



CITY OF VINCENT

AGENDA

COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee

21 July 2020

Time: 1.00pm

**Location: E-Meeting and Administration and
Civic Centre, 244 Vincent Street,
Leederville**

**David MacLennan
Chief Executive Officer**

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Questions or statements made at an Ordinary Council Meeting can relate to matters that affect the City. Questions or statements made at a Council Briefing, Special Meeting of the Council or a Committee Meeting must only relate to the purpose for which the meeting has been called. Public Questions will be strictly limited to three (3) minutes per person.

The City's Council Briefings, Ordinary Council Meetings, Special Council Meetings and COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee Meetings are currently held electronically (as eMeetings), access is available via the City's website - <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityOfVincent> and in person in the Council Chamber.

The following conditions apply to public questions and statements:

1. Questions and statements can be made in person or by emailing governance@vincent.wa.gov.au with the questions/ statements prior to 3pm on the day of a Council Briefing or Meeting or prior to 10am on the day of a Committee Meeting. Questions / statements emailed will be read out by the CEO or his delegate during public question time.
2. Shortly after the commencement of the meeting, the Presiding Member will ask members of the public to come forward to address the Council and to give their name and the suburb in which they reside or, where a member of the public is representing the interests of a business, the suburb in which that business is located and Agenda Item number (if known).
3. Questions/statements are to be made politely in good faith and are not to be framed in such a way as to reflect adversely or be defamatory on an Elected Member or City Employee.
4. Where practicable, responses to questions will be provided at the meeting. Where the information is not available or the question cannot be answered, it will be "taken on notice" and a written response will be sent by the Chief Executive Officer to the person asking the question. A copy of the reply will be included in the Agenda of the next Ordinary meeting of the Council.
5. It is not intended that public speaking time should be used as a means to obtain information that would not be made available if it was sought from the City's records under Section 5.94 of the *Local Government Act 1995* or the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (FOI Act). The CEO will advise the member of the public that the information may be sought in accordance with the FOI Act.

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- All Council proceedings are recorded and livestreamed in accordance with the Council Proceedings – Recording and Web Streaming Policy.
- All recordings are retained as part of the City's records in accordance with the State Records Act 2000.
- All livestreams can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityOfVincent>
- All live stream recordings can be accessed on demand at <https://www.vincent.wa.gov.au/council-meetings>
- Images of the public gallery are not included in the webcast, however the voices of people in attendance may be captured and streamed.
- If you have any issues or concerns with the live streaming of meetings, please contact the City's Governance Team on 08 9273 6500.

Order Of Business

1	Introduction and Welcome	5
2	Apologies / Members on Leave of Absence	5
3	(a) Public Question Time and Receiving of Public Statements	5
	(b) Response to Previous Public Questions Taken on Notice.....	5
4	Declarations of Interest	5
5	Applications for Leave of Absence	5
6	Confirmation of Minutes	5
7	Business Arising	6
	7.1 COVID-19 Update	6
	7.2 Development Incentives for Community Benefit.....	17
	7.3 Evaluation and Review of COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Strategy.....	21
8	Announcements by Presiding Member (Without Discussion)	26
9	General Business	26
10	Confidential Items/Matters For Which The Meeting May Be Closed	26
11	Next Meeting	26
12	Closure	26

1 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

“The City of Vincent would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging”.

2 APOLOGIES / MEMBERS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3 (A) PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND RECEIVING OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS

(B) RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee - 7 July 2020

7 BUSINESS ARISING

7.1 COVID-19 UPDATE

- Attachments:**
1. **COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Implementation Plan** [↓](#) 
 2. **Communication Plan Update** [↓](#) 

RECOMMENDATION

That the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee NOTES the update on the City's actions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

This report provides an update on the actions to manage the COVID-19 pandemic in the City.

BACKGROUND:

The City has adopted a coordinated strategic approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic. This was enacted at a Special Council Meeting on 30 March 2020, through the establishment of the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee (the Committee) and endorsement of the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy is supported by an Implementation Plan which is a 'living document'; updated twice weekly.

The COVID-19 Weekly Update Report is a standing item on the Committee agenda which includes:

1. Status updates on the Implementation Plan – see **Attachment 1**;
2. Updates on announcements and directives by State and Federal Governments;
3. Information on the methodology used by the City to manage the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. Responses to matters raised by the Committee; and
5. Smaller updates on action items, which would not warrant the drafting of a separate report to the Committee.

DETAILS:

COVID-19 Roadmap

Phase 5 of the WA COVID Roadmap was to be implemented on 18 July 2020. It was announced on 10 July 2020 this phase will be delayed to 1 August 2020, depending on health advice. The decision to delay this phase was largely attributed to increased levels of community transmission of COVID-19 in Victoria. This phase will result in the removal of the 2 square metre rule and major venue gathering restrictions (50 percent capacity in Phase 4). The impact of these easing of restrictions on the City would be:

1. Licensed premises can operate at full capacity;
2. HBF Park can operate at full capacity; and
3. The sauna and spa areas at Beatty Park Leisure Centre would be able to reopen.

The Department of Health is continuing a COVID-19 media campaign to reinforce key messages around physical distancing, hand hygiene, personal hygiene, staying home if unwell and promoting the COVIDSafe app. The City will assist to reinforce these messages to the community, and continue to operate in accordance with good COVID practice.

Implementation Plan

The Implementation Plan contains a consolidated approach by all Business Units to consider Our Health and Wellbeing, Our Community and Our Organisation.

The following table provides an overview of changes to the 'Key Actions' section of the Implementation Plan. Of the 65 total actions, 61 have now been marked as complete. Many actions are now being addressed through Ordinary Meetings of Council and other forums and have been marked as complete.

	Total Actions	New Actions	Amended Actions	Completed Actions
Our Health and Wellbeing	12	0	0	12
Our Community	44	0	0	40
Our Organisation	13	0	0	13

Communications Plan

A weekly update on communications actions is included as **Attachment 2**, following the decision of the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee on 5 May 2020.

Economic Rebound/Business Update

A Place Rebound Plan is being developed in consultation with town teams. The City is currently working with businesses to transition temporary parklets to permanent parklets.

Planning Legislative Changes

The *Planning and Development Amendment Act 2020* prepared in response to COVID-19 came into effect 7 July 2020. Primary amendments include:

1. Introduction of the State Development Assessment Unit which will support the Western Australian Planning Commission to assess significant development proposals worth more than \$20 million where a developer elects to go through this process;
2. Introduction of a Special Matters Development Assessment Panel to determine applications of 'special matter' which is defined as;
 - (a) a project, plan or programme for development that the Minister considers to be of State or regional importance; or
 - (b) an area, or a class or kind of area, the development of which the Minister considers to be of State or regional importance; and
3. Increasing the term of approval for subdivision applications granted by the WAPC from 3 years to 5 years where approval had not lapsed at 16 March 2020.

The second phase of reform will see amendments to the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015* to introduce greater exemptions of minor residential development and small businesses. These are currently being drafted.

Library and Customer Services Update

The Library and Local History Centre is now open six days of the week. During the past six weeks library attendance has increased from 15-20 people per hour to 30-45 people per hour. During this time book loans have increased by 200 percent. Events at the Library have also recommenced which has included two school holiday activities. Bi-weekly Storytime and Baby Rhymetime are recommencing on 20 July 2020.

Since reopening, 600 people have attended City-run activities at the Community Centre, including table tennis, mah-jong and chess. In-person attendance for customer services is steadily increasing, however numbers are lower than pre-COVID attendance. Telephone and online customer service has been consistently steady, even during the WA restrictions.

Beatty Park Leisure Centre

Beatty Park Leisure Centre currently has 3,035 active members, since memberships were reactivated on 6 July 2020. Opening hours will change on 20 July 2020 when the Centre will open at 5:00am on weekdays and weekend hours will be 7:00am to 4:00pm.

There has been a noticeable increase in gym and fitness class attendance; and additional classes will be introduced including aquarobics, energywise for seniors and throwdown. Swim school numbers have been encouraging, with 1775 enrolments; and the indoor pool has been popular during school holidays.

Beatty Park is continuing to monitor physical distancing, cleanliness and hygiene.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

Nil.

LEGAL/POLICY:

Nil.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

COVID-19 is considered a high risk to the City and community.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028*:

Innovative and Accountable

Our community is aware of what we are doing and how we are meeting our goals.

COVID-19 RELIEF AND RECOVERY STRATEGY ALIGNMENT:



SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The financial and budget implications of COVID-19 has been covered in separate reports to the Committee.

COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Implementation Plan

Part 2 – Implementation Plan

2.1. Key Actions

	Key Action	Responsible Team	Support Team	Timing			Completed	Status at 2 July 2020	Weekly update as at 16 July 2020
				Short	Medium	Long			
1. Our Health and Wellbeing									
2. Our Community	2.7 Deliver programs funded through the Leederville Gardens trust fund and provide regular updates on progress of fundees.	Governance		•	•			Updates to the Committee will be provided when progress reports are submitted by fundees.	
	2.14 Consider arts industry relief using developer contribution cash-in-lieu funds from Percent for Art fund.	Marketing	Policy & Place Development & Design	•					
	2.19 Consider events and initiatives to assist with economic rebound.	Policy & Place Marketing			•	•		This action will be presented to a future Council Workshop.	Economic Rebound Action Plan being developed.
	2.44 Community resilience scorecard study	Marketing and Partnerships			•			The survey closes on 3 July 2020. Over 100 response have been received.	Awaiting results of survey.
3. Our Organisation									

2.2. Completed actions

	Key Action	Responsible Team	Support Team	Timing			Completed
				Short	Medium	Long	
1. Our Health & Wellbeing	1.1 Facility Plan developed for Beatty Park, Loftus Community Centre and Library and Local History Centre to implement public health directives.	Built Environment & Wellbeing	Beatty Park Library & Local History Centre	•			✓
	1.2 Communications Plan developed including community messaging through website, social media and display at the City's facilities.	Marketing	Built Environment & Wellbeing	•			✓
	1.3 Maintain customer service support and consider a range of measures to support ongoing community engagement using online and innovative practices.	Customer Service	Beatty Park Library & Local History Centre	•			✓
	1.4 Consider developing a local campaign for flu season vaccinations.	Built Environment & Wellbeing	Marketing		•		✓
	1.5 Draft Public Health Plan, community education campaign and stakeholder engagement.	Built Environment & Wellbeing	Marketing		•	•	✓
	1.6 Engage with local businesses which support the City's public health (e.g. gyms, yoga), to encourage uptake of physical activity and wellbeing programs by the community.	Built Environment & Wellbeing	Marketing and Partnerships	•	•		✓
	1.7 Explore new opportunities for delivering fitness programs.	Beatty Park Leisure Centre		•	•		✓
	1.8 Ensure there is a strong presence to manage public health issues, as advocated by the Department of Health.	Built Environment & Wellbeing		•	•	•	✓
	1.9 Continue to promote our role to maintain social distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, stay home when sick and download the COVIDSafe app; and develop signage and tools to ensure consistent messaging across the City's facilities and parks. (Phase 2 Action).	Built Environment & Wellbeing Marketing		•			✓
	1.10 Provide hand hygiene stations at all City buildings. (Phase 2 Action).	Beatty Park Customer & Library Services	Built Environment & Wellbeing	•			✓
	1.11 Support the WA Government to develop COVID Safety Plans and Guidelines. (Phase 2 Action).	Built Environment & Wellbeing	CEO's Office	•			✓
	1.12 Revise all of the City's COVID Safety plans to accommodate Phase 3 requirements.	Built Environment & Wellbeing	Various Teams		•		✓

COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Implementation Plan

	Key Action	Responsible Team	Support Team	Timing			Completed
				Short	Medium	Long	
2. Our Community	2.1 Waive interest on all outstanding rates and a suspension of new debt collection activities.	Finance		•			✓
	2.2 Refund all cancelled bookings at City-owned properties or facilities.	Community Partnerships	Finance	•			✓
	2.3 Consideration of impacts of COVID-19 on City rate debtors.	Finance		•			✓
	2.4 Move to fortnightly payment of creditors.	Finance		•			✓
	2.5 Budget and financial strategy for 2020/21 to consider a 0 yield increase and 0 fees and charges increase.	Finance			•		✓
	2.6 Consider Expression of Interest for disbursement of significant Leederville Gardens trust funds to assist vulnerable residents impacted by COVID-19.	CEO Office	Finance	•			✓
	2.8 Expand Vincent Library e-book loans and Books on Wheels service.	Library & Local History Centre		•			✓
	2.9 Promote Meals on Wheels Service.	Customer and Library Services (Community Centre)	Marketing Community Partnerships	•			✓
	2.10 Explore opportunities to expand online library services.	Library & Local History Centre		•			✓
	2.11 Discuss with local businesses to implement changes to car parking to support take away and home delivery services.	Engineering	Policy & Place	•			✓
	2.12 Launched online planning applications for lodgement and tracking.	Development & Design	ICT	•			✓
	2.13 Expand Beaufort Street amnesty for change of use planning applications across Vincent.	Policy & Place	Development & Design	•			✓
	2.15 Consider all waste services with a focus on essential service provision for bin collection. Also green waste, junk verge waste. Liaise with WALGA regarding contingency planning across local government.	Waste		•			✓
	2.16 Consider timing of rollout of FOGO.	Waste		•			✓
	2.17 Maintain contact with clubs, community groups and stakeholders who use community facilities and sportsgrounds to assist in reviewing the financial and social impact of closures and cancellations.	Community Partnerships			•		✓
	2.18 Consider sponsorship, grants and relief packages for community groups, sporting clubs and local businesses.	Policy & Place Community Partnerships	Finance		•		✓
	2.20 Support local businesses and buy local. Maintain contact with local businesses to understand the support they need and share reputable information.	Policy & Place Marketing		•	•	•	✓
	2.21 Advocate for rent relief for businesses affected by restrictions.	Policy & Place		•			✓
	2.22 Consider the use of cash in lieu for parking funds.	Policy & Place		•	•		✓
	2.23 Consider preparing a community benefit incentive based policy position under Design WA.	Policy & Place	Development & Design	•	•	•	✓
	2.24 Consider measures to continue support for homeless community.	Ranger Services	Community Partnerships	•	•	•	✓
	2.25 Monitor public open space to educate community on social distancing measures.	Ranger Services Parks & Urban Green	Built Environment & Wellbeing	•	•	•	✓
	2.26 Vincent Community Support Network.	Community and Business Services		•	•	•	✓
	2.27 Maintain online information on health, building and planning requirements for Businesses.	Built Environment & Wellbeing Development & Design		•			✓
	2.28 Monitor and respond to easing of COVID-19 restrictions on food and other businesses.	Built Environment & Wellbeing	Marketing Policy & Place	•	•		✓
	2.29 Gathering limit increase to 20 monitored in public spaces. (Phase 2 Action).	Ranger Services Parks		•			✓
	2.30 Bookings permitted for groups of up to 20 in parks and community halls, and weddings of up to 30 in parks. (Phase 2 Action).	Marketing and Partnerships	Ranger Services	•	•		✓

COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Implementation Plan

	Key Action	Responsible Team	Support Team	Timing			Completed
				Short	Medium	Long	
	2.31 Reopen the Library and Local History Centre commencing with book borrowing services only, considering the 20 patron limit. (Phase 2 Action).	Customer & Library Services		•			✓
	2.32 Reopen the Community Centre, and ensure Seniors programs are reviewed to minimise infection risk. (Phase 2 Action).	Customer & Library Services	Built Environment & Wellbeing	•			✓
	2.33 Reopen the Beatty Park swimming pools with a limit of 20 patrons per pool. (Phase 2 Action).	Beatty Park Leisure Centre		•			✓
	2.34 Recommence Beatty Park fitness classes, with this area being segregated into a separate facility, with strictly no internal access to the pools. (Phase 2 Action).	Beatty Park Leisure Centre		•			✓
	2.35 Provide advice to sporting clubs on non-contact training. (Phase 2 Action).	Marketing & Partnerships	Built Environment & Wellbeing	•			✓
	2.36 Commence recommissioning of drinking fountains and provide signage on healthy hygiene in proximity to the fountains. (Phase 2 Action).	Parks		•			✓
	2.37 Provide an advisory service to assist businesses and community facilities to develop COVID Safety Plans and complete COVID training.	Built Environment & Wellbeing	Policy & Place Marketing & Partnerships	•			✓
	2.38 Support the resumption of dine-in at restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs; including providing assistance to measure floor areas to determine maximum permitted numbers based on the 4 square metre density rule. (Phase 2 Action).	Built Environment & Wellbeing Policy & Place	Development & Design	•			✓
	2.39 Engage with food businesses and other stakeholders to consider feasibility of outdoor eating areas in public spaces in town centres, noting Phase 2 and anticipating Phase 3 restrictions.	Policy & Place	Built Environment & Wellbeing Engineering	•			✓
	2.40 Encourage people to return to their usual places of work and learning and encourage patrons to return to using public transport to support their local economy within public health requirements and guidelines.	Marketing		•			✓
	2.41 Facilitate enhancements to Loftus Centre including WIFI.	ICT		•			✓
	2.42 Broaden scope of services at the Library and Local History Centre, Community Centre, Beatty Park Leisure Centre and community halls in line with Phase 3.	Library and Customer Services Beatty Park	Built Environment and Wellbeing		•		✓
	2.43 Re-open playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor gym equipment.	Parks			•		✓
3. Our Organisation	3.1 Maintain ability for Council Members, Executive staff and community members to participate in Council Meetings.	Governance		•			✓
	3.2 Establish a Committee of Council to assisting responding effectively to COVID-19.	Governance		•			✓
	3.3 Realign and reprioritise services, projects, staff and resources towards relief and recovery.	Office of the CEO		•	•	•	✓
	3.4 Review planned asset maintenance programs to reschedule works to support recovery.	Engineering Parks	Finance	•	•	•	✓
	3.5 Review of 2019/20 budget and cash flow for fourth quarter 2019/21 and forecast impacts. Report to Council on these impacts and identify a budget strategy to address these impacts, including redirection of funding to response initiatives.	Finance		•			✓
	3.6 Seek deferral of OAG performance audit of Information Technology.	Governance	ICT	•			✓
	3.7 Workforce optimisation strategies.	Human Resources		•	•	•	✓
	3.8 Consider project readiness for potential State and Federal grant funding and further stimulus packages.	Engineering Policy & Place			•	•	✓
	3.9 Investigation of rate smoothing payments.	Finance		•	•		✓
	3.10 Health, Safety and wellness of organisation.	Human Resources		•	•	•	✓
	3.11 Gross Rental Value re-evaluation.	Finance		•	•		✓
	3.12 Develop best practice for returning to office where appropriate. (Phase 2 Action).	Human Resources	Built Environment & Wellbeing	•			✓
	3.13 Develop a technology roadmap to facilitate ongoing working from home and the office.	ICT		•			✓

COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Implementation Plan

2.3. Directives

The State Government issues directives to the City and across the State under the Emergency Management Act 2005 to respond to the emergency.

Date	Direction	Response
15 March 2020	Declaration of State of Emergency in respect of the pandemic caused by virus COVID-19: https://www.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Declaration%20of%20State%20of%20Emergency.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication through emergency management networks.
16 March 2020	Declaration of Public Health State of Emergency: https://www.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Western%20Australia%20Declaration%20of%20Public%20Health%20State%20of%20Emergency.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City implemented all directives. • City monitoring the situation in the community and liaising with WA Police who hold emergency powers.
20 March 2020	Direction regarding deliveries and waste collection: https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/docs/default-source/news/public-authorities-(delivery-of-goods-and-collection-of-rubbish-and-refuse)-directions.pdf .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider as part of Item 2.16.

2.4. Announcements

The State and Federal Government, and other agencies and organisations make announcements in relation to COVID-19.

Date	Announcement	Response
12 March 2020 & 22 March 2020	The Federal Government has announced a series of stimulus packages to support the Australian economy as it deals with this challenge: https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted.
13 March 2020	Advice against holding non-essential public gatherings of more than 500 people from 16 March 2020: https://www.pm.gov.au/media/advice-coronavirus .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor events >500 people cancelled and advertising ceased. • Event stakeholders engaged on this announcement.
16 March 2020	Self-isolation required for all people entering Australia for a period of 14 days: https://www.pm.gov.au/media/coronavirus-measures-endorsed-national-cabinet .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directive implemented by the City.
16 March 2020	The State Government announced economic response and relief packages to support the Western Australian economy as it deals with the impacts of COVID-19: https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/COVID-19-economic-response-Relief-for-businesses-and-households.aspx .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted.
18 March 2020	Non-essential indoor gathering limited to 100 people, social distancing of 1.5metres and hygiene measures required: https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented management systems implemented at Beatty Park, Library and other facilities. • Local businesses advised of this announcement.
20 March 2020	Four square metre density applied to indoor gatherings: https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-0 .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local businesses advised of this announcement.
22 March 2020	The following facilities were restricted from opening from midday local time 23 March 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pubs, registered and licenced clubs (excluding bottle shops attached to these venues), hotels (excluding accommodation). • Gyms and indoor sporting venues. • Cinemas, entertainment venues, casinos, and night clubs. • Restaurants and cafes will be restricted to takeaway and/or home delivery. • Religious gatherings, places of worship or funerals (in enclosed spaces and other than very small groups and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies). https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-220320 .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beatty Park, Library and other community facilities closed. • Local businesses advised of this announcement. • Monitoring of local businesses implemented by the City.
24 March 2020	Additional prohibited activities and venues to apply from 11.59pm (local time) 25 March 2020, including beauty therapists, health clubs, swimming pools, galleries, and restrictions on weddings, funerals and outdoor bootcamps: https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-24-March-2020 .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local businesses advised of this announcement.
29 March 2020	Public gatherings limited to two people, with some exceptions. Playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor gyms to close: https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-cabinet-statement .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor gym equipment closed. • Public spaces monitored.
30 March 2020	\$130 billion JobKeeper wage subsidy program announced: https://www.pm.gov.au/media/130-billion-jobkeeper-payment-keep-australians-job .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information reviewed by the City.
31 March 2020	Minister Stephen Dawson (Environment) announced container deposit scheme June 2 launch has been deferred https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/Start-of-Containers-for-Change-deferred-due-to-COVID-19.aspx .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information reviewed by the City.
3 April 2020	National Cabinet agreed that states and territories were best placed to address issues related to the impacts of COVID19 and local governments. https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-030420 . Minister Rita Saffioti (Planning) announced Planning legislation changes to support COVID-19 response and recovery: https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/04/Planning-changes-support-COVID-19-response-and-recovery.aspx .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. Awaiting State response. • Information reviewed by City. Awaiting further announcement of state wide measures to be implemented. • City advocating on support for local governments.
7 April 2020	National Cabinet prepared a mandatory Code of Conduct in relation to Commercial Tenancies that is to be implemented by all States and Territories: https://www.pm.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/national-cabinet-mandatory-code-ofconduct-sme-commercial-leasing-principles.pdf .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently being reviewed to consider implications for Vincent businesses.

COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Implementation Plan

Date	Announcement	Response
9 April 2020	National Cabinet agreed to a nationally consistent approach to hardship support across the essential services (energy, water and rate) for households and small businesses. The Commonwealth is already taking action across the energy and telecommunications sectors to scale-up hardship support provided by those industries. State and territory governments agreed to adopt similar principles for the essential services within their remit, including water utilities and local governments: https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-3 .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council at its Special Council Meeting 30 March 2020 agreed to freeze rates for 20/21 Budget year; defer debt recovery.
11 April 2020	Minister Rita Saffioti (Planning) issued exemption notice for local planning approvals to support COVID-19 response: https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/04/Minister-issues-exemption-notice-for-local-planning-approvals.aspx .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report has been prepared for COVID-19 Committee to consider Minister's exemptions and those planning exemptions approved by Council 30 March 2020.
14 April 2020	Hon. Mark McGowan MLA announced introduction of urgent legislation to address commercial and residential tenancies impacted by rental distress due to COVID-19: https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/04/New-laws-to-provide-support-for-commercial-and-residential-tenants-and-landlords.aspx .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commercial Tenancies (COVID-19 Response) Bill 2020 will introduce a moratorium on evictions for small commercial tenancies and provide a range of other measures to offer support for tenants in response to COVID-19, including the introduction of a code of conduct for landlords and tenants. • Potential relief for Business tenants across the City.
15 April 2020	Hon. David Templeman (Local Government) announced the Local Government Amendment (COVID-19 Response) Bill 2020 amends the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> (the Act) in two key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modifications or suspension of legislative provisions; and • local government local laws. https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/04/Local-Government-Act-changes-to-support-COVID-19-response.aspx .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under this change, local governments would have the power to remove restrictions and reduce red tape in order to support businesses and households during the current pandemic and consequent recovery. • Awaiting release of information.
19 April 2020	WA Government announced the milestone of achieving 0 new COVID-19 cases. This also occurred on 21 April 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted.
21 April 2020	Hon. Mark McGowan MLA and Hon John Quigley MLA announced moratorium and code of conduct to protect WA businesses. https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/04/Eviction-moratorium-and-code-of-conduct-to-protect-WA-businesses.aspx .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy successful. Measures to be communicated to businesses on the City's Business support page.
23 April 2020	Hon. Mark McGowan MLA announced new State Government relief funds for tenants and landlords, including grants of up to \$2,000 for residential tenants and land tax reduction for landlords who provide rent relief for commercial tenants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This information is being assessed.
27 April 2020	WA Government announced indoor and outdoor non-work gatherings of up to 10 people are now permitted, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weddings (increased from 5) and funerals; • Outdoor personal training (no shared equipment); and • Home opens and display village inspections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will likely result in an increase in the number of groups training within the City's public reserves; • Continued monitoring to be undertaken by Ranger services to ensure social distancing requirements are being maintained; and • Recommence issuing permits for personal training groups.
29 April 2020	Hon. Mark McGowan MLA announced COVID-19 mandatory hygiene training for all WA hospitality venues covering the following key elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding COVID-19 and venue restrictions; • Reporting personal health issues; • Maintaining personal and work environment hygiene practices, specific to COVID-19; • Reducing cross contamination through procedures, specific to COVID-19; and • Effective cleaning and sanitising practices, specific to COVID-19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation required as to who will be responsible for monitoring accreditation and compliance, potentially additional responsibility for Environmental Health Officers.
7 May 2020	WA Government announces \$100m short term lending facility to support local governments and universities through COVID-19. This takes advantage of record low interest rates to provide low cost access to liquidity for these essential sectors with no loan guarantee fee charged on borrowings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information being considered.
8 May 2020	National Cabinet announces three-step plan to gradually remove baseline restrictions and make Australia COVID-safe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1 will focus on carefully reopening the economy, and giving Australians opportunities to return to work and social activities, including gatherings of up to 10 people, up to 5 visitors in the family home and some local and regional travel; • Step 2 builds on this with gatherings of up to 20, and more businesses reopening, including gyms, beauty services and entertainment venues like galleries and cinemas; • Step 3 will see a transition to COVID safe ways of living and working, with gatherings of up to 100 people permitted. Arrangements under step 3 will be the 'new normal' while the virus remains a threat. International travel and mass gatherings over 100 people will remain restricted; https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-08may20 .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted.
10 May 2020	WA Government announces roadmap for easing COVID-19 restrictions with phase 2 coming into effect 18 May 2020 encouraging Western Australians to return to work, so the WA economy can further rebuild in a safe and measured way. https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/The-WA-roadmap-for-easing-COVID-19-restrictions.aspx .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. CoV roadmap presented to 12 May 2020 Committee meeting.
11 May 2020	Hon. Roger Cook and Hon. Paul Papalia announce COVID safety plans key to reopening WA businesses with template being developed in consultation with key stakeholders, to be released later this week. https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/COVID-Safety-Plans-key-to-reopening-WA-businesses-.aspx .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awaiting template release to distribute to applicable businesses. • Need to consider how to assist non English speakers with completing.

COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Implementation Plan

Date	Announcement	Response
12 May 2020	Hon. David Templeman announces Local Government sector urged to take leadership role during phase 2 easing of restrictions. Mr Templeman urged the sector to focus on a number of initiatives over the coming week, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-opening libraries and other local government facilities that comply with the new requirements; • Helping the restaurant and hospitality sector by being as flexible as possible in letting businesses open up again, particularly regarding alfresco operations; • Moving back to conducting council and shire chamber meetings in person - while observing social distancing at all times - and with the public attending where possible; • Promoting the new regional travel guidelines; • Re-opening sport and recreation facilities where practicable; https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/Local-Government-sector-urged-to-take-leadership-role.aspx .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. CoV roadmap presented to 12 May 2020 Committee meeting. • Actions underway to support.
15 May 2020	WA Government announces COVID Safety Plan to be completed for WA Businesses to reopen particularly food businesses and sport and recreation venues. https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/Supporting-WA-businesses-re-opening-through-COVID-19-.aspx .	Health team and community partnerships have been working with local food businesses and sporting clubs and community groups to provide guidance and checklists for completing COVID Safe plans.
20 May 2020	WA government announces major planning reforms to drive economic recovery including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New approval process for significant developments. • Small business exemptions. • Minor residential development exemptions. https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/Major-planning-reforms-to-drive-economic-recovery.aspx .	Noted. Reforms largely align with Council's exemptions approved 30 March 2020.
21 May 2020	WA Government fast tracks community sports grants to assist with COVID-19 recovery" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$12 million in Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund (CSRFF) grants brought forward to allow projects to commence sooner. • Funding available for local governments, not-for-profit sport, recreation or community groups to improve local sporting facilities. • Applications for grants of up to \$2 million will now open on 25 May 2020. https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/McGowan-Government-fast-tracks-community-sport-grants-to-assist-with-COVID-19-recovery.aspx .	For consideration.
22 May 2020	Australian Government announced a new \$500 million Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program for local governments.	\$270,557 being granted to the City of Vincent.
25 May 2020	The McGowan Government has approved a \$1.5 million support package for Western Australian artists during the COVID-19 emergency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initiative was developed by the Art Gallery of WA Board and the Art Gallery of WA Foundation. • Aboriginal art centres and independent artists will share in up to \$525,000 towards a targeted acquisition program to purchase existing works for the State Art Collection. • In addition, more than 350 WA artists will receive \$2,000 towards creating a State Art Collection archive. https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/Support-for-WA-artists-through-1-5-million-COVID-support-program.aspx .	Potential opportunity for Vincent residents.
27 May 2020	The McGowan Government has announced a State Recovery Advisory Group has been appointed to guide WA's COVID-19 recovery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group includes representatives from business, industry, not-for-profit organisations, UnionsWA, the public sector, local government and the community. • State Government Ministers to lead industry stakeholder roundtable discussions to support development of State Recovery Plan and Impact Statement. https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/State-Recovery-Advisory-Group-to-guide-WAs-COVID-19-recovery.aspx .	Noted.
29 May 2020	Phase 3 of the WA COVID Roadmap was released. See: https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-wa-roadmap#phase3 .	This was reported to the COVID Committee as a supplementary agenda report on 2 June 2020.
22 June 2020	Phase 4 of the WA COVID Roadmap was released. See: https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-wa-roadmap#phase4 .	Noted.
10 July 2020	Phase 5 of the WA COVID Roadmap delayed by two weeks until 1 August 2020. See: https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-latest-updates .	Noted.

COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Implementation Plan

2.5. Requests

The State Government makes requests to Western Australian Local Governments to support recovery from COVID-19.

Date	Request	Response
17 March 2020	Hon. Mark McGowan MLA requested that the local government sector freeze all local government household rates, fees and charges in 2020/21 to ease the financial pressure on households and businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider as part of Action 2.5.
25 March 2020	Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA requested that the local government sector to use discretionary powers and planning processes to both promote development and support businesses and adopt flexible approached to enforcement and compliance actions for servicing supply of supermarkets during this period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider as part of Action 2.15.

2.6. Suggestions

During this time there are many suggestions and ideas put forward. Below is a summary of new ideas for the COVID-19 Committee to determine if they belong in the implementation table above.

Date	Suggestion	Response
1 April 2020	<p>Suggestions from meeting with Town Teams and Town Team Movement 1 April 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create a business data base to share a business e-newsletter. Provide information from reputable sources. Continue to check in with local businesses and conduct health checks to understand support required. Advocate for rent relief for businesses affected by restrictions. Consider the use of percent for art funds for activations once restrictions are lifted. Consider the use of cash in lieu for parking funds. Consider preparing a community benefit incentive based policy position under Design WA. 	<p>Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include a new action in the Implementation Table above. Include a new action in the Implementation Table above. Consider as part of Action 2.15. Include a new action in the Implementation Table above. Include a new action in the Implementation Table above. <p>Completed.</p>

2.7. Development Update

The COVID-19 Committee has a number of decision making abilities delegated from Council. The following table provides an update on development matters relevant to the COVID-19 Committee.

Date	Matter	Response
N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

2.8. Good News Stories

A place for innovative solutions to be shared.

Date	Story
1 April 2020	Ilka have pivoted their business now designing and making scrubs for medical workers. Link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=687702681996307 .
14 April 2020	RSLWA is encouraging all Aussies to get creative in a show of mateship this ANZAC Day – by standing in quiet contemplation at the end of their driveways, or on their balconies, at 6:00am on 25 April.
15 April 2020	Rangers and Parks staff have been monitoring City reserves and public spaces to ensure social distancing is being maintained. Very few instances of non-compliance.
15 April 2020	Big response to Beatty Park online Home Fitness Program over 2,500 daily views since launched. Increase of 300 followers.
23 April 2020	Information postcards are being delivered to the Community by end of week. Casual staff from Beatty Park were employed for this task reducing distribution costs and providing employment opportunities.
29 April 2020	Staff from Beatty Park have commenced scanning of hardcopy records to continue CBP item to digitise hardcopy property, planning and building files. This project usually requires contract staff and hire of a scanner, with staff working from home this allows use of unused existing office scanners.
6 May 2020	Working with the City's Health team Blake Street Merchant in North Perth have effectively adapted their café into a small corner store selling food essentials in response to the COVID-19 restrictions and reduced supplies.
11 May 2020	First drive through COVID clinic in WA opened at No.391 Oxford Street, Mount Hawthorn.
30 May 2020	Beaufort Street Network held their second online interactive quiz night with over 100 participants, keeping connected while remaining safe.
12 June 2020	The Leedy giveaway campaign was launched by Leederville Connect, which the City promoted.
17 June 2020	It is encouraging that businesses are planning community events which meet the COVID-19 Phase 3 restrictions. An example is the Truffle'n'Jazz event to be held in Mt Hawthorn in July.
18 June 2020	Exemption granted for Beatty Park Leisure Centre to operate with 485 patrons.

COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Communication Status Report

Monday 7 July 2020 – 21 July 2020

Communication Action	No. Action Alignment COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Strategy	Release Dates	Target Market	Communication Tools	Outcome
Reopening of Beatty Park, Library and Local History Centre members.	1.1 1.2 1.3 1.7	Library 15 July	Residents Library Members Beatty Park Members Parents Seniors Home educators	Library Website Library e-newsletter Library social media	Return of Saturday Library services
Inform community during preparation of City's annual budget in COVID-19 environment.	2.5 2.19 2.21 3.3 3.5 3.8 3.9 3.11	15 July	Residents Ratepayers Business Owners Local and State Media	Mayoral Statement EHQ – Imagine Vincent Corporate Website Community Newspaper Public Notice City of Vincent Facebook COVID-19 Portal	Differential rates community consultation reminder, front page of website and social media.

Upcoming Communications Projects					
Communication Action	No. Action Alignment COVID-19 Relief & Recovery Strategy	Release Dates	Target Market	Communication Tools	Outcome
Development of specific support areas of the website for clubs, community groups and stakeholders who use community facilities and sportsgrounds.	2.19 2.21	10 July	Community Groups Sporting Groups Peak Bodies	Corporate Website – Homepage rotator COVID Portal E-newsletters City of Vincent Facebook	Noted requirement for more considered Community Rebound Plan. Draft to COVID Committee in August.
Encourage people to return to their usual places of work and learning and encourage patrons to return to using public transport to support their local economy within public health requirements and guidelines.	2.40	1 July	Large Vincent based businesses	Postcards E-newsletter Signage	Broad action that will be considered in Economic Recovery Plans.
Survey the community and assess need and priority service levels.	2.19 2.20 2.37 2.38 2.39 2.44 2.5 2.19 2.21 3.3 3.5 3.8 3.9 3.11	2 July	Residents Ratepayers Council Business Owners Facility Users Community Groups Media	COVID-19 Portal	Waiting for results from Catalyse.
Development of broad community engagement and communication plan for Art Project.	2.16	2 July	Creative Community NGO's Residents Ratepayers Business Owners Local and State Media	Corporate Website City of Vincent Facebook City of Vincent Instagram E-newsletters	Confirming location options for presentation to Council.

7.2 DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee SUPPORT further investigation of Development Incentives for Community Benefit as part of area-specific planning.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To consider 'development incentives for community benefit'.

BACKGROUND:

The City received a suggestion during its regular Town Team Roundtable to consider development incentives as a potential economic driver to facilitate and encourage construction activity in the City. Action 2.23 was included in the City's COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Implementation Plan to consider adopting such measures.

State Planning Policy 7.3 Residential Design Codes Volume 2 – Apartments (the R Codes Volume 2) provides guidance to local government in establishing 'development incentives for community benefit'.

Development incentives for community benefit offer additional development potential or flexibility (such as additional plot ratio or building heights) in exchange for tangible community benefit provided by a developer (such as public amenities, recreation facilities or affordable housing).

Relevant considerations relating to development incentives for community benefit as set out in the R Codes Volume 2 are as follows:

- The application of development incentives should be intrinsically linked to design excellence as established through design review.
- Development incentives should be applied in a responsible and accountable manner to avoid the expectation that they become the 'default' development standard in a locality.
- The cost and value of the community benefit should be measurable to demonstrate that it is commensurate with the additional development entitlement.
- Development incentives should be applied by local governments to specific areas that require certain community infrastructure, rather than across the entire local government, to avoid the expectation that the incentive becomes the 'default'.
- Feedback should be sought by local governments from the development and building industry to ensure a feasible trade-off between development bonuses and incentives.

While there is guidance included in the R Codes Volume 2, development incentives are not a State Government initiative, but are implemented through various local planning policies, local planning schemes, structure plans or local development plans led by local governments.

There are three options for implementation mechanisms in the planning framework to deliver community benefits, as follows:

1. In an incentive-based policy, a developer usually has the option of satisfying additional criteria in order to gain some further development benefit that would otherwise not be available.
2. In a local planning policy or scheme, a requirement is specified and a development must comply with that requirement in order to gain planning approval.
3. In a Development Contributions Arrangement, developments create a need for community infrastructure and, thus, must provide or contribute towards it in order to gain planning approval.

The City previously employed option 1 as an implementation approach through policy by offering additional development potential where design excellence was achieved. In 2016, community consultation through the preparation of the Built Form Policy found that the City should not trade improved design for increased

development potential and, rather, good design should be the standard. The criteria for improved design and amenity was subsequently embedded into the deemed to comply provisions of the City's Built Form Policy and the incentive approach was removed.

The City currently employs implementation approach option 2. Through Local Planning Scheme No. 2 and the City's various local planning policies, a proposed development must satisfy all relevant standards or performance objectives in order to obtain planning approval.

The City has never implemented a Development Contributions Arrangement. These arrangements are appropriate where there is likely to be a large amount of development in a defined area that generates a need for community and traditional infrastructure.

Incentive arrangements have not been reconsidered since 2016, likely as a result of:

1. The infill nature of the City's development pattern not being suited to the provision of consolidated infrastructure. Since the majority of large developments in the City are apartments or mixed use developments, there is very little land available to provide any additional community facilities.
2. A lack of support from the State Government on the implementation and standardisation of community benefit incentives policies.
3. A lack of area-specific planning and needs analyses being undertaken by the City to influence any incentive arrangements.

DETAILS:

There is no definition for 'community benefit' in R Codes Volume 2.

The following examples of community benefits are provided in the R Codes Volume 2. A number of these considerations are already provided for, as a requirement or an incentive through the City's policy framework.

R Codes Volume 2 Example of Community Benefit	The City's Existing Requirement or Incentive
Affordable Housing	No applicable requirement.
Dwelling diversity	No applicable requirement.
Heritage	Heritage list and two heritage areas in place (Janet Street and Harley Street). Incentive provided through Clause 12 of the deemed provisions in the <i>Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015</i> for variations to site and development requirements.
Retention of vegetation	Significant tree register requires retention. Amendment 2 to the Built Form Policy includes an incentive for developers to retain existing mature trees by allowing a reduction in deep soil area requirements.
Public open space	10% of land or cash set aside for >5 lot subdivisions.
Public car parking	No requirement to provide. Under the Non-Residential Development Parking Policy and where a development does not provide for adequate car parking on site to meet the demand of its users, cash-in-lieu is available to be imposed. This could be spent on public car parking facilities or other transport infrastructure in the area.
Public pedestrian access ways	Provided for in local planning scheme/structure plans and acquired as needed as a condition of subdivision.
Cultural facilities, child care, libraries etc.	No applicable requirement.
Energy efficient design	Required to be satisfied through the Built Form Policy.
Water conservation	Required to be satisfied through the Built Form Policy.

The process for establishing development incentives is as follows:

1. Undertake an investigation of the type of community benefit that is required in the area, whether through a needs analysis or community development strategy.
2. Prepare a set of potential development incentives that match the value of each community benefit.

3. Adopt the development incentives through a local planning policy, local planning scheme, or structure plan.

This process could be undertaken on an area-specific basis or across the entire municipal area.

The R Codes Volume 2 suggest that incentives should be applied only to specific areas to help avoid a presumption that all developments in the City would be eligible for the incentive. Undertaking such an investigation for the whole City would likely entail a multi-year project that would require frequent review to stay up-to-date. The types of community infrastructure that could benefit from this arrangement may vary significantly across the City in line with demographics and existing available facilities.

An area-specific approach may be more appropriate, especially if undertaken as part of an existing planning project like an Activity Centre Plan, as these projects will usually include a level of community infrastructure study.

The Leederville Activity Centre Plan is currently being prepared. As part of this area-specific plan, the City will conduct a community infrastructure needs analysis and consider opportunities to incorporate development incentives for community benefit in the Activity Centre Plan itself.

The Leederville Connect Town Team, through its design subcommittee, has undertaken a 'social infrastructure study' to establish the need and potential locations for certain types of community infrastructure. The City is working closely with Leederville Connect to incorporate and translate these ideas into the Activity Centre Plan.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

No consultation is required at this stage. Further consultation will occur during Leederville Activity Centre planning.

LEGAL/POLICY:

State Planning Policy 7.3: Residential Design Codes.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Low: It is low risk to investigate development incentive options.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028*:

Thriving Places

We encourage innovation in business, social enterprise and imaginative uses of space, both public and private.

Sensitive Design

Our planning framework supports quality design, sustainable urban built form and is responsive to our community and local context.

COVID-19 RELIEF AND RECOVERY STRATEGY ALIGNMENT:



SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The investigation of development incentives has no financial implications. However, if community infrastructure is to be provided, the City’s Long Term Financial Plan must consider the implications of maintaining any new infrastructure that falls within the responsibility of the City. Some community infrastructure may be wholly established and maintained by one or more private landowners, in which case the City’s expenses would relate only to administrative costs of the establishment of the arrangement and any ongoing management.

COMMENTS:

While these incentives may theoretically improve development activity, Administration has not found any direct or causal link between the provision of an incentive and an increase in development activity. It is recommended that incentive-based planning provisions only be explored during the preparation of area-specific planning mechanisms.

7.3 EVALUATION AND REVIEW OF COVID-19 RELIEF AND RECOVERY STRATEGY

Attachments: 1. **COVID-19 Strategy Evaluation** [↓](#) 

RECOMMENDATION

That the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee:

- 1. NOTES the three-month evaluation and review of the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Strategy, at Attachment 1; and**
- 2. RECOMMENDS to Council the extension of the term of the Committee for a further three months:**
 - 2.1 With meetings to be held monthly as follows:**
 - 2.1.1 6 October 2020;**
 - 2.1.2 3 November 2020; and**
 - 2.1.3 1 December 2020; and**
 - 2.2 With further meetings to be held as agreed by the Committee, if required.**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

This report provides an evaluation of the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Strategy encompassing the first three months of its implementation.

BACKGROUND:

At the Special Meeting on 30 March 2020, Council established the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee (the Committee) to provide oversight of the endorsed COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy has guided the City's actions during the COVID-19 pandemic, and progress of these actions has been reported to the Committee. From April to June the Committee has met weekly, and is gradually moving to a monthly frequency from August.

The impact of COVID-19 restrictions started to affect the City from 13 March 2020 when the St Patrick's Day event was cancelled due to increasingly severe restrictions on mass events/gatherings. The rapid and continued introduction of restrictions resulted in the National Cabinet moving to restrict gatherings to two people and mandate closure of many businesses and community facilities by 29 March 2020.

The rate of community transmission of COVID-19 in WA has been considerably lower than other states and territories, and the easing of restrictions commenced on 27 April 2020. This was despite National Cabinet initially announcing restrictions would be in place for six months; and occurred prior to the release of the National COVID Safety Roadmap on 8 May 2020.

With Phase 5 of the WA COVID Safety Roadmap becoming imminent in the coming weeks, WA and the City will move to a sense of 'normality' much quicker than other jurisdictions. The main issue for the WA Government to resolve is when and how borders will be reopened.

At the three-month point of the Strategy the momentum of response actions started to slow, with a noticeable shift to economic and public health recovery. This has led to a change in approach from delivering a quantity of response actions very quickly; to delivering quality recovery actions focusing on the local economy, social environment, health and wellbeing, and maintaining a resilient organisation. At the same time, COVID-19 re-emerged as an issue in other parts of Australia, which means the City should maintain a level of preparedness should there be a re-emergence in WA or in our local community.

For these reasons it is considered appropriate that the Strategy be evaluated and reviewed at this stage and consideration be given to the future direction of the Committee.

DETAILS:

The Strategy purpose, overarching principles and objectives have been evaluated using the Plan-Do-Check-Act methodology. This methodology follows a cyclical approach which involves planning the action, doing the action, checking that the action worked, and adopting the change or revisiting the planning stage. An overview of this evaluation can be viewed in **Attachment 1**.

The City is one of a small number of WA local governments which has adopted a Strategy and Committee approach. Since the development of the Strategy, other local governments within WA and interstate have approached the City to seek advice and emulate the Vincent approach.

It became clear in mid-March the COVID-19 pandemic would require a new way of making decisions. The Vincent approach has enabled a strategic and holistic focus to deliver our response and recovery actions. Council endorsement of the Strategy, establishment of the Committee and a suite of relief and budgetary measures were agreed to within a few weeks of the pandemic emergence.

The Committee has since met regularly and has achieved the Strategy purpose. This has involved COVID-19 impacts being identified, agile decisions being made, a COVID Safe Roadmap being endorsed and civic leadership being provided. In achieving this purpose the City has demonstrated its ability to ensure public health measures have been engrained within service, program and project delivery. The strong link between public health, community services, local economy and organisational governance have been reflected in the Strategy actions.

The overarching principles of the Strategy have been delivered in the following ways:

- Emergency management directives were implemented responsibly by the City. The City adopted a measured and scientific approach to implementing directives. This included implementing documented systems at community facilities prior to forced closures, avoiding an alarmist approach and advocating for calm, and reorientating services to focus on community safety;
- 1.
- Managing fast-paced and often complex communication in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, by implementing a simple messaging approach to try and minimise confusion. Relief and recovery measures were also communicated, and a dedicated COVID-19 web portal was developed. It was however a significant challenge to utilise traditional forms of media effectively in such a fast-paced messaging environment, creating challenges reaching some vulnerable populations;
- The Committee has regularly made decisions on rent relief for City tenants, Leederville Gardens funding to assist vulnerable residents, and grants for local public art. Direct support was also provided to the business community by the Place and Health teams;
- 2.
- Where possible the City's workforce operated from home, and the Information Technology team was quick to respond and enable this to occur. Council Members were also able to meet utilising online functionality;
- 3.
- Most Strategy actions involved the City utilising its local and statewide networks to achieve shared decision making and learning; and
- 4.
- A wide range of actions and updates were provided to the Committee on a weekly basis, enabling agile and responsive decision making.

A total of 65 actions were reported to the Committee through the Strategy Implementation Plan. Most actions have been completed, and each were aligned to one of three objectives. These objectives are our health and wellbeing, our community and our organisation. The Implementation Plan of the Strategy was a useful mechanism to keep track of what has been a significant workload of actions. Only four actions remain and these mainly relate to economic recovery which is a key priority of the City for the coming months and year.

Moving forward, the priorities of the Strategy should be to focus on:

1. Economic and public health rebound and recovery;

2. Preparedness for future outbreaks;
3. Maintaining the highest standard of COVID practices possible – including public health, budget, our organisation and community services; and
4. A continued high standard of communication and consultation on COVID related actions.

It is proposed the Strategy remain as is, recognising its delivery will be supported by a proposed economic rebound and resilience plan and the Public Health Plan 2020-2025. Administration recommends continuing the Committee for a further three months.

COVID-19 remains the most significant current global and national threat and the risk of the pandemic to the City remains high. The Strategy and Committee are both mechanisms to manage and treat this risk.

It is proposed the Committee meets monthly. If the continuation of the Committee is approved by Council, the Committee would have the ability to schedule additional meetings should the need arise.

In conclusion, the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Strategy and Committee are considered to have been a success to date.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

Nil.

LEGAL/POLICY:

Nil.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

The COVID-19 pandemic has been assessed as a HIGH risk to the City.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

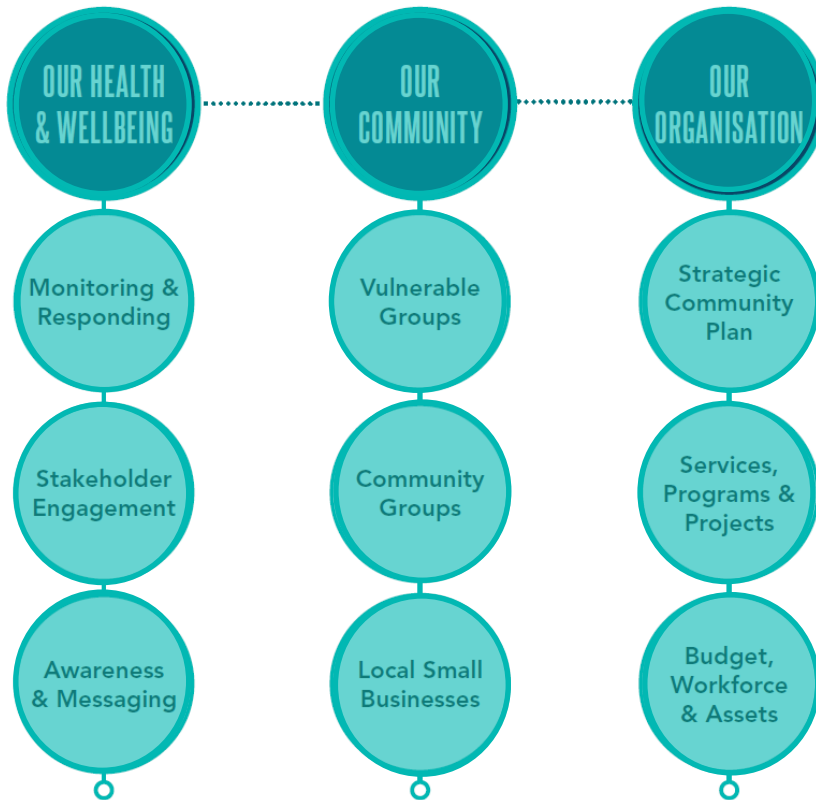
This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028*:

Innovative and Accountable

Our community is aware of what we are doing and how we are meeting our goals.

We are open and accountable to an engaged community.

COVID-19 RELIEF AND RECOVERY STRATEGY ALIGNMENT:



SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

COVID-19 RELIEF AND RECOVERY STRATEGY EVALUATION	PLAN	DO	CHECK	ACT	Comment
PURPOSE					
Identify, monitor and document the impact of COVID–19 specific to the City of Vincent.	•	•	•	•	Documented in the Strategy
Ensure agile and efficient decision making and communication during the recovery phase.	•	•	•	•	COVID-19 Committee and regular Executive check-ins
Provide a road map to the City's short, medium and long term actions to provide relief and recovery as a result of COVID–19.	•	•	•	•	Strategy Implementation Plan
Guide the City's future decision making in relation to the City's COVID–19 relief and recovery.	•	•	•	•	Guidance provided in the Strategy
Provide support and civic leadership to our well connected and resilient community during the recovery phase.	•	•			This is continuing as economic recovery will extend into the longer term
OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES					
Act in a highly responsive, comprehensive, coordinated and safe manner to ensure health and emergency management directives are implemented as the highest priority.	•	•	•	•	Restrictions and easing of restrictions documented and reported on in a timely manner
Ensure consistent and regular communication with community and staff.	•	•	•	•	Communication Plan
Recognise, understand and action the support needed for vulnerable groups, community organisations, sporting clubs and local businesses.	•	•	•	•	Leederville Gardens Trust funds, Arts Relief, Rent Relief
Recognise, understand and action the support needed for our workforce.	•	•	•	•	Workforce Optimisation
Partner and collaborate with our key stakeholders to support relief and recovery.	•	•	•	•	Addressed in Strategy and Committee reports
Deliver agile and responsive decision making through the establishment of the City's COVID–19 Committee.	•	•	•	•	Weekly Committee meetings from April to June, continuing fortnightly then monthly until September
OBJECTIVES					
Our Health & Wellbeing – Ensure the City monitors for and responds to new directives and manages the current and ongoing risks to public health. Raise awareness of public health messages in the community and with our key stakeholders.	•	•	•	•	12 actions
Our Community – Monitor the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on vulnerable groups, community groups, sporting clubs and our business community. Develop innovative approaches to support our community to recover.	•	•			40 actions, continuing
Our Organisation – Monitor the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on the City's operations. Reorient our organisation to recovery efforts and deliver on the Strategic Community Plan during recovery.	•	•	•	•	13 actions

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER (WITHOUT DISCUSSION)

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

10 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS/MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED

Nil

11 NEXT MEETING

4 August 2020

- COVID-19 Update
- Tenant application for financial assistance – Tennis West, Robertson Park Tennis Club
- Tenant application for financial assistance – East Perth Football Club
- Arts Relief Funding – Additional Submissions/Applications
- Community Rebound Plan

8 September 2020

- COVID-19 Update

12 CLOSURE