

3.2 REVIEW OF ‘MONASH 2012 – A STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE’- ‘2006 update’
(MK:DW CORP106)

Responsible Director: Marilyn Kearney

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Notes the Monash 2012 - Snapshot Report- Executive Summary, December 2008; and*
- 2. Endorses a review of the current long-term strategy “Monash 2012 – A Strategy for the Future” and endorses the development of a new long term strategy to guide the City’s future strategic direction and to promote Monash as a City of Choice’ for residents, business and visitors.*

BACKGROUND

Council adopted “*Monash 2012 – A Strategy for the Future*”, a 10-year strategy in February 2003. The development of the Strategy created a vision for the City’s future development and direction. Consultation and research have been key components of the Strategy development and implementation. A series of public forums were held in 2002 to assist in the development of the Strategy, and to obtain input into the identification of important issues facing the Monash community over the next 10-year period.

In accordance with the City of Monash Planning Framework, the Strategy is to be reviewed every 3 years. In 2006 the Strategy was reviewed and updated with an ‘Update 2006’ version adopted by Council in October 2006. For the update, community input was gathered utilising public and staff forums, workshops with targeted stakeholder groups, and a survey emailed to all residents in Monash. The aim of consultation has been to be as inclusive as possible. To date over 300 community members and staff have contributed to the development of the strategy.

Along with consultation, progress against the Strategies ten major theme areas in has been reported to the community. In 2006 the first ‘Snapshot Report’ was adopted by the Council and published outlining the key achievements delivered over the previous 3 years.

DISCUSSION

Attached to this report is an Executive Summary of the “Snapshot Report” (December 2008) reporting achievements and Council progress to date against the key objectives of *Monash 2012 – A Strategy for the Future (2006 update)*. As identified significant progress has been made against the ten themes contained in the Strategy.

The complete ‘Snapshot Report’ is located on Council’s web site, www.monash.vic.gov.au. It is also planned to distribute the Executive Summary to all residences in Monash during January 2009. The ‘Snapshot Report’ will also provide information on the planned community consultation process for the next review of the Strategy to be conducted throughout 2009.

The planned review will aim to create a new long-term strategy, (the term to be decided by the Council), to guide Council’s strategic and community planning into the future. The new Strategy will consider relevant and current research on local community issues including up to date information emanating from the results of the 2006 Census which show changes in the demographic profile of Monash such as growth in ethnic diversity and the ageing profile as well as emerging community health issues. The new strategy will be informed by the Baby Boomer study currently underway.

The review will also consider issues associated with its significant youth population and focus on youth services to provide assistance to address the social, economic and health issues of this age group.

For issues associated with the natural environment sphere the review will acknowledge community interest and concern for issues of sustainability including carbon trading, water and climate change. In the built environment the long-term development and replacement costs of ageing infrastructure must be factored into planning and budgeting across all areas of Council responsibility.

External influences such as the continuing challenges of the State Government’s Melbourne 2030 and other policies which aim to influence growth and development as well as the broader local issues of statutory planning and public transport, aged and disability, the environment, multi-cultural and indigenous communities, residential planning, health, recreation, the Arts and Economic Development to inform and provide input into the long term planning for Council.

The combined influence of these changes and strategies will shape the outlook for the future of Monash.

CONSULTATION APPROACH

A Steering Committee comprising Councillor and staff representatives will be established to develop the strategy including the setting of a new time horizon for that beyond 2012.

The consultative approach previously taken in the development and review of the Strategy is planned to continue. The aim of the consultation process is to develop a set of priority issues and the necessary strategies to address them along with building strong involvement and commitment across stakeholders groups. This will include communication and consultation with representatives of the CALD community as appropriate.

Input will be sought from both internal and external stakeholders of Council and the community including existing Council committees, which are well placed to provide input and information relative to their area of interest and expertise. Council will also be represented at a range of community events and activities over the coming months, such as community festivals where community opinion and input will be sought.

An Expressions of Interest has been conducted to appoint a consultant to provide guidance and to facilitate the consultation process with the community, council, staff, and other stakeholders.

The consultation process will also include the development of an issues paper covering the key themes of Monash 2012, key stakeholder and community consultation.

Following finalisation of the consultation process a new long-term Strategy will be drafted for adoption by the Council that is reflective of the challenges of the City and community into the future.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The preliminary development of the Snapshot Report and commencement of the community consultation process for the review of '*Monash 2012*' – *A Strategy for the Future*' can be provided for in the current years budget. Finalisation of the review process, including publication and dissemination of the new long term Strategy will be subject to the 2009/10 Council budget process.

CONCLUSION

A Snapshot Report for '*Monash 2012* '2006 Update' has been prepared. The Executive Summary is attached to this report for information and will form the basis of the document to be disseminated to the wider community. A complete report has been prepared and can be accessed on Council's web site, www.monash.vic.gov.au and is available in Council libraries for public access.

"Monash 2012 – A Strategy for the Future – "2006 Update" will be reviewed following a community consultation process and submitted in 2009 for consideration and adoption by the Council to establish a new long term strategy which will guide the future strategic and community planning processes of the Council.