



Statement of Vision and Priorities

Message from the Administrator

I am pleased to present Inner West Council's 'Statement of Vision and Priorities'. The Statement was developed over a three month period in close consultation with the inner west community and Council staff. The Statement sets out strategic priorities that will provide high level guidance to Council until the development of a single Community Strategic Plan (CSP) for the inner west. The CSP will establish a common direction for the new Council as we continue to work towards achieving better outcomes for the people who choose to live, work and invest in the inner west.

In preparing the Statement we asked the community what the key issues and challenges are for the inner west and what Council needed to focus on in the next 12 to 18 months. These issues formed the basis of our eight high level priorities. They are:

1. Planning and development
2. Transport
3. Social vitality, creativity and quality of life
4. Sustainability and the environment
5. One council
6. Local industry and business
7. Advocacy for our community
8. Local democracy.

The priorities will be further explored as we develop the Community Strategic Plan. Community engagement on the CSP commenced in early 2017 with an Issues Paper designed to help us better understand the more complex challenges that we face. It will also serve to open dialogue with potential partners and stakeholders as we investigate opportunities to work together in the best interests of the inner west.

Council is in the process of identifying a set of performance indicators that will tell us whether or not we are achieving better outcomes for the community across the eight priority areas. Council will report against these indicators on our website. To follow our progress visit www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/council/planning-for-our-future.

Richard Pearson
Administrator

The Statement of Vision and Priorities

In adopting the Statement of Vision and Priorities, Council commits to working towards a shared vision and actioning projects and initiatives identified as essential to addressing the eight priorities listed below.

The Vision and Priorities will remain in place until the adoption and implementation of a new Community Strategic Plan for the inner west.

The Vision

“We are Inner West, land of the Gadigal and Wangal peoples, whose rich cultures, heritage and history we acknowledge and respect. Together we are an inclusive, passionate, creative, vibrant community united in our desire to build a great future for all who live and do business here.”

Priority 1 - Planning and development

- Managing and planning for population growth
- Improving access to affordable housing
- Protecting heritage buildings and items
- Providing well maintained, safe, welcoming public spaces
- Protecting, increasing and improving green/open spaces
- Maintaining our community assets e.g. buildings and land
- Retaining diversity of industrial lands and employment generating uses



Priority 2 - Transport

- Delivering the GreenWay
- Managing traffic congestion
- Provision and maintenance of local transport infrastructure e.g. roads, footpaths
- Improving bike paths and networks
- Improving accessibility and connectivity
- Addressing car parking issues in key locations, including residential and business districts
- Encouraging active transport



Priority 3 - Social vitality, creativity, quality of life

- Promoting inclusion for everyone, particularly for people with a disability
- Providing social hubs, meeting places and community events
- Supporting diverse, multi-cultural communities
- Improving access to recreation, both active and passive
- Promoting Aboriginal culture - past, present and future
- Improving access to community facilities, particularly for youth and seniors
- Supporting health and wellbeing
- Supporting the arts
- Addressing service needs of all population groups



Priority 4 - Sustainability and environment

- Responding to, mitigating and managing the impacts of climate change
- Protecting and enhancing our natural heritage including highly vulnerable areas, habitats, biodiversity and waterways for example, the Cooks River
- Tree management and protection
- Promoting waste avoidance, reuse and recycling
- Supporting local sustainability projects and initiatives
- Protecting and enhancing our natural heritage



Priority 5 - One council

- Providing equitable, integrated and efficient services across the whole LGA
- Achieving innovation in service delivery
- Establishing who we are, and what we stand for
- Undertaking long term strategic planning for the inner west



Priority 6 - Local business and industry

- Delivering main street and town centre vitality
- Creating vibrant night-time economies
- Supporting small businesses
- Creating new jobs, particularly for young people
- Supporting innovation and creative industries
- Encouraging socially and environmentally responsible business practices



Priority 7 - Advocacy for our community

- Minimising negative impacts of development and population growth, for example on quality of life, environment, infrastructure, liveability and existing suburbs
- Improving access to key services e.g. public transport, education
- Achieving better community and environmental outcomes on local and regional projects e.g. WestConnex, Callan Park, Yasmar estate, Bays Precinct, Sydenham to Bankstown corridor, Parramatta Road development and White Bay Cruise Ship Terminal



Priority 8 - Local democracy

- Ensuring participatory community engagement
- Creating opportunities for youth engagement and pathways for youth involvement in local democracy
- Developing partnerships to deliver community outcomes
- Communicating council deliberations, plans and projects clearly and openly





About the Statement

The Statement has been designed to provide high level direction and guidance for Council until the adoption of a single Community Strategic Plan for the inner west. It also served to inform the development of the Operational Plan and Budget for 2017/18.

The Statement supports an outcomes based agenda for engaging stakeholders and developing partnerships, ensures the continuity of the projects commenced by the former councils and provides a shared vision for the future.

Developing the Statement

Council implemented a community engagement program in the creation of the Statement of Vision and Priorities ensuring representation consistent with our demographics. Input was gathered through:

- A community engagement forum held on 5 September 2016 at Ashfield Town Hall
- Focus groups with members of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander, Youth and Access communities
- Festivals and events held throughout October at Ashfield, Summer Hill, Marrickville, and Leichhardt's Norton Street Festa
- A survey on Council's online engagement hub, Your Say Inner West
- A Community Satisfaction Survey facilitated by Micromex Research
- Staff engagement through an online and paper-based survey
- A workshop with our Local Representation Advisory Committee (LRAC)
- Review by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander meeting participants, 22 November at Leichhardt Town Hall

The community satisfaction survey was the most comprehensive engagement exercise undertaken with over 1,000 residents participating. The survey showed that people are mostly concerned about the longer term impacts of "development in the

area and the flow-on effects of traffic, congestion, population growth, public transport, parking, green spaces, environmental concerns and infrastructure." – *Micromex Research 2016*.

Staff also examined the Community Strategic Plans (CSPs) of the former local government areas. This was to ensure that the intention and direction of the current plans were not lost. Analysis showed that the top of mind issues in the CSPs were largely reflective of those identified by the inner west community during the engagement process.

Delivering on the priorities

Council staff are identifying the key pieces of work, planned or already in train, that support the priorities. Many have already been identified including the development and implementation of a Disability Inclusion Action Plan (supporting Priority 1), delivering the Stronger Communities Fund (supporting Priorities 2, 3 & 4) and development of a single Community Strategic Plan for the inner west (supporting Priority 5). Some activities will address more than one priority, therefore achieving multiple community outcomes. Where gaps are identified, Council will consider any new actions required or projects that might be accelerated.

It is important to note that addressing the priorities is not solely the responsibility of Council. As is the case with the Community Strategic Plans, Council is one of several key stakeholders responsible for achieving better outcomes for the local community. Council will therefore assign high level indicators against the priorities allowing us to measure whether or not we, and our partners, are on the right track.

These indicators, along with details of Council's key supporting projects, will be available on our website in 2017. The Operational Plan and Budget 2017/18 identifies the relevant Council service areas and programs contributing to the priorities. Formal reporting against the Operational Plan will continue on a bi-annual basis.