

COMMUNITY SERVICES STRATEGY

*A Component of the Shire of Bridgetown-
Greenbushes Integrated Planning Framework*

April 2015



1. Background

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Strategic Community Plan 2013 contains 34 Social Objectives which are the foundation of the existing Community Services Department service delivery to the community.

These objectives include reference to a number of key informing sub-strategies, which feed into the Strategic Community Plan (endorsed by Council and therefore used by officers as guiding documents in service delivery).

These include:

- The Age Friendly Communities Plan (refer Addendum A)
- Youth Policy and Strategy Public Art Strategy (refer Addendum B)
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (refer Addendum C)
- Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan (refer Addendum D)
- Business Plan – Integrated Recreation Facility (refer Addendum E)
- Regional Trails Master Plan (refer Addendum F)

The above strategic documents will, from time to time, be reviewed and presented back to Council. The approach undertaken in reviewing these strategic plans is to:

- a) Ensure the documents accurately reflect the needs of community via consultation
- b) Provide clear and measure objectives and outcomes that can be linked to officer duties
- c) Reflect linkages where appropriate to add value to whole of community (so that where a need exists for say both seniors, and youth, it is identified and prioritised as providing benefits to more than one sector of the community – value for money)
- d) “Add value” to the extensive infrastructure investment Council has made (historically the Recreation Centre, Somme Creek Recreational Precinct and more recently the Library and Integrated Aquatic/Recreation Centre)

Set out below is a description of the strategic direction that Council will follow in the provision of services in the areas of sport and recreation, economic development, youth, seniors and people with a disability, and art and culture.

2. Strategic Direction – Sport and Recreation

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan provides a clear snapshot of the extent of Council's financial commitment into both active and passive recreation facilities/areas as well as identifying major goals for the future in relation to maintaining and developing service delivery in the area of sport and recreation.

Council will develop sport and recreation facilities and initiatives in accordance with the recommendations of the Sport and Recreation Strategic Plan.

3. Strategic Direction - Economic Development

Council's primary economic development service delivery is the provision of tourism sector servicing via the Visitor Centre. In 2015/16 Council intends to conduct research and assess models and options for delivery of tourist services. In conjunction with this research and assessment Council intends in 2015/16 to review service delivery with regard to the current projects/initiatives:

- Heritage Council advice still pending with regard to the proposed Railway Station refurbishment design (unknown implications), which is a precursor to Council considering the possible relocation of the Visitor Centre to that building.
- Proposed development of a Regional Tourism Association (implications unknown).
- Proposed development of a local Community Resource House (implications unknown).

4. Strategic Direction – Youth, Seniors and People with a Disability

Provision of services to promote an inclusive approach to life in the community is the underlying premise of the strategic plans for these key service delivery areas.

- There are 28 action items in the existing Youth Policy & Strategy (5 key outcome areas)
- There are 66 action items in the existing Disability Access and Inclusion Strategy (8 key outcome areas determined by Disability Services Commission)

- There are 56 action items in the existing Active Aging Strategy (9 key outcome areas)

The existing plans are already endorsed by Council and feed into the Community Strategic Plan.

It is proposed that service delivery in relation to youth, seniors and people with disability be progressively reviewed and refined by review of the relevant strategic plan.

It is proposed that these reviews, and subsequent service delivery be focused through the existing infrastructure including the library, the swimming pool, the recreation centre, the Somme Creek Recreational Precinct (fitness trail, recreation areas, skate park) and other existing resources of Council.

This will allow for long term sustainability by realistically assessing Council's capacity to deliver services, will add value to the infrastructure investments and achieve identified objectives relevant to various community sectors.

5. Strategic Direction – Arts and Culture

The delivery of the majority of art and cultural development activities is based on external grant funding, with the exception of the annual “Archie” and “Landscape” exhibitions, along with exhibitions of Council owned art. Existing budget provisions enable these events to be held independent of grant funding.

The procurement of grant funding for additional art and cultural activities in line with Council's “Arts Extravaganza” annual program of events has over the years proven to have been minimal and the value on the investment of officer time in this area is considered low.

Given Council has invested \$4 million in the library – thus making it the primary art and cultural facility in the community – it has been determined that a place based approach to the delivery of art and cultural activities occur within this facility.

This service area is to be reduced and refocused, in line with the Public Art Strategy and Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, Youth Policy & Strategy and Active Aging Strategy so that art and cultural services are provided not as a stand-alone service delivery, but a complimentary service delivery where doing so can assist to achieve objectives in these plans.

Council will consider proving funding to a representative art and cultural group(s) to drive art and cultural initiatives at the community level as opposed to a local government level.

Provided as addendums to this informing strategy are the sub-strategies listed in Part 1 above. These addendums set Council's specific directions, objectives and actions in their respective areas.