

Policy

Title: Guidelines for Future International Relationships

Category: Corporate Governance

Date Last Adopted: 7 March 2016

1. Objectives

To provide guidance to the Council on the future management of existing sister city relationships and potential international relationships in order to attain cultural, social, economic and educational benefits for the City and its Sister City partners and to pursue strategic international alliances supporting local businesses and institutions in achieving economic, educational and tourism benefits for the City.

2. Background

This policy was developed as a result of an evaluation of the Council's existing sister city relationships and outlines the criteria against which new proposals should be assessed. The policy was amended to create a second stream of 'Strategic Relationships' which would have a more direct economic focus.

3. Policy

That:

1. Council policy for the establishment of new international relationships be based on a three tiered approach of:
 - (i) Information exchange.
 - (ii) Friendship Agreement or Strategic Relationship Agreement, time limited with clearly defined outcomes and review after three to five years.
 - (iii) Sister City relationship following a successful Friendship Memorandum of Understanding or Strategic Relationship Agreement.
2. On receipt of any new request or proposal for an international relationship, or in the event the Council seeks to establish a relationship each request or proposal would be assessed in accordance with the following criteria, in order of priority:



- (i) clear identification of the specific outcomes sought from the relationship;
- (ii) relevance of the relationship in terms of achieving Council's major goals as outlined in the Strategic Plan;
- (iii) the value of the relationship in terms of enhancing economic development, business investment, educational and tourism outcomes for Hobart and Tasmania, including specifically support for local businesses and educational institutions;
- (iv) the value of the relationship in terms of supporting community and cultural linkages;
- (v) willingness and capacity of the business or local community of interest to support the relationship;
- (vi) the potential for mutual learning through exchanges and information sharing to facilitate sustainability and continuous improvement in the development of the Council's economic, social and environmental objectives;
- (vii) the capability of the Council to provide skills and resources to assist in humanitarian and capacity building projects;
- (viii) Council resources (human and financial) required to sustain the relationship to the satisfaction of both parties; and
- (ix) evaluation of any political ramifications through consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and local communities.

4. Legislation, Terminology and References

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| Responsible Officer: | Director Community Development |
| Policy first adopted by the Council: | 13/3/2001 |
| History | |
| Amended by Council | 16/4/2012 |
| Annual Policy Review | 7/3/2016 |
| Next Review Date: | March 2017 |

