summarise Council's support to businesses to date including the media campaigns that support tourism. | Email sent to members on 17 November | Action complete |

Item 6.2 – Glen Street Theatre – Future Use of Former Restaurant Site:

Cr Heins noted that a report was presented to Council on 27 October on which councillors voted on the preferred option, which was the same preferred option as the Economic & Smart Communities SRG. A copy of the Minutes can be viewed [here](#).

***Note:** Please note that the report was part of the Confidential Agenda and therefore not available to the public. Only the resolution is available publicly (see link above).*

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT - RUSSELL PEAKE

DISCUSSION

Russell Peake, Manager Social Planning presented members with an overview of '*Better Together, Social Sustainability Strategy 2041*', (*the Strategy*).

He presented members with an overview of the development of the Strategy and outlined some of its key components.

There was broad discussion by members and the following points were highlighted:

- The importance of quality data to this strategy. It was suggested by members that the project team identify what data they have and any data gaps. Members offered to help source data if needed. Previous data sets collated by the Economic Development Team could be utilised for the Strategy.
- The importance of engaging with socially isolated people. R Peake outlined the concept of a 'Workshop in a Box' to help engage with those hard to reach people by leveraging partnerships.
- The economic strengths that support this strategy, noting that the Northern Beaches LGA is generally considered a relatively socio-economically advantaged area which while positive overall, can often result in social service organisations struggling to attract funding to meet the needs of pockets of disadvantage in the community.

A Workshop was held with the group to examine the key strengths, challenges and opportunities that intercept both economic planning and social planning. The following feedback was given:

Strengths:

- Comments made by members related to ensuring that we continue to evaluate our strengths.
- Discussion regarding impacts of COVID on employment trends and figures
- Local business economy was highlighted as a key mechanism to create connection and inclusiveness within the community. Another tool for Council to consider as it is a natural part of the social fabric and will allow for ongoing social sustainability.

Challenges:

- Members confirmed that the key challenges identified as relating to the economy are the same ones that have been consistently identified over the last 2 years.
- Youth employment. Members cautioned we needed to be careful to capture all age demographics and evaluate strengths and challenges for each as they will differ. Suggested a closer look at the impacts of COVID19 on youth employment in the area.
- Decrease in young adults contributing to the local economy will increasingly become a challenge.
- Get past the vocal minority in general through the consultation.

Opportunities:

- Strengthen the mention of vibrant business economy in the strategic framework and its role

- increasing connection and inclusion within the community
- Sustainable business is critical to achieving social sustainability long term.
- Invest in identifying a strong evidence base built on datasets. Current trend of not drilling down enough to underpin good decision making.
- Undertake an education piece as part of the public engagement. Often perception is a lot worse than what the data says it is.

R Peake noted that there will be further consultation with the SRGs in February.

6.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN - OUTCOME OF SRG WORKSHOP - DEB KEMPE

DISCUSSION

Deb Kempe, Economic Development Team Leader presented members with the outcomes of the Economic & Smart Communities SRG workshop held on 14 October 2020, combined with feedback provided from local business chambers and workshop with Participation and Partnership SRG. D Kempe sought feedback from members on whether all key points had been captured.

There was broad discussion amongst members and the general consensus was that all key points were captured.

ACTION

Provide an update to the SRG on Smart Beaches.

6.3 UPDATE DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN - DEB KEMPE

DISCUSSION

Kath McKenzie, Executive Manager Community Engagement and Communications presented members with an overview of the draft Destination Management Plan ('the Plan') (*Attachment 1*).

The draft Plan, and accompanying 2 year Recovery Plan, is going to Council in November to seek a resolution to place on public exhibition until 7th February. SRG members can review the draft Plan at the [Your Say page](#).

The outcomes of the public exhibition will be reported to the SRG in February, prior to going back to Council for final adoption in March.

Cr Heins noted members' contribution to the Plan and members expressed their support to place the Plan on public exhibition.

DECISION

That the Economic and Smart Communities Strategic Reference Group support the public exhibition of the draft Destination Management Plan, due to be reported to the 24 November 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

| ITEM NO. | ACTION | RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | DUE DATE |
|----------|--|---------------------|----------|
| 5.1 | Circulate Agenda and Minutes for the Glen Street Theatre former restaurant site Council Meeting decisions. | Katie Kirwan | ASAP |
| 6.2 | Provide an update to the SRG on Smart Beaches | Kath McKenzie | ASAP |
| 6.3 | Share link to Council Meeting papers with the DMP | Katie Kirwan | ASAP |

The meeting concluded at 8:01pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 7 pages numbered 1 to 7 of the Economic and Smart Communities Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Wednesday 18 November 2020 and confirmed on