



## **COUNCIL POLICY**

### *INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Council's *Strategic Management Plan 2004-07* sets out targets for growth and provides guiding principles to create the conditions for Adelaide's future sustainable activity and quality of life:

- ◆ culturally vibrant;
- ◆ socially just;
- ◆ environmentally sustainable;
- ◆ economically viable; and
- ◆ outward looking.

In applying these principles, Adelaide can learn from the experiences and achievements of other cities – as well as sharing our own successes.

The process of globalisation - the integration of financial markets, liberalisation of capital flows and the emergence of significant footloose capital, and the rapid pace of technological change, particularly in communications technology - is causing cultural, social, environmental and economic changes in the operating environment of the modern city.

Urban areas are becoming increasingly important; they form part of global networks and are much more closely inter-connected than they used to be. This is well encapsulated by the Local Agenda 21 byline of "think globally, act locally".

Accordingly, Adelaide cannot remain insular from the process of globalisation; it must be outward-looking and keen to grasp new opportunities while building on existing strengths.

In order to understand and maximise the benefits of these emerging global networks, Adelaide can:

- pursue international ties to develop a positive international reputation and to learn from leading international practice;
- develop a profile for the city amongst key decision-makers internationally to create opportunities from which Adelaide can benefit;
- improve and expand international communication, cultural awareness and cooperation; and
- maximise the opportunities which arise from exposure to international trade, commerce, culture and leisure.

Adelaide City Council has an interest in promoting the interests of the City, metropolitan Adelaide, and the State of South Australia and in establishing international relationships which further the Council's strategic directions.

This requires that Council co-operate with Commonwealth and State Government – who have a more primary role in international relations - to promote international relations and the social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that can flow from them. Local partnerships with organisations such as Austrade, and the Council for International Trade and Commerce SA can make a significant contribution to the strengthening of our international relationships.

Similarly, Council through its membership of the South Australian Local Government Consulting Group can contribute to development in other cities.

## **2. POLICY OBJECTIVE(S)**

The Adelaide City Council will foster targeted international relationships to:

- facilitate information and knowledge sharing;
- build managerial and technical capacity through a range of international activities, including study tours and exchange programs, to build the experience and capacity of Councillors, staff and the City;
- develop project partnerships for mutual benefit; and
- focus on learning from other cities which can be implemented to achieve value and benefit for the City of Adelaide.

The Council acknowledges its existing Sister City relationships, and will maintain and respect these with a view to developing strategic synergies based on the *Strategic Management Plan 2004-07*.

## **3. POLICY STATEMENTS**

The Adelaide City Council will participate in international relations activities in a focussed and effective manner in order to contribute to Council's primary strategy:

*To increase the number of people living, visiting, working and learning in the City to an optimum sustainable level."*

This is supported by specific targets for growth in:

- residents
- visitors
- workers
- students

International relations activities will be undertaken in a targeted, focussed and cost effective manner to obtain maximum support for achieving Council's growth targets and applying Council's guiding principles:

Culturally vibrant: Build upon the cultural diversity of international relations to facilitate community links, creativity and goodwill between the people of different countries.

Socially just: Identify and learn from international best practice in building a socially equitable and balanced City.

Environmentally sustainable: Accessing international knowledge and networks that will enable Adelaide to introduce leading practice environmental management techniques and approaches;

Economically viable: Build linkages and understandings that will assist the City and its businesses to compete in the global marketplace.

Outward looking: Learn from other local authorities and cities facing similar issues in other parts of the world. Achieve international links that will enable us to exchange experiences and enhance skills and strategies, policies, programs and projects. Build our capacity to deliver “innovation and quality in local government services”.

Council will focus on cities of interest in pursuing international relations. These cities will be those which provide a strategic fit with Adelaide, and those cities from which Adelaide can learn to achieve its goals and objectives. An operating plan will be prepared to guide activity.

In the course of fulfilling their obligations, the Lord Mayor and Councillors will be eligible to travel internationally at Council cost once during their term of office (subject to budget approvals). Councillors may also seek Council support (non-financial) for privately funded travel.

Such travel may be to a Sister City, a study tour involving cities of interest, or to attend a conference. Additional travel may be undertaken as necessary and appropriate, to get maximum benefit from a trip to a city of interest, subject to Council approval and for a specific purpose.

In addition, the Lord Mayor or the Lord Mayor's nominee will endeavour to visit each Sister City during the term of office, where this will achieve the policy statements.

Council will not allocate resources for international relations, including Sister City activity, without considering and identifying the benefits to be gained. An operating plan for international relations will be developed within budget constraints, to also incorporate Sister City activity. However, proposals for Sister Cities activity outside of the operating plan will be considered on their merits and may be approved by Council.

Council will not provide direct assistance or take direct responsibility for the arrangements of *other* groups or individuals travelling to or from Sister Cities.

Prior to endorsing any proposed travel, Council will set and endorse objectives for the travel. The Lord Mayor and/or Councillors travelling will be required to submit a report on the travel within one month of returning.

Requests or opportunities for incoming international relations events (including Sister Cities events) will be accorded corporate hospitality in accordance with available budget resources and the significance – and potential learnings – associated with the event.

#### **4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND CORPORATE POLICY CONTEXT**

In adopting this policy it is recognised that there are specific legislative requirements to be met as well as other Corporate goals.

Relevant major legislative requirements are any set out in the City of Adelaide Act 1998, and in the Local Government Act 1999.